



Saint Thomas Aquinas  
Regional Catholic High School

2022-2023  
SCHEDULING GUIDE



# Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2022-2023 Scheduling Guide

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## Introduction

The information in this guide is important to both you, as a student, and your parents. In order for St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School to provide you with the best possible education, you must take the responsibility of choosing classes that will help you achieve your goals. This guide will provide you with graduation requirements, scheduling requirements, course summaries, and other important information. Read this guide carefully and discuss your desired schedule with your parents. It is important that you make selections that meet state requirements and that are helpful in meeting your individual needs.

During the spring semester, students will receive an in-class presentation on scheduling and will complete their "Schedule Request Forms" for the coming year. Please begin discussing classes with your parents as soon as possible. Please note that due to course offerings, the number of sections, and timing of each course offered, students are not guaranteed to receive the optional/ elective classes they request and must select at least 4 of these courses when completing the Course Request Form.

Scheduling questions may be directed to:

Dr. Chris Lundberg, Academic Coordinator  
chris.lundberg@stafalcons.org

During the summer and 2022-2023 school year, schedules will **only** be changed due to the following reasons: Student is enrolled in a class that s/he has already passed, that s/he received credit for through summer school and/or credit recovery • Student has a class listed on the schedule twice • Student is missing a required course/ class • Student has an empty period on schedule • Student has obtained the test scores required for a dual enrollment, honors, or AP course before the Aug 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.

*St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, or athletic and other school administered programs.*

Updated 2/1/22



## Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School 2022-2023 Scheduling Guide

### TOPS

Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS) is a comprehensive program of state scholarships and one of the most innovative and progressive student assistance programs in the nation. TOPS is a series of merit-based scholarships that award students with set amounts of tuition funding, some including a stipend, at a state public college, university, community college, or technical school.

The state funding decision for TOPS is typically released the summer after graduation. STA cannot predict or guarantee the state will fund TOPS each year. Students must fulfill the TOPS requirements in addition to the STA requirements to graduate. It is recommended that students and their parents visit the TOPS website at [www.osfa.state.la.us](http://www.osfa.state.la.us).

**TOPS Opportunity, Performance, and Honors Awards:** 8 semesters of college tuition assistance

**TOPS Tech Award:** 2 years of technical college tuition

To qualify, students must follow the TOPS core curriculum and meet the GPA and ACT requirements, set by the state. Students apply for TOPS by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) their senior year. The application typically opens in October. Each university has its own FAFSA completing deadline and students are responsible for finding and adhering to these deadlines.

Overview of TOPS Requirements as of Spring 2019			
	TOPS Opportunity	TOPS Performance	TOPS Honors
<b>4 year college</b>	X	X	X
<b>2 year college</b>	X	X	X
<b>Technical college</b>	X	X	X
<b>TOPS Core Curriculum</b>	19 units	19 units	19 units
<b>TOPS GPA</b>	2.5	3.0	3.0
<b>ACT</b>	20	23	27

### Standardized Testing Sequence

9th grade – Aspire

10<sup>th</sup> grade – Aspire

11<sup>th</sup> grade – ACT, PSAT, SAT

12<sup>th</sup> grade – Repeat above tests as needed

Seniors should make every effort to surpass the minimum TOPS ACT score before April of their graduating year.

Please contact testing coordinator, Shannon Jordan, for questions and concerns regarding testing and score reports.

**[shannon.jordan@stafalcons.org](mailto:shannon.jordan@stafalcons.org)**



# Saint Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School

## 2022-2023 Scheduling Guide

LA College Diploma / TOPS Core Curriculum for  
High School graduates of 2018 and thereafter

UNITS	COURSES <sup>1</sup>
ENGLISH = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	English I
1 UNIT	English II
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	English III, AP English Language Arts and Composition, or IB English III (Language A or Literature & Performance)
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	English IV, AP English Literature and Composition, or IB English IV (Language A or Literature & Performance)
MATH = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	Algebra I
1 UNIT	Geometry
1 UNIT	Algebra II
	(Integrated Mathematics I, Integrated Mathematics II, & Integrated Mathematics III may be substituted for the Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II sequence)
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Algebra III, Advanced Math - Functions & Statistics, Advanced Math - Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus, or IB Math Methods I (Mathematical Studies SL), Calculus, AP Calculus AB, or IB Math Methods II (Mathematics SL), AP Calculus BC, Probability & Statistics or AP Statistics, IB Further Mathematics HL, IB Mathematics HL
SCIENCE = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT	Biology I
1 UNIT	Chemistry I
2 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Earth Science; Environmental Science; Physical Science; Agriscience I and II (one unit combined); Chemistry II, AP Chemistry, or IB Chemistry II; AP Environmental Science or IB Environmental Systems; Physics I, AP Physics B, or IB Physics I; AP Physics C: Electricity & Magnetism, AP Physics C: Mechanics, or IB Physics II; AP Physics I and AP Physics II; Biology II, AP Biology, or IB Biology, Anatomy and Physiology
SOCIAL STUDIES = 4 UNITS	
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	U.S. History, AP U.S. History, or IB U.S. History
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Civics, Government, AP U.S. Government and Politics: Comparative, or AP U.S. Government and Politics: United States



