



FRESHMAN  
ELECTIVE  
BOOKLET



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CLASS OF 2029

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# THEOLOGY

We offer two Theology classes. Please note, 101A is only for students who have had no previous religious instruction in either a Christian school or church community.

## 0100A THEOLOGY 1: REVELATION: OLD & NEW TESTAMENT

The first semester introduces students to the biblical narrative of Salvation History through a critical study of the structure of various literary genres, the senses of Scripture, and sources of Divine Revelation. In exploring the overarching question, "What is it to be human?" students will journey through the stories of the Old Testament through the lens of God's covenant with humankind anticipating an encounter with Jesus Christ. Beginning with the book of Genesis and continuing through the Prophets, students will be invited to reflect upon their own life story woven into God's ongoing story of salvation. The second semester continues asking the anthropological question, "What is it to be human?" looking to the perfect response in God's gift of himself in the person of Jesus. The four Gospels will be the primary readings in our study of the life, ministry, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Beginning with the Annunciation and Mary's "yes" that brought the humanity of God into existence, students will explore ways in which they can say yes to God guided by the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Through an exploration of the Gospels, students will develop an understanding of the Kingdom of God revealed in the new and eternal covenant in Jesus Christ.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grade:** 9

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## 0101A THEOLOGY1: CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW, OLD & NEW TESTAMENTS

Theology 101 was created for students with no previous religious instruction in either a Christian school or church community. The course provides foundational understandings of a Christian worldview that will inform the study of Sacred Scripture and prepare the student for future grade level Theology classes. The pace of the class will accommodate for exploration of unfamiliar concepts, while the structure and content of this course will generally follow that of Theology 1. The first semester begins with knowledge foundational to Christianity, such as an understanding of God as a Trinity of persons and the nature and relationship between these divine persons and humankind. Students are then introduced to the biblical narrative of Salvation History through critical study of the structure of various literary genres, the senses of Scripture, and sources of Divine Revelation. In exploring the overarching question, "What is it to be human?" students will journey through the stories of the Old Testament through the lens of God's covenant with humankind anticipating an encounter with Jesus Christ. Beginning with the book of Genesis and continuing through the Prophets, students will be invited to reflect upon their own life story woven into God's ongoing story of salvation. The second semester continues asking the anthropological question, "What is it to be human?" looking to the perfect response in God's gift of himself in the person of Jesus. The four Gospels will be the primary readings in our study of the life, ministry, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grade:**

9

**Note:** This class is only open to students who have no previous religious instruction.

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## MUN or HEALTH SEMINAR

Freshman have the option of taking either Health Seminar or Cultural Geography MUN (HSPT score of 550 composite). You will be asked to choose one.

### 8013A HEALTH SEMINAR

Health Seminar is a year-long course required for all Freshmen. This course will teach lessons in collaboration with the counseling department to cover such topics as Wellness, Executive Function, Time Management and Study Habits. In preparation for Mass, Peer Ministers from Campus Ministry will lead instruction throughout the school year. Students will be given technological training from the EdTech curriculum to learn current applications by our students and faculty. To bridge Freshmen to World History in their Sophomore year, Cultural Geography curriculum will teach students to examine how the physical environment explains the ways people and societies make decisions. Students will analyze the origin and nature of early civilizations and how they influenced present day cultural relationships and traits. Library programs will guide students as a research tool culminating in a presentation. This course will fulfill the state Health curriculum requirement.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grade:** 9

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### 4110C CULTURAL GEOGRAPHY MUN HONORS (g) UC Approved, NCAA Approved

This year-long course for academically talented Freshmen combines the study of physical and cultural environments with the hands-on work of representing nations at Model United Nations conferences. Here the student will develop an understanding of current world problems and the research, speaking, writing and thinking skills needed to represent a nation effectively in interscholastic competitions. A participation fee is required to cover some of the costs of team travel and supplies for MUN courses. Students enrolled are required to remain in class for the entire year. The required Health course, which would normally be taken Freshman year, must be completed prior to graduation.

Requires work out of class including attending 4 conferences, 2 per semester.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grade:** 9

**Prerequisite:** A minimum standard score of 550 on the HSPT Composite. Students will need to take Health before graduation

**Note:** A participation fee is required to cover some of the costs of team travel and supplies in MUN courses. Enrollment subject to approval.

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# SMCHS Model United Nations (MUN)



## What is MUN?

MUN stands for Model United Nations. Students travel to other schools in Orange County, California, the US, and overseas to compete in academic competitions. These competitions are simulations of the United Nations, and the students play the role of delegates representing countries from all over the world. These competitions are one to three days in length and are held on the weekends. The MUN program is integrated into the Social Studies curriculum for those students who are interested in this unique experience. Students must take Cultural Geography / Model United Nations their freshman year to be involved with the MUN program.



