

Grade 9 Program Information

In Grades 9 and 10 Marymount offers an excellent program of studies that prepares students to meet the requirements of Marymount's American High School Diploma as well as those for the successful achievement of the IB Diploma Programme and Advanced Placement Certificates.

Students are supported throughout their academic journey by the Principal, Academic Assistant Principal, College Counselor and IB Coordinator in the selection of appropriate courses according to their interests, enrichment plans and tertiary educational goals.

Marymount's course of studies offers students a wide range of subjects. A minimum of 20 credits in Grades 9-12 is required for graduation. Over the four years of a typical High School program, a student will complete well over the minimum total credits required. To earn a Marymount High School Diploma a student must fulfill (Grades 9-12) the following requirements: Please note that 1 credit represents a full year in a normally scheduled course.

Marymount American High School Diploma Subjects and Credits



English 4 credits	Fine Arts 1 credit
Individuals and Societies 3 credits	Physical Education 1 credit required in Grades 9-10 (0.5 each year)
Mathematics 3 credits	Modern/Classical Language 4 credits or 1 credit each year at Marymount
Science 3 credits including 1 year of a Lab Science	Religious Education 2 credits required Half-credit each year in attendance at Marymount (0.5 per year)

Grades 9 & 10 High School Program

SUBJECT AREAS	GRADE 9	GRADE 10
Language and Literature	English 9 Standard English 9 Advanced Italian Literature 9 (Recommended for IB Italian A)	English 10 Standard English 10 Advanced AP English Language and Literature (Elective) Italian Literature 10 (Recommended for IB Italian A)
Language Acquisition	A choice of Arabic, English ELL, French, German, Italian, Mandarin or Spanish Elective choice: Latin, Ancient Greek(Gr 10), AP Spanish Language and Culture(Gr 10)	
Mathematics and Sciences	Algebra 1 Geometry Biology I Physical Science Elective Courses: Programming Languages A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director	Algebra 2 Algebra 2 & Trigonometry Geometry (Choice of two sciences) Biology II Chemistry Physics Elective Courses: AP Environmental Science, A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director
Individuals and Societies	World History 1 Philosophy 9 Religious Education: World Religions OR Confirmation Elective choice: -MUN -Public Speaking A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director	World History 2 Philosophy 10 Religious Education Elective choice: -MUN, -Public Speaking -AP US Government and Politics A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director
Arts	Art History Elective choice: Animation, Graphic Design, 2D Design, HS Drama, HS Band, HS Chorus, Music Production A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director	Elective choice: Animation, Drawing and Painting, Graphic Design, 2D Design, 3D Design, HS Drama, HS Band, HS Chorus, Music Production A large selection of online elective semester courses are offered Semester Course Catalogue* *select the option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director
Wellbeing and Sports	Advisory Physical Education	Advisory Physical Education
Enrichment	Personalized Enrichment Programs, Enrichment Trips, Marymount Talks, Athletic Enrichment Plans Leadership Opportunities, After School Activities, ATL Assemblies, Secondary School Student Led Assemblies and AP courses.	
Service	House System Service Opportunities Student Clubs	
Support	Individualized Learning Plans, Study Skills , ELL Support Identified ELL (English Language Learners) and Learning Support students will have course choices further reviewed/adjusted to meet their individual needs. Parents will be consulted directly.	

Grade 9 Typical Schedule

Course	Type of Course	Frequency
English	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
Modern Language	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
Mathematics	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
Biology I	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
Physical Science	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
World History I	Required Core Course	3 lessons per week
Philosophy	Required Core Course	1 lesson per week
History of Art	Required Course	1 lesson per week
Religious Studies	Required Course	1 lesson per week
Physical Education/Health	Required Course	1 lesson per week
Italian Literature 9	Recommended for IB Italian A	3 lessons per week
Electives	Students' Choice	From 2 lessons per week, depending on the course
A wide selection of elective courses available. Electives vary from 1 to 3 depending on the schedule module adopted. When choosing your courses please make sure to select 4 possible electives.		