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2 UNITS FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Western Civilization, European History, or AP European History; World Geography, AP Human Geography, or IB Geography; World History, AP World History, or IB World History; History of Religion; IB Economics, Economics, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Microeconomics, or AP Psychology

UNITS	COURSES
FOREIGN LANGUAGE = 2 UNITS	
	Foreign Language, both units in same language, which may include the following: AP Chinese Language and Culture, AP French Language and Culture, AP German Language and Culture, AP Italian Language and Culture, AP Japanese Language and Culture, AP Latin, AP Spanish Language and Culture, IB French IV, IB French V, IB Spanish IV, and IB Spanish V
ART = 1 UNIT	
1 UNIT FROM THE FOLLOWING:	Performance course in Music, Dance, or Theater; Fine Arts Survey; Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Art I, II, III, and IV; Talented Music I, II, III, and IV; Talented Theater Arts I, II, III, and IV; Speech III and IV (one unit combined); AP Art History; AP Studio Art: 2-D Design; AP Studio Art 3-D Design; AP Studio Art: Drawing; AP Music Theory; IB Film Study I; IB Film Study II; IB Music I; IB Music II; IB Art Design III; IB Art Design IV
TOTAL = 19 UNITS	

*This core curriculum is accurate as of the date of publication and includes courses listed in TOPS statute and those determined to be equivalent by the Louisiana Board of Regents and BESE.*



## Information about Honors & AP Courses

### What are Honors Courses?

Honors courses are developed by high school instructors to help meet the needs of accelerated students. Honors classes offer the same curriculum as non-honors classes, but are more challenging. Honors courses are faster-paced and cover topics more in-depth.

**Dual Enrollment:** Some STA courses are a part of the SELU Dual Enrollment (DE) program. These courses are developed by SELU professors and taught in conjunction with STA teachers. Please see the chart on page 7 and course descriptions for course offerings and enrollment requirements. These requirements are established by SELU and may change as SELU makes updates.

### What are Advanced Placement (AP) Courses?

AP courses give students access to rigorous college-level work. AP students build confidence and learn the essential time management and study skills needed for college and career success.

By completing an AP course and scoring successfully on the related AP Exam, you may save on college expenses. Currently, more than 90 percent of colleges and universities across the country offer college credit, advanced placement, or both, for qualifying AP Exam scores. For more information, visit <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/home>.

*\* These courses carry a weighted grade of 1.5, multiplied by numerical average at end of course.  
Course weights will be different for the class of 2023 and later per the STA Handbook*

- AP exams are optional and taken only during the national test day assigned.
- The \$100 fee is paid directly to St. Thomas and **ONLY** accepted on the designated AP day listed on the school calendar

### What are the advantages of taking Honors & AP Courses?

- Weighted averages in Honors and AP courses are utilized in determining your placement in the final ranking of seniors prior to graduation.
- You can gain an edge in the college admission process.
- You can develop study habits that will prepare you for college.
- Studies have shown that the rigor of a student's curriculum is the single best predictor of success in college. *Working hard in high school establishes habits that make the transition to college smoother.*
- You have a chance to study subjects in greater depth and detail.

### Who is eligible to take an honors/ dual enrollment or AP course?

Previous subject course grades, standardized test scores, SELU ACT score requirements, and eligibility exams will be reviewed to determine a student's placement in Honors, Dual Enrollment and AP courses. Please see page 7 and the course descriptions for these eligibility requirements. **Please direct any Dual Enrollment questions and concerns to Mrs. Alex Burris at [aburris@stafalcons.org](mailto:aburris@stafalcons.org)**

### Dual Enrollment (DE) with Southeastern Louisiana University

SLU Course	Full SLU Course Name	STA Course Name
GBIO 151	General Biology I (Year- long course)	Bio II H (honors weight)
COMM 211	Introduction to Public Speaking (Year-long Course)	Speech I
ENGL 101 and ENGL 102	Freshman Composition I and II (101-Fall 102-Spring)	English Dual Enrollment Honors
HIS 101 and 201	Western Civilization I and II (101-Fall 102-Spring)	Western Civilization Dual Enrollment Honor
SPAN 101 AND 102	Elementary Spanish I and II (101-Fall 102-Spring)	Spanish III Honors
SPAN 201	College Spanish (Spring course)	Spanish IV Honors
SOC 101	Sociology (Year-long course)	Sociology Honors