## Why join?

### ✿ Benefits of MUN Participation:

- **Enhance Your Communication Skills:** Engage in passionate debates, articulate your ideas, and master the art of public speaking. MUN hones your communication skills like no other activity.
- **Critical Thinking & Problem-Solving:** Dive deep into complex global challenges. Learn to analyze situations, propose solutions, and develop a critical mindset that will serve you well in academics and beyond.
- **Global Awareness:** Expand your horizons by delving into international affairs. Gain a deep understanding of global issues, geopolitics, and different cultures.
- **Leadership Development:** MUN empowers you to take charge, build consensus, and lead teams. These leadership skills are invaluable for your future endeavors.
- **Networking:** Connect with like-minded students from around the world. MUN conferences provide opportunities to build lasting friendships and professional networks.
- **College & Career Advantage:** Colleges and universities highly value MUN experience. It's an impressive addition to your resume and can open doors to scholarships and prestigious institutions.
- **Travel Opportunities:** As someone who enjoys traveling, MUN allows you to explore new cities and countries while participating in conferences. Combine your passion for travel with meaningful learning experiences.
- **Make a Difference:** Feel the satisfaction of advocating for change. MUN provides a platform to address global issues and make a positive impact on the world.
- Whether you aspire to be a diplomat, a CEO, or an advocate for change, Model United Nations equips you with the skills and knowledge needed to excel in the global arena.

### What's the commitment?

- Freshman Cultural Geography / Model United Nations is a yearlong course taken instead of the Freshman Health Seminar class.
- MUN students need to take Health class either during the summer or as an elective.
  - You should not take the Health class unless you are 100% certain you will stay in the MUN class for the entire year.
- Students are required to attend four weekend conferences.
- MUN is a four-year program. While students are not required to be in the program all four years, you may not join unless you have taken Cultural Geography / MUN.
- There is a \$500 yearly program fee to participate in MUN.



### Can you handle the challenge?

We hope so! If you have questions about Cultural Geography / Model United Nations please feel free to email the MUN director Mr. John Rimmell: [remmellj@smhs.org](mailto:remmellj@smhs.org)

Visit the website at: <http://www.smhs.org/mun>



# WORLD LANGUAGE OPTIONS FOR FRESHMAN

Students will choose 1 World Language option. Santa Margarita graduation requires 2 years of a World Language, but many colleges recommend a minimum of 3.

## **Mandarin Chinese 1H**

No prior knowledge of Chinese is required.  
Honors placement is based on HSPT scores.

## **French 1 or 1H**

No prior knowledge of French is required.  
Honors placement is based on HSPT scores.

## **Ancient Greek 1H**

No prior knowledge of Greek is required.  
Honors placement is based on HSPT scores.

## **Latin 1H**

No prior knowledge of Latin is required.  
Honors placement is based on HSPT scores.

## **Spanish 1, 1Aux, 1H or 2H**

No prior knowledge of Spanish is required for Spanish 1 or 1A.  
Placement in 1H, 2, and 2H is based on the **Spanish Placement Test**.  
Spanish 1A is reserved for ASP students.

## **American Sign Language**

No prior knowledge of American Sign Language is required.

Students with advanced language proficiency in a language other than Spanish may be tested for higher levels. Please make arrangements with the department chair, Tom Gerlach in advance of the testing date.

**Placement exams for Spanish** (or advanced levels in other languages) will be held on April 14 & April 24 2025 at 3:00pm in the Academic Services Center (S Building), 2<sup>nd</sup> floor.

# **REQUIREMENTS FOR PLACEMENT INTO SPANISH 1H, 2, AND 2H**

## **Placement Exam (español 1 honores)**

**Goal:** Demonstrate that you have successfully learned to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talk about what clothes you want to buy</li><li>• say what you wear in different seasons</li><li>• use <b>tener</b> expressions</li><li>• use stem-changing verbs: <b>e→ie</b></li><li>• use direct object pronouns</li><li>• describe places and events in town</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talk about types of transportation</li><li>• say what you are going to do</li><li>• order from a menu</li><li>• use the verb <b>ver, ir a</b> + infinitive</li><li>• use stem changing verbs: <b>o→ue</b></li><li>• use stem-changing verbs: <b>e→i</b></li></ul>
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## **Placement Exam (español 2)**

**Goal:** Demonstrate that you have successfully learned to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talk about a typical day</li><li>• talk about your daily routine while on vacation</li><li>• talk about vacation activities</li><li>• use present progressive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• talk about what you are doing</li><li>• talk about buying souvenirs on vacation</li><li>• use reflexive verbs</li><li>• use indirect object pronouns</li><li>• use demonstrative adjectives</li></ul>
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## **Placement Exam (español 2 honores)**

**Goal:** Demonstrate that you have successfully learned to:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• discuss travel preparations</li><li>• talk about clothing, shopping, and personal needs</li><li>• talk about things you do at an airport</li><li>• say whom things are for</li><li>• ask how to get around town</li><li>• express opinions on your vacation</li><li>• talk about buying gifts and souvenirs</li><li>• talk about sporting events and athletes</li><li>• discuss ways to stay healthy</li><li>• point out specific people and things</li><li>• ask for and give directions</li><li>• say what you and others are doing right now or intend to do</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• say where you went and what you did</li><li>• ask for and talk about items at a marketplace</li><li>• describe past activities and events</li><li>• express yourself courteously</li><li>• ask information questions</li><li>• describe continuing activities in the past</li><li>• narrate past events and activities</li><li>• describe people, places and things</li><li>• clarify the sequence of events</li><li>• retell events from the past</li><li>• describe early civilizations and their activities</li><li>• discuss your daily routine</li><li>• describe the layout of a modern city</li></ul>
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### **5110A SPANISH 1**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Spanish 1 introduces the student to the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. The emphasis is on language production, i.e. speaking and writing, and on language reception, i.e. listening and reading.

