








Barat Academy

Academic Guide 2024-2025

Grades 7-9

One of the top independent schools in Atlantic Canada, Sacred Heart School of Halifax teaches the whole child - mind, body, spirit. Our iconic campus in the heart of Halifax offers co-ed education for JP-Grade 6 and single-gender education for Grades 7-12. With a global network of schools around the world, a rich and proud history, and a strong and unique set of core values, we offer not just an education but an experience that is unparalleled in this region. Our academic reputation is stellar, and our CAIS (Canadian Accredited Independent Schools) accreditation is a guarantee of excellence for both parents and students.

The goals of the school are to educate to:

-  A personal and active faith in God
-  A deep respect for intellectual values
-  A social awareness which impels to action
-  The building of community as a Christian value
-  Personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom

Dear Parents and Students,

Welcome to Sacred Heart School of Halifax, one of the top independent schools in the region. Here, we offer an unparalleled education — one that is tailored to our students by gender, aptitude, interest, and dream. We also offer an experience no other school can match. As part of a network of Sacred Heart schools around the world, we offer meaningful traditions and global opportunities. We also believe in faith, hope, and love as guiding principles in the spiritual development of students. That solid moral grounding, informed by our Five Goals, means we inspire our students to be the best for the world, not just the best in the world.

Sacred Heart School of Halifax meets and exceeds all provincial Department of Education requirements and standards. And because we know that education is inherently relational, we invest in small classes with dedicated teachers and emotionally positive and academically motivated peer groups. In Grades 7-9, students build a foundation for success by developing good study habits, solid organizational skills, and a genuine love of learning as they begin to understand

To round out the academic experience, we offer a robust co-curricular program that includes educational travel, athletics, artistic development, student leadership, robotics, technology, debating, and social action. We also offer unique programming like Core, which provides students with information and opportunities for discussion to help them make informed decisions. These topics include everything from understanding the world around us to navigating the world inside the school. All of these opportunities are designed to prepare each student for the next phase of their educational journey and beyond.

We are accredited by the Canadian Accredited Independent Schools (CAIS), one of only three Halifax schools to earn this distinction. It's your guarantee of excellence — it means we offer the best in education, leadership, management, and governance.

Our Academic Guides open our program to you. Step through and explore why we are at the HEART of something special.

Kind regards,

Dennis Phillips, Head of School
Mary Ellen Ryan, Principal - Grades JP-6
Dr. Wallace MacAskill, Principal - Grades 7-12



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Our Program of Studies

Junior High School

VII Preparatory (Grade 7)	VIII Preparatory (Grade 8)
Religious Studies	Religious Studies
English	English
French	French
Mathematics	Mathematics
Science	Science
Social Studies	Social Studies
Art	Art
Core (Human Development)	Core (Human Development)
Music	Music
Physical Education	Physical Education

I Academic (Grade 9)	
Religious Studies	Social Studies
English	Art/Drama
French	Music
Mathematics 9 Adv/9	Physical Education
Science	Core (Human Development)



Technology	
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For promotion to the next grade/graduation, an overall average of 60% with no mark below 50% is required in all academic subjects.

Requirements for a Sacred Heart Graduation Diploma

Compulsory Credits in Grades 10-12:

- 3 English
- 3 Math
- 3 History (one Global, one Canadian)
- 3 Science
- 1 Arts Course (Music, Visual Arts or Performing Arts)
- 3 Religious Studies
- 2 Languages
- 1 Physical Education

Students who complete our full three-year senior program will typically graduate with 22-24 credits.

Extending our Program of Studies

Sacred Heart School of Halifax, Fountain Academy meets and exceeds all provincial high school academic standards. We also embed opportunities for students to extend and enrich their studies as part of our advanced program of study.

Advanced Placement (AP)

Like many top quality independent schools, Sacred Heart School of Halifax has developed a rigorous Advanced Placement (AP) Program for university-bound students. The AP experience is designed to help high school students make a successful transition to higher education.

The College Board, which has run the AP Program since 1955, has developed a wide range of college-level courses that complement and extend the boundaries of regular high school curricula in the arts, sciences, mathematics, and languages. The AP Program offers college-level courses to highly-motivated high school students across Canada, the United States, and abroad. Each participating school selects the course offerings that are best suited to its particular student population and teaching resources. AP courses are challenging and stimulating and require a greater commitment of time and effort from students. In return, the AP courses offer greater opportunity for intellectual challenge, individual progress, and accomplishment. Students who do well on the



examinations may earn a university credit or an advanced standing at numerous universities and colleges across Canada and the United States.