#### Requirements for Enrollment:

- Students must currently be 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> grade with a 2.55 GPA
- Students must be on track for completing the Louisiana College Diploma curriculum
- Students must have ALL of the Aspire or ACT scores below to enroll in the class

**\*\*For fall & yearlong courses, ALL ACT requirements must be met AND scores received before Aug. 1 to be placed in the class. For spring courses, ALL ACT requirements must be met AND scores received by Dec. 1.**

#### **Eng 101, His 101., Sociology, Span 101**

18 Eng. Score  
19 Composite

#### **Eng. 102, HIS 102 Span 102 & 201 Comm 211**

18 Eng. Score  
19 Composite  
19 Math Score

#### **Bio II Honors**

19 Math Score  
18 Eng. Score  
19 Composite

**Fees** - \$225 per course. Math has an additional \$25 software fee

**Grading** - Students will receive letter grades in their STA class & in their SELU class. These grades may or may not be the same. *The SELU grades will be part of the student's permanent college record. STA will not request SELU transcripts for college applications. This will be the responsibility of the student.*

**COURSES LISTED IN THIS GUIDE ARE NOT GUARANTEED. COURSES MAY BE CHANGED OR CANCELLED BASED ON STUDENT INTEREST AND AVAILABILITY. STUDENTS ARE NOT GUARANTEED TO BE PLACED IN ANY PARTICULAR COURSE OR SECTION OF A PARTICULAR COURSE.**

## THEOLOGY DEPARTMENT

To graduate from STA, students must enroll in the appropriate level Theology class for each year they are enrolled in St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

Theology is the study of God and God's relationship with humans and the rest of creation. The Theology program at St. Thomas Aquinas Regional Catholic High School is designed to prepare students for full participation in the wisdom, worship, and works of the Church. Theology is an academic subject and is required of all STA students for each year there are enrolled at STA.

### **Theology I:**

#### Jesus Christ: God's Revelation to the World (Semester 1)

This thoroughly revised and enhanced edition introduces the story of salvation as it unfolds in both the Old Testament and New Testament. The text provides a thorough plan for reading and studying the Bible and gives students a general knowledge and appreciation of Sacred Scripture through which they encounter Jesus Christ. The text follows Course I of the new curriculum framework.

#### Jesus Christ: His Mission and Ministry (Semester 2)

This thoroughly revised and enhanced edition deepens the study of Jesus, highlighting key events in his earthly ministry while unpacking his teachings about God the Father, the Trinity, Mary, and the Holy Spirit. Students learn that the goal of discipleship is a life of grace and holiness and a share of God's everlasting Kingdom. This text follows Course II of the new curriculum framework.

*This is a required course for freshmen.*

*1 credit*

### **Theology II:**

#### Jesus Christ and the Church: One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic (Semester 1)

This enhanced edition places the foundations of the Church in their historical and scriptural context and goes further by guiding students to recognize the sacred nature of the Church and engaging them to more actively participate in the living Body of Christ and serve as witnesses to the sacred Gospel in the world today. This text follows Course III of the new curriculum framework.

#### Jesus Christ: Source of Our Salvation (Semester 2)

This enhanced edition unpacks the meaning of God's sacred and mysterious plan from creation, onward to the consequences of the fall and the promise of a Savior, while ultimately focusing on the Life, Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. This text follows Course IV of the new curriculum framework.

*This is a required course for sophomores.*

*1 credit*

### **Theology III:**

Meeting Jesus in the Sacraments Second Edition helps students recognize the living presence of God's Incarnate Son in the Seven Sacraments, especially in the Eucharist. Organized around three dimensions of the sacraments -- Understanding, Celebrating, and Grace -- the text unpacks the origins, rites, and effects of the Seven Sacraments in a spiral design that follows a common structure from chapter to chapter.

#### Your Life in Christ: Foundations in Catholic Morality (Semester 2)

This course introduces students to a traditional understanding of morality, encouraging them to undergo a deep and regular examination of conscience while making daily decisions to live a moral life. This semester,



students study the three sources of knowledge in catholic morality that aid a person in discerning between right and wrong

*This is a required course for juniors.*

*1 credit*

#### **Theology IV:**

##### Foundations of Catholic Social Teaching: Living as a Disciple of Christ

The course builds on the connections by helping teens find their place in the community of the faithful as they advocate for charity and justice in the world. Organized around the seven principles of Catholic social teaching, Foundations, helps students gain a greater understanding of the roots of social teaching in the Church, its context in the Bible and the Catechism and real-life examples of charity and justice in action.