***Length of Course:*** Year

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### **5110C SPANISH 1 HONORS**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Spanish 1H introduces the student to the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures at an accelerated pace. The emphasis is on language production, i.e. speaking and writing, and on language reception, i.e. listening and reading. The course is designed for students who have studied Spanish in junior high.

***Length of Course:*** Year

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### **5310C LATIN 1 HONORS**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Latin 1H introduces the student to the Latin language and Roman culture, history, and philosophy at an accelerated pace. The emphasis is on sight translation and reading comprehension.

***Length of Course:*** Year

***Prerequisite:*** Placement in Latin 1 Honors is dependent upon student's HSPT scores.

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### **5410C ANCIENT GREEK 1 HONORS**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Ancient Greek 1H introduces the student to the Attic Greek language and Greek culture, history, and philosophy at an accelerated pace. The focus is on sight translation and reading comprehension.

***Length of Course:*** Year

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### **5210A FRENCH 1**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

French 1 introduces the student to the French language and culture. The emphasis is on language production, i.e. speaking and writing, and on language reception, i.e. listening and reading.

***Length of Course:*** Year

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### **5210C FRENCH 1 HONORS**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

French 1H introduces the student to the French language and culture at an accelerated pace. The emphasis is on language production, i.e. speaking and writing, and on language reception, i.e. listening and reading.

***Length of Course:*** Year

***Prerequisites:*** Placement in French 1 Honors is dependent upon the student's HSPT scores.

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### **5560C MANDARIN CHINESE 1 HONORS**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Chinese 1H introduces the student to the Chinese language and culture at an accelerated pace. The emphasis is on language production, i.e. speaking and writing, and on language reception, i.e. listening and reading. Students will learn pin yin (phonetic Chinese) and simplified characters.

***Length of Course:*** Year

***Prerequisite:*** Placement in Mandarin Chinese 1 Honors is dependent upon student's HSPT scores

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### **5610A AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE 1**

***(e) UC Approved, NCAA Approved***

Students are introduced to the basic knowledge of American Sign Language (ASL) and the Deaf culture. Students develop basic skills in vocabulary and grammar to meet basic communication needs. Emphasis is placed on acquisition of both comprehension and expressive skills via signing in front of their class, with a partner, in a small group and in large group participation.

***Length of Course:*** Year

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# ELECTIVES

Students at SMCHS are required to take 7 classes per semester. Freshman are automatically placed in Math, English and Science based on your entrance exam scores. They have room in their schedule for 1 elective. Below are the choices for that elective, by discipline. You will be asked choose your top three choices.

## ENGLISH AND SOCIAL STUDY ELECTIVES

### 1620A DEBATE AND ARGUMENTATION

*(g) UC Approved, NCAA Approved*

Students will learn argumentative techniques in fact, value, and policy debate and will study research skills and development of cases concerning national and international issues. Students will discuss and debate current events during Socratic Discussions in class. Cases will be prepared for competitive speaking and debating opportunities in class and interscholastically through the Debate tournament circuit in Southern California. Students will learn and practice the following styles of speech and debate: Public Forum, Congress, Parliamentary, Lincoln-Douglas, Impromptu Speech, Extemporaneous Speaking, and Oratorical Interpretation.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9 - 12

**Note:** Students are required to participate in 1 off campus tournament per semester.

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### 1630C JOURNALISM H

*(g) UC Approved, NCAA Approved*

Journalism honors students develop all the skills learned in English and/or previous Journalism classes, as well as leadership skills, to be eligible for editorial board positions on the school newspaper. Journalism Honors students earn leadership opportunities by demonstrating knowledge of business aspects of the paper: media law, circulation and advertising. Students learn broad writing for media skills beyond print. Units include: media law and ethics, web design, blogging, podcasting, screen casting, social media, short video and audio production, studio basics, as well as graphic design and the Adobe Creative Suite.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9-12

**Prerequisites:** Grade of B or better in all previous English coursework

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### 7533A SOCIAL MEDIA MARKETING

*(g) UC Approved*

Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, Facebook, TikTok, and LinkedIn have become an extensive part of our daily lives. These social media channels provide remarkable pathways to interact with friends and loved ones, but they can also become powerful and dynamic marketing tools. Learn how to utilize some of your favorite and entertaining pastimes to promote yourself or your business to increase likes, views, and subscribers, while maintaining an ethical and responsible code of conduct that will protect you and your brand's reputation.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## PERFORMING ARTS AUDITIONS AND ELECTIVES

**Instrumental Music:** No auditions are required for students interested in Rock Band 1, Wind Ensemble or String Orchestra. Auditions are required for Wind Ensemble Honors, String Orchestra Honors and Rock Band 2. If in person audition is required, they will be held on April 24, 2025. Please contact Ruben Puebla at [pueblar@smhs.org](mailto:pueblar@smhs.org) to schedule a time slot.

Students interested in participating in the Eagle Regiment Marching Band and Color Guard should attend the Rookie Camps held in May. Attendance is mandatory for consideration for the Incoming Freshman Eagle Regiment Scholarship. Scholarships are limited and will be given to students based on first contact and commitment to Eagle Regiment. Please contact [pueblar@smhs.org](mailto:pueblar@smhs.org) to reserve your spot and scholarship.