Language and Literature

ENGLISH 9 STANDARD (Credit: 1)

Students in this course continue their study of literary and non-literary texts and strengthen their ability to express themselves both orally and in written composition. Skills in literary analysis are reinforced and students are encouraged to read and think critically. Grammatical concepts are applied to a variety of writing exercises. Vocabulary study is embedded within the teaching of literary texts, in terms of both the vocabulary from within the text and for use in approaching it critically. Expository essay writing, oral presentation skills and early-stage commentary writing are the overarching communication skills for the year, addressed through the study of literary texts from each of the genres: short story, the novel, poetry and drama.

ENGLISH 9 ADVANCED (Credit: 1)

In this course students deepen their understanding of literary and non-literary texts. As they study these forms, students will develop skills in critical reading and in writing analytical and descriptive essays. Students study a 19th and 21st novel and contemporary short stories. Study of poetry introduces students to written literary commentaries and oral presentation. The year commences with a study of Greek and contemporary drama. Vocabulary study is also an integral part of the curriculum. Class discussions and student essays focus on content and style; students learn to appreciate diction, imagery, tone and structure and deepen their understanding of literary techniques.

ITALIAN LITERATURE 9 - (Credit: 1 Recommended for IB Italian A)

The course is designed for students whose native language is Italian and it is recommended to students who have achieved the Italian “Terza Media” diploma. It is not a mandatory requisite for IB Group A courses, but it is highly recommended. It is designed to give students an overview of the Italian literary movements from the birth of the Italian language up to the XVI^o century. The students will be exposed to different genres of literature and different texts, both literary and non literary. Emphasis will be placed on improving analytical reading and writing abilities.

Language Acquisition

ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS - ELL (Credit: 1)

The High School ELL program is designed to improve students' use of English, and help implement the use of the English language to then access the regular school curriculum in all subject areas. Our School uses the WIDA assessment as an English proficiency screener to accurately place students and monitor their English language development. Students' placement in ELL is determined by their WIDA assessment, previous school records, and teacher input.

The aims of the ELL program are to enable students to:

- Demonstrate English proficiency through basic interpersonal communication.
- Demonstrate English proficiency through cognitive academic language development in all school subjects including Language Arts, Mathematics, the Sciences, and Social Studies.
- Demonstrate English proficiency in socially and culturally appropriate ways.



Students in Grade 9 have the choice of one or two languages such as:

Arabic, French, German, Italian, Latin, Mandarin, and Spanish. Students will be placed in either Level I or Level III based on their previous language ability, experience and /or their teachers' recommendations. In some cases online language learning support is provided if the course is not offered at the grade level.

Language Levels - (Credit: 1)

Level I: This course acquaints the student with basic vocabulary, grammar and some aspects of civilization through the use of a text, audio material and, in the second semester, of a reader. Upon completion the student will be able to use the four language skills (listening, speaking, reading and writing) in real life situations with emphasis on functional expressions.

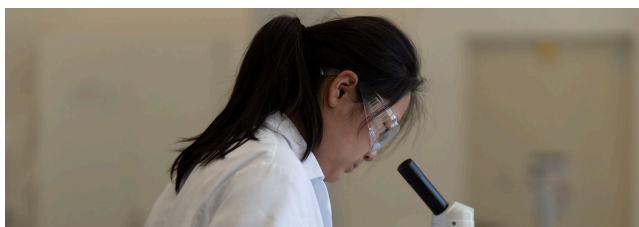
Level III: This course reviews, reinforces, and extends grammar through intensive oral and written activities. The emphasis here is placed on reading, analyzing and developing spontaneity in the use of language skills. Students read at least a short story per semester or a collection of short stories to increase their vocabulary and analytical skills. Essay writing is introduced.

LATIN I - (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

This introductory course offers a thorough and fascinating grounding in Latin that combines the traditional grammatical method with the reading and translating approach. In addition to grammar, paradigms and readings the course reinforces the grammar and morphology while encouraging the joy of linguistic and cultural discovery.

Mathematics and Sciences**ALGEBRA I - (Credit: 1) Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra**

This course develops basic algebraic concepts of equation solving, manipulation of monomials and polynomials and graphing of functions. Skills will be acquired in solving equations in two variables and in handling exponent factors, fractions, square roots, quadratic equations, real numbers and inequalities.

