

SAN JOAQUIN MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL



Freshman Course Catalog 2023-2024

**Enter to Learn
Leave to Serve**



Dear San Joaquin Memorial Class of 2027,

Welcome to the Memorial family! With this letter we introduce you to the *2023-2024 Freshman Course Selection Catalog*, which contains a brief description of all courses San Joaquin Memorial will offer to freshmen this academic year. Eligibility requirements, where applicable, are also explained. It is important to note whether a particular course is required, selective, or elective as you plan your academic program for next year. In addition, I urge you to review the school's graduation requirements and the University of California/California State University course requirements (also known as the A-G requirements) listed in the beginning of the catalog.

As you review the options, please discuss as a family to determine what is best for you. You may also contact the counselors here at Memorial if you have questions about what is the most appropriate course to take. You are starting your four-year journey to college, and it is important for you to make strong choices beginning with your freshman year courses.

Most students are required to take science in 9th grade. We offer an Agricultural Biology P course that covers the same curriculum as the traditional Biology P course and will include supplemental agriculture-based content. It will serve as an alternative to the traditional Biology course, meeting the same college admission requirement as well as SJM's Agriculture Pathway/FFA (Future Farmers of America) requirement. The science requirement in 9th grade will be waived for those students who will benefit from additional academic support in mathematics and have been recommended for Algebra 1A/1B.

All freshman students are required to take a semester of writing and a semester of speech. We want to make sure that students are given the opportunity to do proper research, use both APA and MLA writing formats, and be prepared to produce work that is in the appropriate style throughout their high school and college careers.

Beginning in the spring of 2023, San Joaquin Memorial will offer a new distinction for high-performing students: The San Joaquin Memorial Honors Diploma. This commendation will be awarded to students who display outstanding academic achievement throughout their high school career at Memorial. Graduating with this honor shows that students have achieved an elite academic status that sets them apart as truly accomplished scholars. **Many selective colleges prefer to admit students who have taken more rigorous coursework than the general high school graduation requirements.** Students who meet the criteria will receive a special diploma, which will be conferred at graduation.

Remember that actual course offerings during the 2023-2024 school year will depend upon enrollment, course sign-ups, and the availability of teachers.

Again, welcome to San Joaquin Memorial High School, Class of 2027!

Regards,

Anthony Goston
Principal

CLASS OF 2027 CURRICULUM

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS	
Religion	4 years (1 course taken each year)
Mathematics	3 years
English	4 years (1 course taken each year)
Science	3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yr. of Biology or Ag. Biology • 1 yr. of Chemistry, Conceptual Physics or Ag Chem. • 1 yr. science elective
Visual & Performing Arts	1 year
P.E./Health Ed	1 year
Social Science	3 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 yr. of World Cultures or AP European History • 1 yr. U.S. History (P) or (AP) • 1 semester of Civics with 1 semester of Economics or 1 year AP U.S. Government and 1 year of AP Microeconomics/Macroeconomics
World Languages	2 years of the same language
Writing Workshop & Speech	1 semester of each (<i>taken in 9th grade</i>)
Electives	In addition to the above requirements, sufficient credits to bring each semester's total to 35 credits (7 classes).
Service Learning	4 years

Minimum number of credits required for graduation: 285 units
(265 academic units plus 20 units of service education)

FRESHMAN CORE REQUIREMENTS
English 9P or English 9HP*
Religion (Understanding Catholicism)
Physical Education (PE)
Algebra 1P or Geometry P/HP*
Writing Workshop P & Speech P
ELECTIVES -
Biology P or Ag. Biology P or Algebra 1A/1B**
World Language - Italian 1P or Spanish 1P
**If Algebra 1A/1B is required, it will allow you to take your VPA requirement.

**San Joaquin Memorial High School uses the Renaissance STAR tests for placement in Honors English, Algebra 1A/1B, Geometry P/HP, and Algebra 2P/HP.*

COLLEGE ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

SJM graduation requirements are fully aligned with the University of California (UC) and California State University (CSU) entrance requirements. Students planning to attend selective four-year colleges or universities are advised to consider supplementing the basic minimum requirements with additional electives in Mathematics, World Languages, and Science.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA:

The campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Merced, Los Angeles, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, and Santa Cruz accept freshmen.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITIES Campuses are located at Bakersfield, Channel Islands, Chico, Dominguez Hills, East Bay (Hayward), Fresno, Fullerton, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Northridge, San Marcos, Stanislaus, Sacramento, San Bernardino, Cal Poly, Humboldt, Monterey Bay, Cal Poly Pomona, San Diego, San Francisco, California Maritime Academy, San Jose, and Sonoma.

OTHER COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, COMMUNITY COLLEGES:

Please see individual college or university for specific requirements.

Admission Requirements

The University of California (UCs) and the California State Universities (CSUs) require the completion of classes designated "P", "HP" or "AP" with a grade of "C" or higher to meet the fifteen (15) core courses required for admission.