Auditions for Steel drum/Percussion Ensemble Honors will be held on April 30 from 4:30 – 6:30. For more information, including audition music, please email Ms. Duncan at [duncana@smhs.org](mailto:duncana@smhs.org).

**Theatre:** No auditions for Theatre 1, Advanced Theatre Arts Honors or IB Theatre. Questions should be directed to Ms. Gieser at [giesern@smhs.org](mailto:giesern@smhs.org)

**Dance C l a s s Auditions:** No audition necessary for incoming Freshman interested in Beginning Dance Class. Audition placement for Intermediate or Advanced Dance (non-EDF team members) are through video submission and due by April 8th. Video submission details will be posted on the Dance webpage. For more information, please email Mrs. Darwazeh at [darwazehd@smhs.org](mailto:darwazehd@smhs.org).

**EDF Song and Dance Teams:** Mandatory tryout information meeting will be held on April 8th at 5:30pm in the Science Lecture Hall. Mandatory audition clinics will be held on **May 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>** from 3:30-5:30 p.m. and the tryout will be held on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** from 3-6 p.m. all in the Dance Room (R222). Applications will be posted on the EDF Song & Dance webpage. The audition fee is \$35. Application and fee are due on or before **May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. For more information, please contact EDF Song & Dance Director [Danielle Darwazeh](mailto:Danielle Darwazeh).

**Choral Auditions:** No Auditions for incoming freshmen interested in Concert Choir or Men's choir. Advanced Women's and Chamber Singers Honors placement auditions will be held on April 25, 2025 from 3:00 – 7:00 pm in A152. For more information, please contact Mr. Winn at [winnc@smhs.org](mailto:winnc@smhs.org)

## **7100A CONCERT BAND**

**(f) UC Approved**

Concert Band is a beginning to intermediate level instrumental music class designed for students who wish to learn an instrument, want to continue their study of music and advance to Wind Ensemble. The course emphasizes the fundamental techniques involved in playing and performing on woodwinds, brass, and percussion instruments; sight reading, proper breath control, proper tone production, understanding of musical phrasing, proper care of musical instruments, basic music theory concepts and knowledge of understanding of musical symbols and terminology. The class includes performing, which provides an opportunity for the student to put into practice what he/she has learned in class.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7110C WIND ENSEMBLE HONORS**

**(f) UC Approved**

Wind Ensemble Honors is an advanced instrumental ensemble class open to all students with prior musical experience on woodwind, brass, and/or percussion instruments. They will learn wind band repertoire ranging from advanced High School to University Level.

Mandatory performances include, but not limited to, Fall Concert, Promotional Concerts, the Christmas Production (mandatory), Festivals, Spring Concert and the Pops Concert.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Audition and Director's Approval.

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## **7122A STEEL DRUM/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE**

**(f) UC Approved**

This is an introductory instrumental ensemble class open to all students wishing to learn performance techniques on Trinidadian steel drum set, and other percussion instruments. Students in this class will begin the year covering topics of basic music theory, rote learning, technical and reading studies, and progress into its performance application on steel drums, snare drum, marimba, drum set, auxiliary percussion, and hand drums. Repertoire includes standard music for steel band, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble/orchestra sectionals, and solos/etudes. Historical appreciation of the steel drum, respect to Trinidadian tradition, and aesthetic appreciation of cultural differences will be emphasized. Performances may include but not limited to Fall/Spring Concerts (mandatory), Christmas Production (mandatory), Music Festivals, Open House, Mother's Club Fundraiser, and community performances. Students will also prepare a Fall Semester final exam jury where they will need to demonstrate proficiency Major/Chromatic scales and sight-reading. Students with a strong knowledge of reading musical notations, pitches and rhythm are encouraged to audition for the Honors class.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7122C STEEL DRUM/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE HONORS**

**(f) UC Approved**

This is an advanced instrumental class open to students with prior musical training. Students will cover topics ranging from technical studies, music theory/history, rote learning, and musical expression through performance on Trinidadian steel drums, marimba, drum set, hand drums, and other percussion instruments. Repertoire includes standard music for steel band, percussion ensemble, wind ensemble/orchestra sectionals, and solos/etudes. Historical appreciation of the steel drum, respect to Trinidadian tradition, and aesthetic appreciation of cultural differences will be emphasized. Performances may include, but not be limited to: Fall/Spring Concerts (mandatory), Christmas Production, music festivals, Open House, Mother's Club Fundraiser, and community performances on and off-campus. A fall semester-final exam jury demonstrating technical and musical proficiency on all major

scales/chromatic/minor scales (by memory), and sight-reading will be required. A spring final project is also required, and can include one of a variety of topics, such as an original musical arrangement/composition, a solo performance, a research project, an original poster/program, or an original music video.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** 7122A and/or audition

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## **7125A – ROCK BAND/MUSIC PRODUCTION 1**

**(f) UC Approved**

This is an ensemble performance and project-based class open to all students with previous ensemble or music theory experience. Students in this class must have basic knowledge of music notation and rhythm. Students will learn Rock Band theory and performance techniques. Students will also learn to compose original music, and digital production using a Digital Audio Workstation. School year culminates with select student works performed live in concert. Performances may include but are not limited to the Fall Concert and a Spring Concert. Materials for this class include acoustic or electric guitar, amp (if required for your instrument), pencil, and Alfred's Basic Rock Guitar Method 1.