Sacred Heart School of Halifax is registered with the College Board as an AP school. The AP Program gives students an opportunity to take college-level courses and exams while they are still in high school. They may earn credit, advanced placement, or both for university. There are many benefits for students: the program is challenging, it permits students to move more quickly into advanced classes in university, it can improve self-esteem, and it can increase a student's options at university. Students in grades 11 and 12 are selected to participate in AP courses on the basis of their preparation for such a course, their willingness and ability to meet its academic challenges, and the level of support they have from family.

The Advanced Placement International Diploma (APID) is a globally recognized certificate for students with an international outlook. The APID challenges a student to display exceptional achievement on AP Exams across several disciplines. To earn an APID, students must earn grades of three or higher on at least five AP Exams in specific content areas. Universities worldwide utilize the APID in admissions. Students may search the College Board website at <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/about.html> for more information and for a list of the large number of Canadian and international universities that acknowledge AP achievement.



Course Descriptions

Arts - Fine and Performing

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7 - Visual Art: The major emphasis of the grade 7 Art course is on the introduction of basic skills in drawing, painting, and the manipulation of various kinds of art materials with a focus on texture, shape, and design. The students will develop artistic skills, creative thinking, and problem solving through the creation and production of their original studio work. The Visual Art unit plans run in a four-week cycle and are focused on specific art styles, artistic periods and individual artists (past and present).

Grade 8 - Visual Art: The emphasis of the Grade 8 art programme is on further developing the basic skills in drawing, painting and the manipulation of art materials with a focus on a more individual, subjective interpretation. The students will develop artistic skills, creative thinking, and problem solving through the creation and production of their original studio work. The Visual Art unit plans run in a four-week cycle and are focused on specific art styles, artistic periods and individual artists (past and present).

Grade 9 - Visual Art: The emphasis of the Grade 9 art programme is on a further exploration of techniques and materials previously introduced with developing confidence and skill in their studio pieces. The Visual Art unit plans run in a four-week cycle and are focused on specific art styles, artistic periods and individual artists (past and present).

Students may also participate in the Performing Arts Club (PAC).

Band

Band at Sacred Heart School of Halifax may be taken as an optional credit course for students in Grades 10–12 who meet the following prerequisites: completion of Grade 6–9 Band at Sacred Heart School or the equivalent at another school or through private instruction. Students must be enrolled in the Senior Band program of two regular Band instruction classes per week along with one additional regularly-scheduled Sacred Heart performance class for a total of three performance classes each week. While students are encouraged to participate in private lessons or other All-City or community music ensembles outside of school, the additional performance class must be selected from the following list:

- SHSH Jazz Ensemble
- SHSH Senior Choir
- SHSH Liturgy Choir

English

Students in grades 7 through 12 will develop their reading, writing, listening, speaking, researching, and creative thinking skills. They will read and creatively interpret drama, and they will write essays, short stories, and poetry. Each grade level engages with at least one classical text, often Shakespeare. Film studies are incorporated to enhance reading experiences. Beyond the assigned



curriculum, students will also be expected to read independently. Students are encouraged to make independent reading selections and to read widely.

The English Program provides opportunities for students to explore and to appropriately use technological resources and interact with a variety of media. When possible, students will have the opportunity to experience professional theatre by attending local productions. Guest speakers/writers will be invited to read/share their knowledge, experience, or work. When possible, writing workshops given by authors/writers are made available to interested students.

Evaluation and assessment are on-going and include oral, visual, and creative components, as well as traditional expository writing assignments.

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7: In the Grade 7 English course, students will study and respond to a variety of texts, including poetry, novels, and a Shakespeare play, among others. Students will begin interpreting and analyzing what they read. They will be encouraged to examine how themes in literature might relate to real life. Students will work on how to develop ideas in paragraphs and essays, and they will have a chance to develop their imaginations through a number of creative writing activities. Students will be encouraged to develop their confidence in both formal and informal oral presentations.

Grade 8: In Grade 8 English, students will continue to develop their skills in listening, reading, writing, research, and study. Students will be encouraged to communicate effectively in both oral and written work and will have opportunities to work independently as well as within group settings. Students will be given many avenues for their expression and will write in a variety of styles. They will read and interpret stories, novels, poetry, and plays. They will study grammar and vocabulary to enhance their oral and written expression.