The University of California and the California State University systems do not award an extra point for honors courses generally taken in the freshman and sophomore years. Therefore, Memorial will not augment the following honors courses in a student's grade point average.

Honors English 9HP

Honors Algebra 2HP

Honors British Lit. HP

Honors Geometry HP

It should be noted that lower-division honors courses are strongly recommended for students who want to enroll in Advanced Placement courses or upper-division honors courses, which are awarded an augmented grade point.

CSU/UC ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (A – G REQUIREMENTS)	
A. Social Science	2 years (<i>3 recommended</i>) -1 yr. of World History or AP European History -1 yr. U.S. History (P) or (AP)
B. English	4 years (<i>1 course taken each year</i>)
C. Mathematics	3 years (<i>4 recommended</i>) -Algebra 1, Geometry, & Algebra 2
D. Laboratory Science	2 years (<i>3-4 recommended</i>) -Biology or Ag. Biology -Chemistry or Conceptual Physics
E. World Language	2 years (<i>3-4 recommended</i>) -Italian or Spanish
F. Visual & Performing Arts	1 year (additional courses recommended)
F. Electives	1 year (<i>more recommended</i>) -In addition to the requirements above an additional year of a P, HP, or AP course.

ENGLISH
Department Chair – Laura Holden

** English 9P or English 9HP and Writing Workshop P & Speech P are required during 9th grade.*

The English Department will recommend the appropriate English course for each freshman.

Determination will be based on the Renaissance reading scores and eighth grade English grades. Special consideration may also be given to additional standardized test scores, seventh grade grades, recommendation of the eighth grade teacher, and a student essay.

ENGLISH 9P

Freshman English introduces students to a variety of literary genres and their characteristics as well as to essential elements of literature including plot, characterization, setting, tone, and symbol. There is an emphasis on close reading skills and students learn how to actively annotate a text in order to develop deeper understanding. Students are taught how to successfully organize and execute a five-paragraph expository essay, and teacher feedback is given to help students correct issues with grammar and usage as well as organization. Vocabulary is taught throughout the year.

HONORS ENGLISH 9HP (Honors)

Prerequisites: The basic criterion for Honors English 9 is an average score in the 80th percentile in reading on the STAR. If a student does not score in this range, wants to join the class, and space is available, they must have received an A in 8th grade English/Language Arts on the final report card and must receive a score of 4 or higher on a writing placement test given by the San Joaquin Memorial English Department.

Honors English follows the same general scope and sequence as English 9P. The pace and depth of the course is greater than that of English 9P, and more is expected in terms of reading, analytical responses, and writing. Students are also expected to be more self-motivated, organized, and proficient in oral communication.

WRITING WORKSHOP P (1ST SEMESTER)

The writing workshop is a semester course for freshmen designed to aid students in the development of skills needed to write papers across content areas. It focuses on the selection of ideas and their expression, paragraph and essay structure, textual-based evidence, in-text citation, MLA style, and editing and revising. Class activities will include specific writing exercises, accessing online databases, and identifying valid and relevant sources. The course will culminate with students writing a full-length research paper.

SPEECH P (2ND SEMESTER)

This one semester course is designed to teach the basic speaking skills needed both in the classroom and in later professional and social life. The development of self-confidence and poise in everyday speaking situations is the primary aim of this course. Students are required to take this course in their freshman year in order to fully utilize acquired skills throughout their high school careers.

MATHEMATICS
Department Chair – Stephen Ferdinandi

** A mathematics course is required during 9th grade.*

Math Placement – Placement in the appropriate math course is determined by San Joaquin Memorial's Placement test. Students who have taken Algebra 1P at a middle school may place out of Algebra 1P through SJM's proficiency test. Depending on the student score, he or she may then be moved to Geometry P or HP. A student may also demonstrate Geometry proficiency by examination and be placed into Algebra 2P or 2HP.

ALGEBRA 1A/1B

Co-requisite: Placement is based on SJM's placement test.

Algebra 1A/1B is an introductory course covering basic algebra concepts, and a review of arithmetic algorithms. The course emphasizes the concepts necessary to be successful in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. The course helps students develop good mathematical study skills and learning strategies. Students will reinforce arithmetic skills using operations with integers; addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division with positive and negative whole numbers. Students will explore factors and multiples of positive integers, fractions, decimals, percent, and exponents. Students will also investigate basic algebraic concepts including algebraic terminology, algebraic expressions, distributive property, combining like terms, and solving one-step linear equations.

ALGEBRA 1P

In Algebra 1P students study the order of operations, distributive property, solving equations and inequalities, functions and graphs, equations of lines, system of equations and inequalities, exponents, polynomials, quadratic functions, and radical equations.