##### Exploring the Religions of Our World (Semester 2)

This semester, students build on their understanding and experience of the Catholic Christian faith by studying different religious traditions. The text begins with a study of Judeo-Christian history, practice, and tradition before expanding to the study of other less familiar religions including Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Taoism, Confucianism, and Shintoism. The text moves on to uncover a variety of religious traditions that sprang from America's Protestant roots including Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses, and the Church of Christ, Scientist.

*This is a required course for seniors.*

*1 credit*

### **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

To graduate from STA, students need 4 credits in English. English courses include the study of literature, grammar, vocabulary, and opportunities for writing. The core curriculum is designed so that each course builds on the previous one, especially in the areas of vocabulary, grammar, and writing.

#### **English I:**

In English I, the focus is on the fundamentals of grammar, punctuation, mechanics, sentence structure, and essay development, including the argumentative persuasive essay. The literature studied includes short stories, poems, and Shakespearean drama through the study of *Romeo and Juliet*. In addition, students study ACT vocabulary and read a variety of approved novels as independent study. *This is a required course for freshmen, unless the student is entering STA with approved high school English credit*

*1 credit*

#### **English II:**

As a study of World Literature, students read short stories, plays, novels, and poetry, identifying literary concepts in such works. A poetry unit familiarizes students with poetic devices and figures of speech as well as with the various types of poetry. *Julius Caesar* continues the study of Shakespeare. Students will be required to obtain 3 novels for in and out of class study. The writing assignments include expository and compare/contrast essays as well as short stories and research reports. Library skills and the process of writing are taught as part of the course as well as a review of grammar, usage, and mechanics.

This course or it's honors format must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence.

*1 credit*

#### **English II Honors:**

This course is the study of World Literature. Reading comprehension/analysis and composition skills are the primary focus of the course including a review of grammar, usage, and mechanics. Students are

required to utilize the textbook selection, novels by a foreign author, and technology in order that they may reflect, in writing, on the literature and authors being examined. A research paper utilizing a critical review is also required. ALL students MUST earn a minimum score on the honors English placement exam offered twice in the spring semester to be enrolled in this course. This course or it's honors format must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence. The honors placement exam must be taken and the score minimum must be met, prior to enrolling in this course.

*1 credit*

### **English III:**

The primary focus of this course is on writing essays, including argumentative, persuasive, and literary analysis. The second focus of this course is a survey of American literature, including historical documents and at least one dramatic play. In addition, students read a variety of approved novels as independent study. Students also study weekly ACT vocabulary. This course or AP English III must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence.

*1 credit*

### **English III AP: Language & Composition**

AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Students will engage in formal class discussions based on reading assignments. Additionally, students read and analyze rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students completing this course have the option to take the Advanced Placement examination in May.

This course or English III must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence.

*1 credit*

### **English Honors Dual Enrollment 101/102:**

Students will have the opportunity to complete SELU Freshman Composition I & II, totaling six college credits or two 3-hour classes, while receiving fulfilling a credit of high school English. Students will receive letter grades in their STA class & in their SLU class. These grades may or may not be the same. A passing grade in this course will fulfill one of the four required high school English classes. Students must pass English III AP and meet the requirements on page 7 before being enrolled in this course. Students must be a Senior and completion of English 3/3AP and/or English 4/4AP.

*1 credit*

### **English IV:**

This course will cover, through an historical approach, a variety of literary genres written by British authors, with attention given to major themes of British Literature. Students will read a Shakespeare tragedy as part of their study. In addition, students will be required to compose a variety of longer essays (including an advertising analysis, character analysis, various forms of technical writing, and a research paper) and participate in weekly discussion and writing in response to the literature. Vocabulary will be studied and assessed consistently throughout the year, in addition to grammar, which will be reviewed in the context of the writing process. As part of college and career readiness, students will participate in career studies throughout the year and create a research presentation before graduation.

This course, AP English IV, or English Dual Enrollment must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence.

1 credit

**English IV AP: Literature & Composition**

In the AP English Literature and Composition course, students will read works from the three main genres (fiction, poetry, and drama) and respond to those readings in formal class discussions and through analytical, critical, and evaluative essays. Students will write shorter, timed, in-class essays as well as full-length analysis papers. Students completing this course have the option to take the Advanced Placement examination in May. This course, English IV or English Dual Enrollment must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement and must be completed in the appropriate sequence

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of English III AP*

1 credit

**MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

To graduate from STA, **four credits** from the Math Department are required. There are several options for our students to obtain the necessary credits. At each level, math studies build upon skills and concepts previously presented. Mathematical vocabulary and symbolism are emphasized. Calculators may be required.

**PLEASE DIRECT ALL MATH RELATED SCHEDULING QUESTIONS TO THE MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

[bryan.lazare@stafalcons.org](mailto:bryan.lazare@stafalcons.org). He will direct you to the appropriate instructor if needed.