Grade 9: In Grade 9 English students will study and respond to short stories, novels and a Shakespeare play. They will learn to read closely and move beyond a literal interpretation to see how an author uses symbols and metaphors to express important ideas. Students will have opportunities for both formal and informal oral presentations. Students will continue to work on developing their essay-writing skills, with a focus on finding specific evidence from the text to support a thesis. Students will also have opportunities for creative writing throughout the year.

English As An Additional Language

The EAL Program is for students from primary to grade 12 who are learning English as a second or additional language. The EAL Program allows students to focus on curriculum content, language skills, and learning strategies. Following a language assessment, students work closely with a certified EAL teacher and are given the EAL support they require to work toward academic success. Students will attend small group EAL classes. The main goal of the EAL Program is to help students develop their English language and academic skills and to feel comfortable in the Sacred Heart School learning environment.

Admission to EAL classes requires a language assessment.



Junior High

EAL 7-9: In EAL 7-9, students develop their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through course content, as well as through EAL materials. Students are introduced to a variety of language learning strategies to improve their reading and listening comprehension, writing, vocabulary acquisition, and grammatical accuracy. Students practice and receive support with a variety of academic tasks; for example, doing research, writing essays, stories and poems, creating and delivering presentations, and preparing for tests and exams. An important element of EAL classes is addressing the specific needs of individual students.

French

JUNIOR HIGH

The French Program is designed to provide a balanced Program based on the CEFR (European standards) and NS curriculum. We embrace the five skills of listening, speaking, interacting, reading, and writing while being introduced to francophone culture. At each level, new structures and vocabulary are introduced, while those previously learned are reviewed and consolidated. As new structures and vocabulary are learned, students are encouraged to use them in a variety of ways, such as oral presentations, compositions, skits, and projects. Authentic French sources, such as websites, songs, magazines, videos, movies and situations are used throughout the Program as further enrichment.

All classes are conducted entirely in French, and students are expected to participate to the best of their ability and to speak only in French in class.

French 7: This class is designed for emerging learners in French. The goal of the class is to develop language abilities (reading, writing, listening, speaking, and interacting) with a particular focus on developing oral communication skills while also creating a strong foundation in the language. The first term is spent reviewing fundamental concepts in French (the verbs être and avoir, numbers, expressing likes/dislikes...) There is some instruction in English and the goal by the end of the year is to have instruction and interactions take place entirely in French. The goal of this class is for students to develop the ability to express their preferences, how to formulate questions and how to state basic opinions. Students will also be exposed to French culture through song, readings, listening comprehension and videos. Various audio-visual programs, as well as the Delf A1 program, provide contextualized practice in listening and speaking skills.

French 7 Advanced: This course is designed for students who have previously studied French in intensive or immersion programmes. They are typically placed after consultations with previous teachers, conversations with the student as well as taking into consideration the level of French they studied in elementary school. Students are expected to speak French exclusively in class and be able to read a variety of materials at their reading level. The first part of the course is designed to ensure every student is working with similar foundational skills. From there, students will continue to develop their linguistic skills. Students will be expected to further their abilities in reading, writing, speaking and listening. Topics studied are chosen according to the interests of the class and to help them explore different facets of Francophonie. Through these topics we explore culture, vocabulary, grammar and syntax. Students will be provided with opportunities to analyze and comprehend a



variety of texts and media. Various audio-visual programs provide contextualized practice in listening and speaking skills.

French 8: This course is a continuation of French 7. There is constant review of previously learned structures from previous years, including a weekly vocabulary assignment. Students are exposed to the language through various topics chosen to meet their needs and their interests. Through these topics we study the many facets of the language. Students are expected to speak French in class, as well as develop their speaking, writing, listening and reading skills through exposure to many different sources of media and texts. Students learn through a variety of activities and experiences in the classroom, and learn useful skills such as ordering in a restaurant, shopping for food in a French location, talking about the weather and understanding a weather forecast, suggesting activities and locations, looking for places to stay in French locations.

French 8 Advanced: The Grade 8 French course continues to build on the skills learned in Grade 7. Themes studied in Grade 8 are designed around the interests of students and include: food, crimes, cars, and technology. Authentic sources (francophone magazines, websites, music, movies, and books) are used as the base for all in-class activities. Students develop their French communication skills by participating in class discussions and activities, performing skits, and completing writing, reading, and listening activities. There is a continued focus in Grade 8 on developing oral communication skills, and class instruction and interactions are entirely in French.