**BIOLOGY I - (Credit: 1)**

The course includes an introduction to the material necessary for the study of IB Biology: cells, diffusion, osmosis, enzymes, human physiology and environmental sciences. A practical approach allows students to develop scientific thinking, scientific communication and practical skills.

GEOMETRY - (Credit: 1) Prerequisite: Algebra I or Math 8

Geometry builds on learning from Math 8 and continues to make connections among concepts from algebra, geometry, functions, and statistics. Geometry is represented as a mathematical system through the study of plane and non-planar figures. Students will study the basic geometric language, parallel and perpendicular lines and planes, congruent triangles and their application, similar polygons, right and non-right triangle relationships, circles and their areas, relationships among angles, arcs, and line segments in a circle, the geometric relationships created when tangents and secants intersect a circle and geometric constructions. Algebra topics that will be expanded upon are as follows: representations of a quadratic function, solving quadratic equations, solving systems of linear equations, and simplifying radicals. The section on statistics will study descriptive and inferential statistics using univariate and bivariate data.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE - (Credit: 1)

This course introduces the general principles of physics and chemistry. Topics include measurement, motion and forces, energy, thermodynamics, waves, electricity & magnetism, and chemical principles. Upon completion, students should be able to demonstrate an understanding of the physical world and be able to apply scientific principles to interpret observations.

PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES- Grade 9-12 (Credit: ½- Elective choice)

This course is designed to introduce the students to computer programming, with a particular emphasis on using Python, consolidating and furthering computer skills which were introduced in Middle School. In addition to coding using Python, an interpreted, high-level, general-purpose language, students will be introduced to Java and other programming languages. The students will gain a background in computing, including basic knowledge of computer hardware components, and programming. This provides vital knowledge and puts computers in their place in our society today- 'the social implications of the computerization of today's world.'

Individuals and Society

MODEL UNITED NATIONS & DEBATE Grade 9 - 12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

This course prepares students to participate actively as delegates in the Model United Nations conferences held in The Hague and in Haarlem. Students learn about the history, structure and function of the UN, how to research and write resolutions on urgent world issues, how to debate, how to question Socratically, and how to deliver speeches of different kinds. There is an emphasis on collaboration. This class is the best preparation for students interested in attending a MUN conference.



PHILOSOPHY 9- (Credit: ½)

This course introduces students to Philosophy. The students will learn how to think philosophically about ideas and concepts that deeply impact our lives, with a focus on political philosophy. Students will learn about a variety of arguments concerning the justification of the state, the value of different forms of governments, and key concepts such as liberty and equality. They will study key texts from Plato and Aristotle to Hobbes and Rousseau, improving their skills in critical analysis and developing arguments of their own.



PUBLIC SPEAKING Grade 9-12 (Credit: ½- Elective choice)

This yearlong course is designed to develop the skills necessary for effective oral communication and public presentation. Throughout the course students will learn to select, structure and shape subject matter into a coherent and concise speech as well as to adapt language and form to audience, purpose and situation where appropriate. Students will also build skills in vocal projection and clarity of speech, match tonal register to audience, purpose and situation, integrate body language, use notes and visual aids where appropriate, to support the subject matter and engage the listener.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION Choice between World Religions or Confirmation

WORLD RELIGIONS (Credit: ½)

The World Religion course guides students in approaching with reverence the teachings, rules of life, and sacred rites of world religions. Students examine the Church's relationship to non-Catholic Christians and non-Christian religions, including primal religions, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism. Along with studying basic beliefs, code of conduct and styles of worship, students examine the local and global issues that influence the practice of religion today. Through readings, activities, art, and lectures, students will examine the nature of religion and the influence of various cultural and social forces that both shape and affect it.

CONFIRMATION (CREDIT: ½)

The Confirmation course is offered for students who wish to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or those who have recently received the Sacrament of Confirmation and wish to take an in-depth look at the Catholic faith. The goal of the course is to prepare students both intellectually and spiritually to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation and to become lifelong disciples of Christ. Students examine the role of the Holy Spirit, the Church, and the Sacraments in salvation history and in their own lives. They learn and practice different styles of prayer and understand how to develop a deep and lasting personal relationship with God.