**Algebra I**

This course includes properties of numbers, polynomials, graphing linear equations, inequalities, radical functions, factoring, and quadratic equations. Applied problem solving, reasoning skills, and analytical thinking skills are included.

This is a required freshman level course.

1 credit

**Geometry**

Geometry covers the fundamentals of Euclidean geometry, including parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent and similar polygons, circles, deductive reasoning, and logical thinking. Students construct plane figures and determine area and volume. As an introduction to trigonometry, they also study right triangles and the basic trigonometric functions. A calculator, compass, and straight edge are required tools.

*Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I.*

This is a required sophomore level course.

1 credit

**Geometry Honors**

This course covers all topics included in Geometry described above but also includes extra topics utilizing higher thinking skills and more challenging problems. A calculator, compass, and straight edge are required tools. Admission is contingent upon successful scores on the placement test.

*Prerequisite: A in Algebra I at STA, successful score on the honors placement test, and teacher recommendation.*

1 credit

**Algebra II**

Students build on the basics of Algebra I, doing more in-depth work on polynomials and quadratic equations. The study of axioms, matrices, open sentences, irrational, complex and imaginary numbers as well as systems of equations, is included in this course.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I

This is a required Junior level course.

*1 credit*

### **Algebra II H**

This course includes topics mentioned above in Algebra II but studies the topics in greater depth. Some extra topics, such as conic sections, introduction to logs, and advanced work with matrices are included and higher-level thinking skills are used.

Prerequisite: A in Algebra I and Geometry H or departmental recommendation.

*1 credit*

### **Algebra III**

Topics in this course include topics mentioned in Algebra II. This course serves as a review of Algebra.

Prerequisite: Algebra II and departmental recommendation.

This is a senior level course.

*1 credit*

### **Advanced Math**

This course is a college level non-DE precalculus course. It provides a brief review of solving quadratic, rational, and algebraic equation. Students are involved in an in-depth study of functions, including radical functions, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Geometric and analytic development of trigonometric and circular functions, including their uses in problem-solving are emphasized.

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra II or Algebra II H with departmental recommendation.

*1 credit*

### **Pre-Calculus Honors**

An honor's course primarily designed for juniors. The course would include trigonometry in the first semester and a variety of topics in the second semester. The material covered in the second semester would adequately prepare the student to take Calculus as a senior. The course would begin with a detailed study of functions. Trigonometry topics would include graphing trigonometric equations, finding equations of trigonometric functions, proving trigonometric identities, solving trigonometric equations, and solving word problems using trigonometry. The second-semester topics would include the polar coordinate system, the complex number system, solving higher-degree equations, vectors and their applications, analytic geometry, sequences and their limits and arithmetic and geometric progressions.

Pre-requisite: Honors Algebra II and departmental approval. It would be possible for a senior to take this course with departmental approval.

*1 credit*

### **Calculus Honors**

An honors course which would be similar to the first two semesters of a four-semester Calculus sequence in college. The course would begin with a study of the limit of a function. The main portion of the first semester would involve taking the derivative of rational functions and dealing with word problem applications of the derivative. The next part of the course would involve taking the integral of rational functions and dealing with word problem applications of both indefinite and definite integrals. The final part of the course would involve differentiation and integration of trigonometric functions, inverse trigonometric functions, the natural log function, and the exponential function. Special integration formulas would also be introduced.

Pre-requisite: Pre-Calculus Honors and departmental approval. This course is open only to seniors.

*1 credit*

### **AP Statistics**

This course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students who successfully complete the course and national AP exam may receive

credit, advanced placement or both for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Technology access is required, including a graphing calculator. **The fee for the optional AP exam is \$100.**

Prerequisite: The successful completion of Algebra II, a ACT composite of 19+ and a ACT math score of 19+.

The course can be taken concurrently with another Advanced Math course or AP Calculus.

*1 credit*

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

To graduate from STA, students need 4 credits in science: Biology I, Chemistry I, and 2 other credits. Students have options for which classes they use to fulfill the requirement. The objective of the science curriculum is to assist students in developing inquiry-based learning skills and using the scientific method. In each of the science courses, reading for interpretation, comprehension, conducting lab experiments and writing lab reports, scientific observations, critical thinking, and drawing conclusions are emphasized during hands-on laboratory investigations.

### **Biology I**

This is a general course that acquaints the students with the integral parts of the life sciences. The class goes into a very detailed study of cell biology. This study includes biochemistry and genetics. There is a more general overview of the taxonomy, anatomy, and physiology of plants and animals. Basic ecology is the last topic studied. Labs provide hands-on experience of the course material. *This course must be passed to fulfill the graduation requirement.*

*1 credit*

### **Physical Science**

In this course, students are taught the basic knowledge necessary to be successful in advanced science courses. Students are introduced to the scientific method as well as basic properties of matter and energy, laying the groundwork for further work in Physics and Chemistry.

