



ST. AUGUSTINE HIGH SCHOOL

3266 NUTMEG ST. SAN DIEGO CA 92104 619-282-2184 SAHS.ORG



New Family Information- FAQs

2020-2021 SCHOOL YEAR

ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS AND CHAIRS

Social Studies

Mr. Christian da Luz

cdaluz@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q- What are the Social Studies options for Freshmen during the school year?**
- ▶ A- Freshmen can take World History. They can also defer the World History course until their sophomore year.
- ▶ **Q- Can Freshmen take World History over the summer? Why?**
- ▶ A- Yes, incoming Freshmen can take World History over the summer on the Saints campus in a six week course. Some incoming Freshmen may find it easier to adjust to the rigors of high school by taking a solid subject course over the summer in an effort to lighten the first year course load.
- ▶ **Q- Can a Freshmen take AP World History?**
- ▶ A- No, the AP World History course can only be taken by students in 10th through 12th grade. If they defer taking a social studies course their Freshmen year they can (if they qualify) take AP World History their sophomore year and that would fulfill their World History requirement.

Science

Mrs. Katie Walp

kwalp@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q- Why can't my son take Biology?**
- ▶ A- Your son will have many different opportunities to take science classes, we offer summer school and if he is really into science many students will take 2 science courses at the same time junior and senior year. We have found that most students do better freshmen year without the science course in their schedule.

- ▶ **Q- What is the normal progression?**
- ▶ A- All students start with biology and then it is usually physical science or chemistry depending on their math courses, after that it is really a "choose your own adventure" depending on your son's interests he can select the classes he wants to take.

Mathematics

Mr. Mike Ozdowski

mozdowski@sahs.org



- ▶ **Math has a variety of frequently asked questions. Please view the videos from Mr. Hecht detailing information that specifically pertains to our Math Department. For all other inquiries please contact Mr. Mike Ozdowski the Department Chairperson for Mathematics. His information is provided on the panel on the left.**

English

Mr. John Lamerato

jlamerato@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q- Why wasn't my son placed in Honors English?**
- ▶ A-We have a large number of high academic achievers that are accepted yearly at Saints. We also have a limited amount of space in Honors English. As a result, only a select number of students are admitted into the class. Admittance is based on 7th/8th grades, letters of recommendation, and scores on the HSPT. Freshmen students can advance to Honors English II by earning a 93% in both semesters in English IA. All classes at Saints are college preparatory and if your son shows the aptitude to advance, he can take Honors English as a sophomore. The admissions team takes a great deal of time to properly place students and decisions are final.

World Languages

Mr. Brendan Johnston

bjohnston@sahs.org



- ▶ **How many years do I need to take a World Language?**
- ▶ Two years in the same language are required for graduation but many UCs and other colleges require three years. As a department, we encourage you to take four years of language.
- ▶ **What are my options if I am a native or fluent French or Spanish speaker?**
- ▶ All World Language classes are designed for students that are learning a second or third language; **therefore, it is our policy that any native speaker of Spanish or French, or a student with experience in Spanish or French outside of the school setting, take at least two years of a third language before beginning language studies in a language that is used in the home.**
- ▶ *Department policy requires students to begin their language studies in a language that is not spoken in the home. Students who interact in French or Spanish at home may take appropriate level courses in that language during the junior or senior years. Fluent speakers may elect to take the AP Language exam during the junior year and study AP Literature during the junior or senior year. **It is highly recommended that native or near native speakers of Spanish complete four years of study in French or Latin and complete both AP courses in Spanish.***
- ▶ **Are there opportunities for travel?**
- ▶ Students have the opportunity to travel to Italy or Guatemala during our intersession program in January. These are paid travel opportunities and can change year to year.

Visual and Performing Arts

Ms. Michelle Drummy
mdrummy@sahs.org



- ▶ **When can my son take an art/VAPA class?**
- ▶ Students generally have room for those classes beginning their sophomore year. If a student takes World History over the summer before 9th grade they can see if there's an open space for Art 1: Drawing during the year. However, most Art 1: Drawing classes are assigned to sophomores and upper classmen. *Technical Theater is also an option for those students whose schedule permits.*
- ▶ **For questions regarding Drama and Band/Music see the contact below:**
- ▶ DRAMA: Travis Blumer- tblumer@sahs.org
- ▶ Band/Music: Cindy Au- cau@sahs.org

Physical Education

Matt Linville

mlinville@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q: What does my son need for PE clothes?**
- ▶ A: PE students will be required to “suit up” everyday for PE. We recommend each PE student buy 1 pair of shorts and 2 shirts. The PE clothing is sold online, June 1- July 26 and replacements may be purchased after September 1 at the Halo Joe’s store on our campus.

- ▶ **Q: How does PE work if my son is playing football?**
- ▶ A: For the first quarter of school, freshman football players are in football for their PE class (Block 6). They are graded based on their effort and participation. Once the football season ends, that Block 6 PE class will transition to a regular PE class. Football players will be allowed to use their football spirit pack items as PE clothes. Should more PE clothes be needed at that time, those students can purchase through the Halo Joe’s Store.

- ▶ **Q: Do PE students get a separate gym locker?**
- ▶ A: All PE students will be assigned a PE lock and locker during the first week of school. That entire process will be handled directly through the PE teacher.

Religion

Mrs. Kate Crachy

kcrachy@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q- My son has had religion classes for 9+ years at his parochial school, so he doesn't need Religion classes at Saints, right?**
- ▶ A- At Saints we follow the USCCB's guidelines of enrolling students in Religion courses during all 8 of their semesters in high school. They will take Religion classes as part of their core curriculum, just as if it was English, Math, etc. Students will be exposed to an introduction to Catholicism, scripture, morality, ethics, and given the chance their senior year to select electives within the department that include history of the Church and Philosophy.
- ▶ **Q- My son has never attended Catholic school, is he going to struggle in Religion classes?**
- ▶ A- As long as students treat their Religion classes as importantly as their other core classes, there is no reason why any student, regardless of background, can't be successful in all of their Religion classes. Freshmen start with a survey of the Catholic faith. So while it may seem at first that those Saintsmen who came from parochial schools have an advantage, plenty of students with public school backgrounds have earned "A" marks as a result of the effort they put forth. In addition, all teachers at Saints, including those in the Religion department, offer regular tutoring hours for any student who falls behind or needs to make up missing work.

Computer Science

Mr. Craig da Luz

cdaluz2@sahs.org



- ▶ **Q- Can a freshman take AP Computer Science?**
- ▶ A- No. The AP curriculum across the board start in the 10th grade year.
- ▶ **Q- What courses are available to incoming Freshman?**
- ▶ A- Microsoft Office and Adobe Photoshop Essentials are open for 9th graders as space and schedule allows.
- ▶ **Q- When can a student take Graphic Design?**
- ▶ A- Graphic design is open starting in the Sophomore year and it also fulfills your VAPA requirement.