Grade 9: The Grade 9 French course builds on skills learned in our French 7 and 8 programmes. A wealth of new vocabulary and structures are introduced and activities such as oral presentations, discussions and projects are used to stimulate students to use their skills in as natural a way as possible. These include explaining and describing events in the present, past and future; speaking in the hypothetical and making polite requests using the conditional; Students are introduced to a variety of authentic French materials such as French books, music, websites and SRC radio reports, in order to contextualize their learning. Activities and projects are designed to be engaging and meaningful to students while encouraging them to push themselves and take risks with the language. The main grammar text is À la Une 3. In addition to individual reading according to their ability, students will read a selection of abridged novels, articles and short stories.

French 9 Advanced: The Grade 9 French course builds on skills learned in previous years. A wealth of new vocabulary and structures are introduced and activities such as oral presentations, discussions and projects are used to stimulate students to use their skills in as natural a way as possible. Students are introduced to a variety of authentic French materials such as French books, magazines, websites, radio programs, music and movies in order to contextualize their learning. Activities and projects are designed to be engaging and meaningful to students while encouraging them to push themselves and take risks with the language. Themes include: advertising, future technology, Astérix, and le Carnaval de Québec. Students will also read and perform scenes from Les Trois Mousquetaires by Alexandre Dumas.



Human Development (Core)

Grades 7 & 8: The aim of this program is to build positive self-identity and help students develop effective communication and interpersonal skills that enable them to manage and enhance their health, relationships, and interactions with the world. Topics of study can include: 1) Organization, Study Skills, and Test Taking Strategies, 2) Media Literacy, Digital Citizenship, and Social Media, 3) Anti-Bullying and Community Building, 4) Positive Personal Development, 5) Relationships, 6) Communication, 7) Substances, 8) Decision Making, 9) Stress, 10) Sexual Health, and 11) Nutrition. Our study of each topic can include class discussion, worksheets, videos, and guest speakers. The order is flexible so that immediate issues can be addressed.

Grade 9: In Grade 9, students continue to participate in discussions and awareness-raising activities about their own development. In addition, the Grade 9 Program engages students in a discovery of interests and a career-information process. Topics for this course include: organization, social etiquette, dating, personal grooming, resume and interview processes, exam preparation, social media and internet, financial management, drugs and alcohol, useful knots, and issues around mental health.

Mathematics

The aim of this Program is to make mathematics enjoyable and challenging, and to prepare students to be successful in further studies which require an understanding of mathematics. The mathematics courses fulfill the requirements of the Program of Studies of the Nova Scotia Department of Education, with some additions. For example, students may take a full credit course in calculus in grade 12 to prepare them for university.

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7: This course provides a holistic view of mathematics, one that integrates the content of mathematics, the processes of mathematical thinking, and the self-concept of the student. Content includes the study of algebraic patterning, divisibility, exponents, integers, decimals, fractions and percents. Thinking, understanding, and problem-solving are stressed. Group learning, verbalizing, writing, and sharing are important aspects of this class. Special emphasis is placed on the development of mathematics as a language used in searching for patterns.

Grade 8: In the grade 8 Mathematics course, the emphasis is on problem solving and making connections to the world outside the classroom. Topics taught include a review of basic computations, data analysis, exponents, roots, measurement, integers, rationals, rate and ratio, percents, graphing, algebra, three-dimensional geometry, and angle geometry. Throughout the course there is an emphasis on patterning to discover general rules and the importance of developing mathematical skills to be used in other subject areas. (A final average of 85% is needed in grade 8 math, as well as the recommendation of the grade 8 math teacher, to enroll in the grade 9 advanced math course.)

Grade 9: The emphasis of this course is placed on developing a solid foundation in number sense and algebra. The course also furthers the study of integers and rationals, exponents, unit conversions, measurement, geometry, solving algebraic equations, inequalities, graphing, polynomials and factoring. Problem solving is an integral part of each of the topics studied.



Interactive websites are used where applicable. Students will need a scientific calculator for this course.

Grade 9 (Advanced): This is an accelerated grade nine math course, emphasizing problem solving and mental math. Topics include: classifying and operations with real numbers, measurement, exponents and roots, operations with polynomials, inequalities and linear equations, linear (and select non-linear) relations, topics in geometry, introduction to matrices, and probability. Students will need a scientific calculator for this course. A final average of 85% is needed in Grade 8 Math, as well as the recommendation of the Grade 8 Math teacher, to enroll in this course.