*1 credit*

### **Anatomy and Physiology**

Anatomy and Physiology is a laboratory science course that includes an in-depth study of the body systems that maintain homeostasis from anatomical and physiological perspectives. The areas covered will include medical terminology, basic chemistry, cell biology, tissues, and the 11 organ systems (integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous, endocrine, circulatory, lymphatic, digestive, respiratory, urinary, and reproductive). Dissection of a cat, fetal pig, and other appropriate organs will compliment course work. The course is recommended for students interested in pursuing a degree in the health science fields. *As of 2018, this course can be used to fulfill one unit of science credit.*

**Prerequisites:** successful completion of Biology 1.

*1 credit*

### **Chemistry I**

General concepts and problem solving are emphasized. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to present and supplement the material. Some of the concepts covered in the class include: matter and its properties, measurements and conversions, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, equations and reactions, stoichiometry, and gas laws. *This is a required course for graduation and TOPS.*

**Prerequisites:** *This is a Junior Level course. Students have had to successfully completed Algebra I and Physical Science.*

1 credit

## Chemistry I Honors

General concepts and problem solving are emphasized. Laboratory experiments and demonstrations are used to present and supplement the material. Some of the concepts covered in the class include, matter and its properties, measurements and conversions, atomic structure, periodic law, chemical bonding, equations and reactions, stoichiometry, and gas laws. Topics covered in this course are similar to those in Chemistry I; however, they are covered in more depth using more higher-level critical thinking skills and more challenging applications. Outside assignments will be required in this course.

**Prerequisites:** *Sophomores and juniors must have completed Algebra I with a final average of a B or higher. A minimum score of a 430 ACT Aspire in Math and Science as well as a Biology or Math teacher recommendation is needed. Physical Science is also a mandatory prerequisite course for Chemistry I.*

1 credit

## Biology II Honors

Principles of Biology from the cellular level including biochemistry, cell biology, metabolism, photosynthesis, molecular biology, and genetics. This course is designed for students planning to major in Biology or related discipline. The Dual Enrollment fee applies to this course and **requirements on page seven must be met.**

1 credit

## AP Chemistry II

While this course includes some topics mentioned in Chemistry I they are covered in greater depth; therefore, it is primarily a second-year course and will cover new topics, including chemical equilibrium, kinetics, thermochemistry, and electrochemistry. An emphasis will be placed on conceptual reasoning and higher level thinking, though mathematical calculations will also be featured. Laboratory assignments and demonstrations are heavily utilized.

**Prerequisites:** *Must have completed Chemistry I Honors and Algebra II **with an A or B***

1 credit

## Environmental Science

This course is the study of the environment from a global perspective. Students learn how things live and work in different kinds of ecosystems. They are introduced to a decision-making model that helps them weigh the environmental, economic, cultural, and social aspects of each issue so that factors other than pure science are taken into account. The examinations will test the student's analytical ability and the labs provide a hands-on experience of the course material. Preference will be given to seniors when enrolling in this course.

**Prerequisite:** *successful completion of Biology I.*

1 credit

## Physics

This course is designed to give students an introduction to Physics. Topics covered will include motion, forces, work, energy, momentum, collisions, rotational dynamics, gravity, sound, optics, waves, electricity, and magnetism. Higher-level thinking skills are utilized. Laboratory experiences, demonstrations, and problem-solving strategies are used in making contemporary applications in general, electrical, nuclear, and industrial processes.

**Prerequisite:** *Completion of Chemistry I and Algebra II*

*This is a senior level course.*

1 credit

## AP Physics

This is a college-level course designed to mirror a first-semester college course in Physics. Topics covered will include motion, forces, work, energy, momentum, collisions, rotational dynamics, and gravity. Higher-level thinking skills are utilized. Laboratory experiences and demonstrations are heavily used to reinforce concepts presented in lecture. A major component of this course involves graphical interpretation; students must therefore be able to create, analyze, and draw conclusions from graphs.

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Alg II and an ACT composite score of 19 or above must be earned. **This is a senior level course.**

1 credit

## **SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

The objective of the social studies department is to instill in students an enthusiasm for the study of liberal arts in general and social studies. To graduate from St. Thomas Aquinas, students need 4 credits in Social Studies: U.S. History or AP U.S. History and Civics or AP U.S. Government and 2 additional credits. The following Social Studies Department requirements must also be met.

- A student must earn a 19 or higher composite score on the ACT to enroll in AP courses in this department
- Students may only enroll in American History when they have taken 2 credits of History. Sophomores that earn a 19 composite score on the ACT and can provide these scores to STA before August 1 will be permitted to enroll in AP United States History
- Student may not take World history and U.S History/ AP U.S. History concurrently

### **World Geography**

World Geography is the study of the physical and cultural geographies of many nations of the Earth. The class will study the 7 continents and their climates, past and present maps, and the cultures of major countries while making comparisons to the United States. Students will develop an understanding of various current global topics through the development of essential communication skills.