1. Due to heightened interest in this course, enrollment will be limited.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7143A STRING ORCHESTRA**

**(f) UC Approved**

String Orchestra is an intermediate level performing instrumental class designed for students who wish to continue their study of music through the string instrument medium. This course requires prior experience. It includes a study of note reading; sight reading; basic theory concepts and knowledge of musical symbols and terminology. Also included is the study of tone production, posture, hand position, bowing techniques, as well as proper care, handling, and storage of musical instruments. In addition, the class provides performance opportunities to develop the performance skills acquired in class. Mandatory performances include, but not limited to, are the Fall Concert, Promotional Concerts, the Christmas Production (mandatory), Festivals, Spring Concert and the Pops Concert. Students will also prepare a Fall Semester final exam where they will be individually assessed on various performance based music criteria.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Audition and Director's Approval

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## **7158A CONCERT CHOIR**

**(f) UC Approved**

This choral ensemble class is designed to introduce students to the art of choral singing. This is an entry level class designed for the student with little or no vocal music experience. Students will learn the fundamentals of singing technique; the basics of music theory and sight-singing and performing various pieces of music. Performance is an important component in this art; therefore, students are required to attend some performances outside of the regular school day. Participation in the annual SMCHS Christmas Production is mandatory. This class fulfills the Fine Arts requirement for graduation.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7160A MEN'S CHORUS**

**(f) UC Approved**

This choral ensemble class is designed to introduce boys to the art of choral singing. Students will learn fundamentals of vocal technique, demonstrate it at performances, and develop comprehensive musicianship within the choral rehearsals through a sequenced study of music theory. Performance is an important component in this art. Therefore, students are required to attend school masses and some concerts outside of the regular school day. Participation in the annual SMCHS Christmas Production is mandatory. This class fulfills the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Boys only.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7162C ADVANCED WOMEN'S CHORUS H**

**(f) UC Approved**

Advanced Women's Chorus is an auditioned women's ensemble. Members of this ensemble must successfully complete an audition with the director. Students who are selected for this ensemble must have adequate knowledge in the fundamentals of music theory, and basic sight-singing, and perform challenging pieces of music. Students are asked to sight-sing or sing extended musical phrases individually. The repertoire for this class (which can include extended works) is varied and requires students to sing in foreign languages. Performance is an important component in this art; therefore, students are required to attend some performances outside of the regular school day. Participation in the annual SMCHS Christmas Production is mandatory. This class fulfills the Fine Arts requirement for graduation. Girls only.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisite:** Successful completion of Concert Choir or audition and Director's approval.

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## **7203A THEATRE ARTS 1**

**(f) UC Approved**

Theatre Arts 1 is a foundational course designed for students who are interested in furthering their knowledge of drama. Students will study the basic elements of acting, design, and directing through research, rehearsal, and performance of monologues, scenes, improvisation, and ensemble projects. While emphasis will be contemporary theatre, the history of the theatre is included in this curriculum. Students will have the opportunity to study playwriting, dramatic critique, and technical aspects of Classical through current theatre practices. Attendance at Talon Theatre Fall and Spring Productions is mandatory. Participation in the annual SMCHS Christmas Production is encouraged.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## **7300A BEGINNING DANCE**

**(f) UC Approved**

Beginning Dance is designed to teach students the basic principles of jazz dance, while incorporating ballet and modern techniques. Students will learn proper techniques for warm-ups, exercises, stretches on the floor, and movement phrases executed across the floor. In addition students are taught compositional elements, dance terminology, dance history, and injury prevention. Performance is a component of this class; therefore, students are required to perform in the Spring Dance Concert. The level of difficulty increases during the Spring semester, thus preparing the student for Intermediate Dance. A dance uniform is required.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Note:** This course may be taken as a fine art credit only. Space is limited.

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## **7301A INTERMEDIATE DANCE**

**(f) UC Approved**

This course is open to all SMCHS students; however, student placement in this class is based on a successful audition that is determined by the Director of Dance. Intermediate Dance is a course designed to further student training in dance. Students will learn intermediate warm-ups, floor work, center work, and movement phrases executed across the floor. Students will learn more dance terminology and increase their dance skills. Members of the class will be introduced to group choreography and other concepts related to participation in the dance community. Performance is a component of this class; students are required to perform in the Spring Dance Concert. A dance uniform is required. This course may be taken for P.E. or Fine Art credit. This class may be repeated. Please refer to the P.E. policy.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Successful audition and teacher recommendation. **Note:**

In order to receive PE credit for Dance, you must take two years of intermediate and advanced dance. Space is limited.

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## **7302C ADVANCED DANCE H**

**(f) UC Approved**

This honors course is open to all SMCHS students. Student placement in this class is based on a successful audition that is determined by the Director of Dance. This course is designed for the highly technical and highly trained dancer. Students will learn warm-ups, and difficult movement phrases executed across the floor, and dance combinations at the advanced level. Dancers at this level should be mentally and emotionally disciplined, and in excellent physical condition. Students will learn that dance is a highly skilled art and should be practiced in a professional manner. Performance is an essential component of this class; students are required to perform in the Spring Dance Concert and the SMCHS Christmas Production. Choreographic skills will be developed. This class may be repeated. Space is limited. A dance uniform is required.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Successful audition and teacher recommendation.