Music

Grade 7 - Music: Emphasis is placed on cultivating an understanding and enjoyment of music through music theory study, composition, music history, and music making in various forms. Theory study will include an introduction to music rudiments, terminology, and composition using several different online programs as well as by handwriting. The focus in Grade 7 Music theory is on how to read and compose using staff, ledger lines and several different clefs. Grade 7 Music history study pertains to popular music from the late 1800s through early rock and roll in the 1950s. Music making can include percussion activities, simple instruments, singing, and the like, and may include songs from many genres that typically tie in with the eras of history under discussion.

Grade 8 – Music: Emphasis is placed on cultivating a deeper understanding and enjoyment of music through music theory study, composition, music history, and music making in various forms. Theory study will delve further into music rudiments, terminology, and composition using the different online programs as well as by handwriting. The focus in Grade 8 theory is on how to read and compose music using the extensive range of rhythmic possibilities in music. Music history study pertains to popular music from the British Invasion through several varieties of style from the late 1970s including surf music and folk-rock. Music making can include percussion activities, simple instruments, singing, and the like, and may include songs from different genres that typically tie in with the eras of history under discussion.

Grade 9 – Music: Emphasis is divided between a more intensive study of music theory, composition, popular music history, and music making in various forms. Using different online programs, a solid preparation for further music study will be established. Concepts covered both as reading and in composition include: music terms and symbols, intervals, scales, and transposition. Music history covers the latter part of popular music from 1960s Soul and Motown through disco, reggae, jazz, new wave, and more through to MTV. Music making can include percussion activities, simple instruments, singing, and the like, and typically ties in with the eras in history currently being studied. Time is spent covering what factors have allowed their particular music taste to evolve in the way it has, and students explore music that may be outside of their traditional music preferences.



Physical Education

JUNIOR HIGH

Grades 7, 8 and 9: Junior High Physical Education classes are structured and focus on instruction so that students can develop skill and transfer these skills into game play. Students will have the opportunity to take part in PE approximately 4 times a week. The emphasis of the Physical Education Program in Junior High is on developing skills and a positive attitude towards physical activity as a lifelong endeavor. Personal fitness and testing is also another component of the curriculum.

Religious Studies

The goal of the Religious Studies Program is to help students understand that they have a spiritual side of being. Acknowledging our historical roots as a Catholic school as well as the religious diversity within our current faculty and student body, the program is meant to awaken the spiritual life, either within or without a specific religious framework. Through the years of study, students will develop their mindfulness and meditative practices, and will see the fundamental beliefs and practices of many world religions. As a Catholic School, we attend key Liturgies at Saint Mary's Cathedral Basilica, and attendance from the school community is expected.

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7: Religious Studies 7 serves as an introduction to the New Testament. We focus on storytelling, reading skills, active listening, and extracting multiple levels of truth from text. In addition to reading the Bible, we will explore the narratives through the stained glass windows in the school, and through film. Key interpretative lenses will be the literal and metaphorical, the concrete and abstract, and the mythological and archetypal. We will investigate metaphysical dualisms including, good and bad, good and evil, weak and strong, heaven and hell, order and chaos, masculine and feminine, fire and water, and earth and air. In addition to these religious topics, a significant amount of time is devoted to mindfulness and meditative activities.

Grade 8: This course is a natural follow-up to Religious Studies 7. We read the Book of Revelation, followed by Genesis, to understand the metaphysical bookends of God's universe in the Judeo-Christian faith. In Genesis, we will thoroughly dissect the nature of the covenant, and the purpose of sacrifice. In addition to these religious topics, a significant amount of time is devoted to mindfulness and meditative activities.

Grade 9: The purpose of this course is to give students from diverse religious backgrounds an understanding of the basics of the Catholic faith, with a common vocabulary and unified vision of the whole of the Catholic Church. An emphasis is put on the Liturgical Calendar and developing an understanding of traditions and celebrations around this. This course also has students exploring their purpose as members of their communities through the process of writing a personal mission statement. Students are also exposed to ways of understanding self-development, including the archetypal hero myth, and position their own human life in the vastness of the cosmos.



Science

The goals of the junior and senior high Programs have been organized around four clusters:

Scientific attitudes - for the students to develop positive attitudes towards science, respect for the environment, and a commitment to the wise use of resources; an understanding of the nature of science as a human endeavour, and an appreciation of scientific knowledge and processes in a technological society.