1 credit

### **World History**

World History is a course that traces the beginning of the human race, civilization, and technology to the present day. Some of the topics covered in this class include: Ancient Greece, the Roman Empire, the Renaissance, Reformation, World War I, the Russian Revolution, and World War II.

1 credit

### **United States History**

American History is a survey course beginning with the events leading up to the Civil War and ending with current day events that will impact the future of our nation. The objective of the course is for the student to gain a clearer understanding of the history that impacts his or her life today. Some of the topics covered in this class include: The Civil War, Imperialism, World Wars I and II, the Great Depression, Cold War, Civil Rights Movement and America's status in the world today as the pre-eminent superpower.

**This is a required course.**

*Prerequisite: If Sophomores have taken World Geography and World History, then they can possibly take US History based upon enrollment availability.*

1 credit

### **AP United States History**

AP United States History is a course covering the entirety of United States history, from exploration and colonial settlement through the current era. It is open to Juniors and will focus on the use of primary source readings, pictures, and articles for the students to interpret and develop critical thinking essays, as well as individual student research and readings. Tests and document-based questions will be routinely given in accordance with AP standards.

***This course or its non-AP format is a required course.***

*1 credit*

### **Civics**

Civics is a course that explains how government works at the national, state, and local levels. A brief history of US government will be presented along with a study of the constitution (both national and state) and the rights of the government according to our system of checks and balances. This course also addresses the principles of the US economy. Students study such topics as capitalism, supply and demand, budgeting, credit, and the stock market.

*This is a required course.*

*1 credit*

### **AP United States Government and Politics**

This course introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States. The course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments. Tests and document-based questions will be routinely given in accordance with AP standards.

*This is a senior level course.*

*1 credit*

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

To graduate from STA and receive TOPS, our students are required to take **two consecutive years** of the same foreign language. The primary goal of the foreign language program is to help students develop proficiency in oral communication, to acquire linguistic skills, and to appreciate literature.

### **Spanish I**

Oral proficiency is emphasized in the first year. Listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish are introduced. Basic vocabulary, grammatical pattern, and verb tenses are presented through dialogues and grammatical exercises.

*1 credit*

### **Spanish II**

This course is a continuation of Spanish I, placing emphasis on oral communication, writing, and reading in Spanish. The varied cultures of Spanish-speaking peoples and their countries is explored through lectures and reading materials.

***Prerequisite:*** Spanish I

*1 credit*

### **Spanish III Honors**



This course emphasizes advanced communication skills in four areas: listening comprehension, speaking, writing, and reading. The elements of pronunciation, grammar, syntax, and vocabulary activities are presented throughout the duration of the course. **Students must meet the requirements for Dual Enrollment in Spanish 101 and 102 on page 7.** This class will allow students to earn credit for 2 college classes (6 credit hours). The Dual Enrollment fee applies to each of these two college courses.

*This is an elective course.*

*1 credit*

### **Spanish IV Honors**

This course is a continuation of Spanish III Honors. **Students must meet the requirements for Dual Enrollment in Spanish 201 on page 7.** Students will be able to enroll in this program via Southeastern Louisiana University. This class will allow students to earn credit for one college class (3 credit hours). The Dual Enrollment fee applies to this course.

*This is an elective course.*

*1 credit*

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

The objective of the Health and Physical Education Department is to provide our students with a positive atmosphere and experiences that will foster a lifelong interest in recreational sports participation, cardiovascular and muscular fitness, and daily health habits that will contribute to spiritual, mental, and physical well-being.

Students are required to complete **1.5 units of PE and 0.5 unit of Health** for graduation from STA and to obtain TOPS.

### **Physical Education I and II**

The focus on activities in Physical Education classes is on fitness and wellness. Also included are units on basketball, soccer, volleyball, and lacrosse. Evaluation is based on participation, effort, and improvement.

*PE I is required for Freshmen.*

*1 credit*

*PE II is required of Sophomores.*

*0.5 credit*

*\*\*For PE II, the male students will take the course during semester one, while the females take health. The classes will switch for next semester.*

### **Health Education**

Health education provides students with information that gives them the ability to make wise decisions in the areas of drug and tobacco use, alcohol consumption, and food choices. Other topics studied are stress management, CPR, and first aid. This course will be taken the same year as Physical Education II.

*This is a required sophomore level course.*

*0.5 credit*

## **FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

**Students must have 1 of the below fine arts credit to graduate from STA and receive TOPS.** The Arts are an integral part of the study of foreign language, history, and literature. In order to grow as intellectuals, students should experience and appreciate art in all its forms.