**Note:** In order to receive PE credit for Dance, you must take two years of intermediate and advanced dance. Space is limited.

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## **7310C DANCE PRODUCTION HONORS (EDF)**

**(f) UC Approved**

This course is open to all SMCHS students. Student placement in this class, based on a student's successful audition, is determined by the Director of Dance. Dance Production is a yearlong course designed to teach the advanced dance student how to be a better performer, and how to view dance (both live performances and via videos) from a critical perspective. Dance techniques of Ballet, Modern and Jazz will be incorporated and students are required to have a solid technical dance background in these areas. Participation in the annual SMCHS Christmas Production and the SMCHS Dance Concert are also required. In addition to on-campus performances, this class will represent SMCHS at competitive Dance Team competitions during the winter/early spring. The dates of these competitions will be arranged as far in advance as possible. Afternoon rehearsals occur three times per week; occasionally early morning and weekend rehearsals will be scheduled. All competitions and rehearsals are required. Participation in outside dance classes and one summer training camp (specified by the Director of Dance) is also required. This course may be taken for P.E. or Fine Art credit.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Advanced Dance background, Dean's recommendation, and successful audition.

**Note:** This is an 8th period class and does not count towards GPA.

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# VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

Portfolio Reviews will be submitted digitally by April 15, 2025 to [www.smhs.org/portfolio](http://www.smhs.org/portfolio) review

## 7401A ART

(f) UC Approved

This introductory, no experience necessary, course teaches the basic techniques and concepts of art. Students will explore various exercises and projects using an assortment of materials and mediums throughout both year. Students learn the process of artmaking and will keep an on-going sketchbook in which they create preliminary drawings for their designs, class notes and self-evaluation. It is expected that students will read about, write about, and speak about art. A variety of art styles and movements will be used for project inspiration. Art sketchbooks are used and graded throughout the year. Students will learn to evaluate artwork with an emphasis on developing personal style and understanding the elements and principles of design.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Note:** All supplies are provided by the art department

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## 7407A DRAWING

(f) UC Approved

Students will explore and refine their use of various drawing media through a variety of subject matters including still life, portraits, photorealism, landscapes, and illustrations. Each student will keep an ongoing digital sketchbook, participate in critiques, and research artists and style of art. Students will learn and apply the principles and elements of design to their works of art. Students will build upon their skills and move towards creating meaning in their work as the year progresses.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisite:** Art or Satisfactory Portfolio Review.

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## 7440A 3-D SCULPTURE AND DESIGN

(f) UC Approved

3-D Sculpture and Design is an introductory class in which basic building techniques and materials will be taught in the production of 3-dimensional sculpture. In addition to basic sculpture techniques, the elements of 3-dimensional design will be learned as they apply to the projects at hand. This class will approach sculpture and design from a fine arts perspective; therefore, aesthetics and design will be addressed, as well as skill and craftsmanship. Students are encouraged to keep an ongoing sketchbook of preliminary drawings for design, evaluation and reflections on their own work. Throughout the year it is expected that students will read, write, and speak about design and sculpture.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## 6213A GRAPHIC DESIGN

(f) UC Approved

This course is designed for students who are interested in the art, language, business and career concepts of and about 2-Dimensional design utilizing the computer and Adobe software. Students will learn and apply the principles of design from concept to finish creating images in a digital format and produce project based graphic art under production deadlines. Learning visual communication is a must. Some of the design techniques include fundamentals of color management, photo retouching, imaging, special effects, layers, filters and masks. Students must be highly motivated and able to work independently.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Note:** Adobe Creative Cloud is supplied on student devices.

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## 6000A FILM 1

(f) UC Approved

This course introduces students to the world of making movies, including camera operation, editing, script writing, and how to successfully communicate your story. Each student will gain hands-on experience of single camera (film style) productions. No prior experience is required for this course.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

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## 7450A PHOTOGRAPHY

(f) UC Approved

This introductory course equips photography students with essential skills using digital cameras. Through a blend of lectures, demonstrations, and hands-on practice, students will master camera handling, composition, file management, and various photography styles. The second semester delves into basic photo editing with Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Note:** Students need to provide their own manual DSL camera.

Estimated cost for used camera: \$180 – \$300, new camera: \$250 - \$400

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## 6215A MOTION GRAPHICS

(f) UC Approved

Green-screening, visual special effects, title sequences, character animation, text animation are all part of this course that introduces the fundamentals and principles of computer-generated animation and compositing. Learn how to design, create, edit, and bring motion to graphics that integrate into the film, social media and business industries using Adobe After Effects, Photoshop, Premiere and Media Encoder. Hands-on projects, group animation projects, researching and reading will enhance an understanding of creative skills as well as develop technical knowledge of professional computer animation programs. This is a great opportunity for students interested in pursuing a career in film/television production, art, communication, visual effects, game design, computer animation or graphic design.