Skills and processes - for the students to develop an understanding of and the ability to use the scientific process skills of observing, classifying, measuring, using numbers, communicating, inferring, predicting, identifying and controlling variables, and interpreting data; skills which include questioning, working in groups, and sharing and establishing effective study processes.

Thinking ability - for the students to develop a facility in problem-solving through science using creative, rational and critical thinking approaches, and inquisitive-thinking strategies using questioning skills.

Scientific knowledge - for the students to develop the basic knowledge required to understand the concepts needed in a scientific and technological world and to develop an awareness of the career possibilities in the fields of science and technology.

JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7: The Grade 7 Science course provides a science inquiry and a technological problem-solving emphasis. Skill areas developed are: careful observation, questioning, proposing ideas, hypothesizing, making inferences, designing experiments; gathering, processing and interpreting data; evaluating, explaining and communicating results. The emphases are suggested by the topics: interactions within ecosystems, structures and stability, as well as mixtures and solutions.

Grade 8: Emphasis is placed on laboratory activities and the development and refinement of analytical skills. The Biology unit includes studies on cell structure, the organism as a set of interrelated systems, and energy relations among organisms and the environment. In Physics, types of electromagnetic radiation, properties of light, optics and eye structure, viscosity of fluids, and the relationships between mass, volume and displacement are examined. In a unit focusing on the environment, we look at ocean currents, methods of mapping the ocean floor, various marine species, and the impact of global warming.

Grade 9: This course focuses on various topics in the life and physical sciences. The life science unit deals with reproduction in terms of cell division, reproduction, genetics, and human development. The physical science topics include: matter, atoms and the periodic table, and electricity and conversion of energy. The Earth science unit includes exploration of space. Students continue to apply their knowledge and skills in science through various laboratory activities.

Social Studies

The Social Studies Program throughout junior and senior high is global in nature and educates to a sense of social justice. Its aim is to make students aware of their world: its geography, history, economic, and sociological structures. Students are helped to locate and organize information, communicate orally and in writing, and to develop critical thinking and discussion skills.



JUNIOR HIGH

Grade 7 Social Studies:

History: Grade 7 explores the concept of "Big History", that our world today is the result of 13.7 billion years of connected events. Students learn about the eight key "threshold moments", when the development of the universe took an unexpected but crucial turn in getting us to where we are today. Aside from the evolution of the universe, special attention will be paid to the development of life on Earth and early humans. Students will use a wide range of sources in their investigations, and thus will develop research and evidence-gathering skills.

Geography: The purpose of this course is to help students better understand their physical surroundings. Within the framework of the five themes of geography, students learn about physical patterns, environment, and resources. Historical and contemporary case studies, Canadian-based whenever possible, are key elements of this course. Geography-skill-building is emphasized with a particular focus on mapping skills.

Grade 8 Social Studies:

History: This course gives an overview of the development of human civilization from the evolution of Homo Sapiens to the fall of the Western Roman Empire. Students examine the civilizations of the ancient Egyptians, Mesopotamians, Israelites, Greeks, and Romans. The role of geography in the shaping of the culture of these areas is emphasized. Students come to a greater understanding of the past and its relevance to today's world.

Geography: This course aims to introduce students to elements of Human Geography. Major themes include population patterns, urban development, economics, migration, and culture. The relationship between Human Geography and our World History is stressed. Contemporary case studies are also examined. Geography skills are built and students become more familiar with the world map.

Grade 9 Social Studies: This course gives an overview of the development of human civilization from Early American Civilization to the Renaissance. Students examine the civilizations of pre-colonial Central and South America and Africa, with a focus on understanding how exploration in the 1500's impacted various cultures and led to what we see in the modern world. The history of Japan and Europe are also in focus as good examples of enduring patterns in socio-cultural development. The role of geography in shaping human history and the culture of these areas is emphasized. Students come to a greater understanding of the past and its contribution to their lives today. Current events are discussed for their immediate relevance and historical links so that students can understand the changes that are taking place in our world today.

Technology

Technology 7 and 8: Students are introduced to the Innovation Lab and basic technological skills throughout the year, in preparation for work in their other courses.

Technology 9: Students will be introduced to a wide variety of technological concepts, allowing them to develop their technological literacy in both control and media technology. Areas of focus include G Suite applications, keyboarding, programming, graphic and web design, and sound/video editing.