### **Art I**

This one-year course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while developing drawing skills and techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, and watercolor) while developing student's individual style and creative problem-solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions, critiques, and writings.

1 credit

## **Art II (Photography)**

*Digital Photography I is a yearlong introduction to the digital camera as an art-making tool designed for students at the beginning level. The course will use digital photography to help students learn and apply the basic elements of art and the principles of design. This course will also provide students with opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills in the field of photography and the use of photo editing programs. Digital Photography will familiarize the student with digital photographic equipment, materials, methods, and processes. Visual problem-solving skills are explored through the use of the computer as the main tool for creative expression and communication. iPad photography and editing with a variety of applications will be infused in the curriculum. Students create their own blogsites as a place to exhibit their projects and portfolio work. Self-promotion of student photography is encouraged and beginning social media marketing is introduced.*

*Pre-requisite for Art II is Art I, and must have had a "B" or better in Art I.*

1 credit

## **Choir I, II, III, IV**

This course emphasizes developing one's ability to sing by improving pitch and vocal technique. There will be instruction on reading music.

*This course is an elective for freshman sophomores, juniors, and seniors.*

1 credit

## **Fine Arts Survey**

This course is a survey of the arts approached through the four disciplines of music, visual arts, dance, and drama/theatre. The course covers the development of fine arts beginning from prehistoric man up to the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

*This course is an elective for freshman sophomores, juniors, and seniors.*

1 credit

## **Guitar I, II, III, IV**

This course is a beginner-intermediate guitar course with an emphasis on improving the player's ability to read and comprehend music. Students are responsible for providing their own instrument.

*This course is an elective for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.*

1 credit

## **Piano I, II, III, IV**

This course is an introduction to basic piano techniques. Emphasis will be on scales, chords, and beginning to read music.

*This course is an elective for freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors.*

1 credit

## ELECTIVES

### **P.E. III (A)**

Strength & Conditioning class will provide an opportunity for development of strength and conditioning for various sports and fitness related activities. Free weights, exercise machines, and conditioning activities will be incorporated to promote improvement in strength, endurance, balance, agility, and speed. Proper techniques and safety precautions will be emphasized. A plan to achieve goals will be developed and implemented during this year-long course. **This course CANNOT replace the requirement for PE I or PE II/Health.**

*1 credit*

### **Computer Science**

This course, intended as an introductory computer science course, uses programming languages to create applets, interactive stories, games, and animations. Students foster their creativity and innovation through opportunities to design, implement, and present solutions to real world problems. Students develop problem-solving and reasoning skills that are the foundation of computer science. The fee for this course is \$100. *This is an elective course open to all students.*

*1 credit*

### **Publications I – Yearbook**

This course is an overview of print publications and includes writing; exploration of photography including how to take, crop and size photos; a study of editing skills; instructions on how to write headlines; and lessons on layout and design of yearbook pages. Students also learn some management and business skills with ad sales and deadlines. Practical applications of skills taught are realized through production of the school yearbook, VERITAS.

Prerequisite: Application

### **Publications II -- Yearbook**

This course is an extension of Publications I. Editing will be a central focus of this course. Increased emphasis is placed on providing leadership to assure that deadlines are met.

*Prerequisite: Complete Publications I with an A.*

*This is an elective course for seniors. 1 credit*

### **Speech I**

This course is designed to help the student develop and master techniques of excellent public speaking in the areas of writing, volume, diction, pacing, and content. The student will prepare and perform various speeches and also various types of dramatics (monologues, improvisations, etc.) during the course. Focus will be placed on the Introduction Speech, Informative Speech, Ceremonial Speech, and Debate strategies. Most of the assignments require research. Students that meet the criteria for SELU Dual Enrollment on page 7 and earn a passing grade will receive credit for COMM 211.

*1 credit*

**Western Civilization DE**

Students will have the opportunity to complete SELU Western Civilization for a total of 3 college credit hours while fulfilling 1 of the four credits needed for STA graduation and TOPS. Students will receive letter grades in their STA class & in their SELU class. These grades may or may not be the same. Students must be a junior or senior and meet the requirements on page 7 before August 1st, before being enrolled in this course.

**Sociology DE**

Students will have the opportunity to complete SELU Western Civilization for a total of 3 college credit hours. This class WILL NOT fulfill 1 of the four credits needed for TOPS. Students will receive letter grades in their STA class & in their SELU class. These grades may or may not be the same. Students must be a junior or senior and meet the requirements on page 7 before August 1st, before being enrolled in this course.

**Service-based classes, such as Lab Assistantship or Service Students, are pass/fail only and therefore do not receive a letter grade. These courses are not calculated in ranking.**