**Length of Course:** Year **Open to Grades:** 9, 10,11,12

**Note:** Adobe Creative Cloud is supplied on student device

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## **6221C SCREENWRITING H**

**(f) UC Approved**

This course guides students through the process of writing a movie. Students will explore story structure, character development, dialogue, and other dramatic devices to help them complete a feature length screenplay. Through screenings, discussions, and writing exercises, students will develop the skills to bring their characters and stories to life. No prior experience is required for this course.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grade:** 9, 10,11,12

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## **7560A ARCHITECTURE**

**(f) UC Approval Pending**

In this course, through the creation of drawings, sketches, physical models, constructions, and architectural plan reading, students will gain an understanding of architectural three-dimensional art concepts and theory, technics, design elements, and principles, related to historic and contemporary architects. Students will gain an understanding of space, form, function and will be introduced to the various fields of architecture, such as construction, interior design, and urbanism. In addition, students will learn the history of architecture design, architectural styles, and related careers.

Students will use both hands-on and digital approaches. They will engage in projects throughout the semester that teach creative problem solving, critical thinking and the development of technical skills.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9, 10,11,12

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## **TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES**

### **3522A INTRO ENGINEERING & ROBOTICS**

**(g) UC Approved**

Intro to Engineering & Robotics will explore the relations between science and technology. The program is designed to introduce students to basic and advanced concepts in robotics. Course information will be tied to lab experiments where students will work in teams to build and test complex FIRST FTC robots. Included in this instruction will be the historical development of robotics as a field, the importance of integrating sensors, effectors and control, basic control, the key approaches to mobile robot control (reactive, behavior-based, and hybrid), and discussion of robot learning and multi-robot systems history

Students will work in small teams to research, design, program, and construct robotic devices in competitions amongst each other and other schools in the area. Integrated throughout the course are career preparation standards which include basic academic skills, communicating individual and team ideas, interpersonal skills, problem solving abilities, safety, technology, and employment literacy.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9-12

**Prerequisites** 9<sup>th</sup> grade - approval through teacher, based on readiness for commitment

**Note:** There are possible additional fees for supplies.

**Note:** Robotics Team participation not mandatory but recommended.

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### **6110A INTRODUCTORY PROGRAMMING**

**(g) UC Approved**

A first course in programming using Java to introduce and develop initial programming skills. Structured programming will be stressed through proper control flow and simple data types. Problem solving, critical thinking, and logical thinking skills are essential and will be developed during the class. This course also covers various computer ethics and current technology trends.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisite:** Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2.

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### **6113A CYBER SECURITY**

**(g) UC Approved**

Cyber Security prepares students for success in post-secondary information technology majors and for careers in network administration and information technology support services with a focus on cyber security. The course includes a series of technical modules that provide hands-on learning as well as knowledge and skills development in computer hardware, operating systems, networking, coding, and security infrastructures. Industry-based curricula are utilized in network and virtual image environments to emulate real-life scenarios and prepare students for industry recognized certifications. Students research and address ethical and legal standards related to information security. Students mitigate cyber vulnerabilities through intricate problem-solving scenarios requiring critical thinking, incident response and analysis, and collaboration. Ethical hacking and penetration testing concepts will be introduced with an emphasis on information security research. Students will be expected to use network scanners, network packet capture, network security and auditing tools to accomplish tasks. The Cybersecurity curriculum is designed to ensure a deep understanding of privacy, reliability, and integrity of information systems for students preparing for majors and careers in Cyber Security and Information and Communications Technology.

**Length of Course:** Year

**Open to Grades:** 9, 10,11,12

# BROADCAST JOURNALISM ELECTIVE

## **6219A TELEVISION PRODUCTION**

***(f) UC Approved***

This course is designed to teach students the skills needed for producing studio multi-camera television shows. Students will learn about the entire television production process (both technical and professional), the three different phases of production (pre-production, production and post-production), and taking on different production elements including: creating a timeline, organizing and scheduling talent, and writing and

developing segments. This class will also present the historical, programming, physical, legal, social and economic aspects of television production. The course will prepare students for college internships and careers in studio production. This class presents an outstanding opportunity for students to learn the craft of producing television features, stories, profiles and interviews outside the formal television studio setting. Students will learn the many exciting and rewarding aspects of television in front of and behind the camera.

***Length of Course:*** Year

***Open to Grades:*** 9, 10, 11, 12

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# PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

## Physical Education Policy

All students at Santa Margarita Catholic High School are required to complete 10 credits of Physical Education in order to graduate. This requirement can be met in the following ways:

### Regular P.E. Classes

- Completion of 1 year (10 credits) in a Physical Education class at SMCHS, either during the regular seven period day, (first priority given to seniors), or during summer school (space permitting and first priority given to seniors). Summer school classes must have a minimum of 20 students and will count as 5 credits per semester or session. Students may take summer school P.E. both sessions if space is available and can earn a total of 10 credits for both sessions.
- Students may earn 5 P.E. credits per semester by being a Student Athletic Trainer/Manager. Space is limited in this semester long course, and students must be recommended by the school's athletic trainer before signing up.
- Students may earn up to 10 P.E. credits for 1 year participation in Intermediate and/or Advanced Dance. Dance taken as freshman will be given fine art credit only.
- You must have a current physical on file to participate in any Physical Education class.