WORLD HISTORY I: 19th and 20th century (Credit: 1)

The first year of this two year course aims to deepen students' historical knowledge of four world regions: Europe, Asia and Oceania, the Americas and Africa and the Middle East. World History I students will study political, economic, cultural and territorial aspects of the history of regions of the Americas and Africa and the Middle East during the 19th and 20th centuries. This course emphasizes group and individual project work, essay writing, critical thinking and research techniques.

Arts

2D DESIGN - Grade 9-12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

2-D Design is an elective course for Grades 9-12. Students who wish to continue in the arts are highly advised to take this foundation course, where they will have the opportunity to hone and sharpen skills previously studied. Projects will include fashion design, graphic novels, printmaking, batik, collage, pencil drawing and more. This course will teach students to develop their observational and creative abilities while putting into practice lessons learned from historic and contemporary art.

ANIMATION - Grade 9 - 12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)**Prerequisite Graphic Design**

Animation is an elective one-year course for Grades 9-12. This production course in which students learn the basic principles of animation, develop visual language, storytelling, observation, and communication skills. Prior drawing experience is not necessary. The first half of the semester consists of weekly exercises in which students explore various styles and methods of animation including optical toys, stop motion, traditional drawing, and 2D digital animation. Students will be introduced to programs including Dragon Stop Motion, After Effects, Avid, Flash, and Photoshop. Various technical topics covered include aspect ratio, frame rates, storyboarding, editing animatics, scanning, working with image sequences, alpha channels, vector vs. raster art, compositing, rendering, using a Cintiq, and shooting stills with a DSLR camera. During the second half of the semester students will complete a 15-30 second animated film with sound.

DRAWING and PAINTING - Grade 9-12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

Drawing and Painting is an elective course for Grades 9 -12. This course offers continued instruction in drawing and painting. Students will be encouraged to explore and arrive at an understanding of the ideas and techniques that underpin artistic expression. Emphasis will be placed on the production of personally relevant artworks that show exploration of ideas reflecting cultural and historical awareness and artistic qualities. Experimental techniques are the focus of the class where students are encouraged to experiment and to discover their own talents and interests.

GRAPHIC DESIGN - Grade 9 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

Graphic Design is an elective one-year course for Grades 9-12. The course offers fundamental instruction in creating and designing images with digital technology. This course is designed to provide an opportunity for students to explore the possibilities of using technology in a contemporary art and design field and learn to enhance and manipulate photographs. Students will receive basic training in software with which professional digital artists and designers must be familiar: Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and Adobe

InDesign. Students will learn the design process, which can be applied in any field of post-secondary study. Any student considering an art and design career will find this course extremely valuable.

HISTORY OF ART - Grade 9 (Credit: ½)

The central theme of this core course is to acquaint the students with the basic history of art from the Paleolithic to the 20th Century. The students are provided with a vocabulary with which to speak about works of art and architecture. On the basis of style and content they will learn to explain why a work belongs to a particular period and culture. They will describe the meaning of artworks by analyzing how specific works are created and how they relate to historical and cultural contexts. They will compare the characteristics of the visual arts within a particular historical period with ideas, issues, or themes in the humanities or sciences. They will analyze and interpret artworks for relationships among form, context, purposes, and critical models, showing an understanding of the work of critics, historians, aestheticians, and artists. This course is highly recommended, in particular, for those students who intend to follow the IB Visual Arts course of study in their junior and senior years.

HS BAND Grade 9 - 12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

This is an advanced level ensemble open for students from Grades 9 – 12 who already play a band instrument or have prior musical knowledge and/or experience.

The course focuses on improving musicianship through the students' sense of tonality, rhythm and technique, and through performing in several styles. Individual growth will be emphasized. Students will have opportunities to conduct and arrange music. Diligent practice is expected and private lessons are encouraged. The ensemble performs several times throughout the school year including the Christmas and Spring Concerts and Graduation.

Advanced Band students may be chosen as members of the orchestra for the HS play and form the core group of the Royal Winds, the School's Honor Band. Students may be asked to audition to ensure an adequate level.

HS CHORUS - Grade 9-12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

In this year-long course students discover the fun and excitement of singing in a group. Students learn about proper vocal production, singing in harmony in two or three parts, and studying music from many different genres and backgrounds. Performance is a key component so students will perform in the classroom, in school concerts during the year, in school masses and on retreats. The group will explore possibilities to sing off campus and perhaps a field trip to France to perform.



HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA I - Grade 9-12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

This course is a practical and academic study in the subject of drama. Class time is broken down into a series of practical workshops aimed at building confidence, taking risks and learning to create theatre as an ensemble. Techniques on acting, movement, design, and directing are all incorporated into the subject so there is something for everyone. Students are assessed on their ensemble work, practical projects, homework and a final performance at the end of the year. It is suitable for students that have little or no experience in drama, as well as those that have perhaps already shown enthusiasm and skill in the subject in their Middle School years.

MUSIC PRODUCTION Grade 9-12 (Credit: 1 - Elective choice)

This yearlong course is designed to enhance music theory fundamentals and composition skills. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm and form are studied in relation to the creative process of composing through a DAW (Digital Audio Workstation). Students will gain experience with hardware and software for music sequencing, synthesis, composition and music performance practices. Students will also analyze the impact of technology on music and the development of the music industry.

There are no prerequisites for this course, although prior musical experience is advised.

This course is recommended for students considering IB Music as their Group 6 option in the IB Diploma.

Sports and Wellbeing

Advisory

Advisors are responsible for the students' wellbeing guiding them personally, academically and socially through the academic year. They provide students with support within the School framework tracking their academic progress, mentoring them in their Enrichment Program, and helping them to integrate creativity, activity and service projects in their curriculum.

The students are encouraged and given the opportunity to meet in small groups with an Advisor in the following way:

- Daily check in from 8:20 a.m. for 10 minutes with their assigned faculty Advisor.
- Speak to their Advisor about the day and how well they feel prepared for their classes.
- Advisors check the students' calendars and verify that the students are organized for the day ahead.
- Advisors lead the students in a moment of quiet contemplation or prayer.
- Advisors share opportunities for enrichment and service tailored to students in the group
- Advisors involve the students in a discussion of some kind, referring to a current news item or other topic of interest to the group.
- Advisors are the first point of contact for a student with a concern or problem and, similarly, parents/guardians can contact their child's Advisor in the first instance should the need arise.

Secondary School student groups also meet for a longer period of time with their Advisor on a weekly basis in order to focus more in-depth on issues relating to academic planning and progress as well as personal and social development in an open and trusting environment. Students also have the possibility to conference and talk individually with their Advisor.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH 9 (Credit: ½)

This course builds on the foundations set in the Middle School Sports Program. The focus is towards a tactical and functional appreciation of each sport and activity, including the rules of the game and how to officiate. Values of sportsmanship and fair play are integral to the course content and participation in the athletic program and sports outside the PE program are actively encouraged. Students will also have monthly health education lessons (focusing on mental, social, physical and emotional health), in conjunction with the essential principles of healthy living and individual fitness.

Enrichment

The School offers a variety of advanced and flexible academic study options. These include enrichment opportunities in mathematics, modern language courses (as well as the possibility to accommodate all Mother Tongue languages studies), athletics and the arts as well as the possibility to follow AP courses in Grades 9 and 10 or begin IB coursework in Grade 10 with the proper prerequisites and teacher recommendations.

Continuous attention is given to students wishing to develop their various interests inside and outside of the classroom in addition to specific skills such as public speaking and leadership strategies through a wide variety of opportunities, for example participation in RSHM Conferences within the Marymount Global Network of Schools, Athletics and Music Festivals, and Model United Nations.

Enrichment opportunities: Personalized Enrichment Programs, Enrichment Trips, Marymount Talks, Athletic Enrichment Plans, Leadership Opportunities, After School Activities, ATL Assemblies, Secondary School Student Led Assemblies.

Semester Online Courses

A large selection of online elective semester course are offered [Semester Course Catalogue*](#)
Select your option and you will be contacted by our GOA Site Director.

* GOA guarantees a course place to all who register before April 30th, 2024, thereafter course places are allocated on an availability basis

Service

House System Service Opportunities
Student Clubs

Support

Individualized Learning Plans
Study Skills
ELL Support

Identified ELL (English Language Learners) and Learning Support students will have course choices further reviewed/adjusted to meet their individual needs. Parents will be consulted directly.