### CIF-Sanctioned Sports

- Participation in a CIF-Sanctioned Sport offered at SMCHS. Only those CIF-sanctioned sports that are offered on our campus will be approved for credit. This includes the following sports: Baseball, Basketball, Lacrosse, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Water Polo, Wrestling, and Girls Flag Football.
  - **One year** of continuous participation in a **year-round sport** will satisfy the 10 credit requirement for graduation. CIF-sanctioned year-round SMCHS sports include: Baseball, Boys Basketball, Girls Basketball, Football and traditional Sport Cheer (Competition Team). If a student fails to complete the 1 year commitment, 5 credits per semester will be earned.
  - **Two years** of participation in a **seasonal or semester sport** will satisfy the 10 credit requirement for graduation. CIF-sanctioned seasonal SMCHS sports include: Cross Country, Golf, Lacrosse, Soccer, Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track and Field, Volleyball, Water Polo, Wrestling and Girls Flag Football. If a student fails to complete the 2 year commitment, 5 credits per season will be earned.

A maximum of 10 credits per year may be earned through participation in the CIF-sanctioned sport. **If a student is dropped or withdraws from the sport before meeting the 1 or 2 year commitment (stated above), he or she must earn the additional credits needed to total 10 prior to graduation.** These additional credits may not be earned off campus; the remaining P.E. credits needed for graduation must be earned on the SMCHS campus.

### CIF Non-Sanctioned Sports

- The following SMCHS-affiliated activities: Equestrian, Roller Hockey, and Surfing will receive a maximum of 5 credits per year. These activities must have a minimum of 90 hours per year in order to receive 5 units of credit. (2.5 units per semester)
- The following SMCHS-affiliated activity: Ice Hockey will receive a maximum of 10 credits per year. This activity must have a minimum of 200 hours per year to receive 10 units of credit.

### Other Options

- Marching Band – 2 years of continuous participation (1 semester per year) will satisfy 10 credits of P.E.
- Color Guard – 1 year of continuous participation (2 semesters per year) will satisfy 10 credits of P.E.
- Dance Production Team – 1 year (2 semesters) of continuous participation on the Dance Production Team will satisfy the 10 credit requirement for graduation. If a student fails to complete the 1 year commitment, he or she will be required to earn an additional credits of P.E. on the SMCHS campus.
- Sideline Cheerleading/Songleading – 1 year (2 semesters) of continuous participation in Cheerleading will satisfy the 10 credit requirement for graduation. If a student fails to complete the 1 year commitment, he or she will be required to earn an additional credits of P.E. on the SMCHS campus.

Spring Musical – Cast members will receive a maximum of 5 credits per year. Cast members must participate in a minimum of 200 hours physical activity to receive the 5 units of P.E. credit.

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**8034** **WEIGHT TRAINING**  
**8034S** **WEIGHT TRAINING**

This class is a combination of strength training, cross training, and power movements. Students will supplement their workouts with various speed, fitness, core strength drills, and agility drills. This course focuses on improving strength, fitness, and flexibility for injury prevention and agility. The course is designed to offer a higher level of proficiency and more in depth instruction in weight training. Training principles are taught and students learn how they impact a lifetime of physical fitness. Students learn that weight training is a fitness activity with many benefits, including improving personal health, increasing longevity, and quality of life through the reduction of stress.

**Length of Course:** Year/Semester  
9,10,11,12

**Open to Grades:**

**Prerequisites:** Previous Physical Education/Participation in Sports or Instructor Approval. Open to both Men and Women.

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**8039** **FITNESS**  
**8039S** **FITNESS**

This course will offer students the opportunity to use spin and elliptical machines, participate in instructed classes such as Yoga, Pilates, and Aerobic (kickboxing, step aerobics, light weights, circuit training) workouts. This class will assist students in building and maintaining lifelong physical and mental fitness. Students will be exposed to and have experience with all five components of fitness-cardiovascular strength, cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility and body composition.

**Length of Course:** Year/Semester

**Open to Grades:**

9,10,11,12

**Prerequisites:** Physical Education/Participation in Sports or Instructor Approval. This is open to female students only.

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## OTHER ELECTIVES

**9056-58** **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

This is a semester- or year-long graded, non-academic elective course which is only for students enrolled in our Auxiliary Studies Program. This course offers homework help, test preparation, organizational strategies, guidance in essay writing, training in self-advocacy and utilization of ASP accommodations. Some 1:1 tutorials and group study sessions are also conducted. Additionally, students may participate in reading intervention and computer-based programs, and may complete tests with extended time and other special accommodations during this class period. A weekly grade check report is e-mailed home to students' parents.

**Length of Course:** Year/Sem

**Open to Grades:** 9,10,11,12

**Prerequisite:** Must be enrolled in Auxiliary Studies Program.

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**9070/S** **LEARNING STRATEGIES**

This is a semester- or year-long graded, non-academic elective course which is only for students approved by the Assistant Principal of Academics and Curriculum. This five-credit course is designed to be an introduction to learning strategies and to provide each student with an opportunity to assess learning styles, priorities, values, and cognitive skills. This course offers homework help, test preparation, organizational strategies, and guidance in essay writing. The course may also be required for students who fall into academic probation. A weekly grade check report is e-mailed home to students' parents.

**Length of Course:** Year/Semester

**Open to Grades:** 9, 10, 11, 12

**Prerequisite:** Approval of Assistant Principal

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