GEOMETRY P

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra 1 as demonstrated by STAR Algebra Assessment (75th percentile or higher)

Students study the essentials of geometry, reasoning and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangle properties, relationships, similarity and proofs, quadrilaterals, circles, area, perimeter, volume, and surface area, right triangles and trigonometry.

GEOMETRY HP (Honors)

Prerequisite: Placement based on STAR math score and proficiency in Algebra 1 as demonstrated by STAR Algebra Assessment (85th percentile or higher).

Students study the essentials of geometry, reasoning and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, triangle properties, relationships, similarity and proofs, quadrilaterals, circles, area, perimeter, volume, and surface area, right triangles and trigonometry. Geometry HP is structured to be more comprehensive and challenging than Geometry P.

MATHEMATICS (continued)

ALGEBRA 2P

Prerequisite: Proficiency in Algebra 1 and Geometry as demonstrated by STAR Algebra and Geometry Assessments. (75th percentile or higher).

Students study linear equations, linear and absolute value inequalities, systems of equations, matrices, polynomials and factoring, exponents and radicals, complex numbers, quadratic functions, rational expressions, exponents and logarithms, functions notation, conic sections, and basic statistics (probability and counting).

ALGEBRA 2HP (Honors)

Prerequisite: Placement based on STAR Math score and proficiency in Algebra 1 and Geometry as demonstrated by STAR Algebra and Geometry Assessments (85th percentile or higher).

Students study linear equations, linear and absolute value inequalities, systems of equations, matrices, polynomials and factoring, exponents and radicals, complex numbers, quadratic functions, rational expressions, exponents and logarithms, functions notation, conic sections, piecewise functions, basic trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities, trigonometric graphs, and basic statistics. Algebra 2HP is structured to require greater depth of mastery, retention & more emphasis on word problems as compared to the Algebra 2P course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

** A year-long physical education course is required during 9th grade.*

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

This course is required of all freshmen. The goal of this course is to give an understanding of health and wellness along with providing activities that promote the physical, mental and social development of each student.

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Department Chair – Carlie Frye

A year-long religious studies course is required during 9th grade.

The freshman religion class is one year in length. No prior religious education is required for this entry-level course.

UNDERSTANDING CATHOLICISM

The purpose of this course is to introduce all freshmen, the teaching and practice of the Catholic faith. The first module describes our lives as a journey in communion with the saints to happiness with Jesus Christ, our goal and guide. The topics of module two are the thirst for God, the gift of salvation, and the essential role of the Paschal Mystery in that salvation. In module three the mystery of the Trinity is explored; God as Creator, Redeemer, and Consoler, in relationship to all of humanity. In module four the Church's understanding of Scripture and Tradition, and its liturgy and sacraments, are revealed as primary ways of experiencing the Kingdom of God. The course concludes with an overview of the Church's moral teaching with a final focus on the grace-filled purpose of human sexuality.

SCIENCE

Department Chair – Amanda Bailey

**One year of Biology P or Ag. Biology P must be taken during 9th or 10th grade.*

Students may take only one of the Biology courses listed below; both meet the same “DI” Biological Science “A-G” requirement.

BIOLOGY P

Prerequisite: Must be qualified to take Algebra 1P

This course is the study of living things from simple to complex, including the study of plants and animals, their interactions with each other and the environment. The structure and function of living things, their classification and evolution, are studied by laboratory investigation, lectures, and discussions.

SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE BIOLOGY P (“AG. BIOLOGY”)

Prerequisite: Must be qualified to take Algebra 1P

Sustainable Agriculture “Ag. Biology” is a one-year course designed to integrate biological science practices and knowledge into the practice of sustainable agriculture. Sustainability is important to making sure that we have and will continue to have, the water, materials, and resources to protect human health and our environment. The course will address specific life science principles identified with agricultural principles and practices guiding the acquisition of this knowledge, culminating in the development of a sustainable farm model. FFA participation is required.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Department Chair – Lourdes Abulayla

** A year-long World Language course is required during 9th grade.*

ITALIAN 1P

This is an introductory course to a world language. In addition to the fundamentals of grammar and conversation skills, the first year provides the student with an understanding and appreciation for the Italian culture. By actively participating in class and devoting a reasonable amount of individual time, the student may expect to develop such skills as reading, writing, speaking, and listening as well as open-mindedness toward cultural traditions different from his/her own.

SPANISH 1P

Spanish 1P is an elementary course in a world language that serves to enable the student to communicate in both the written and spoken language at an elementary level. Daily in-class work focuses on developing vocabulary and practicing words and sentences in an effort to develop an elementary level of oral proficiency. With sufficient effort and practice, students will become proficient in the areas of speaking, listening, reading, and writing.

Note: Incoming freshmen who have had the equivalent of one or more years of high school Spanish or Italian may take a proficiency exam for appropriate placement in second or third-year level language classes. Information about these tests will be available at registration.

VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

The one-year Visual and Performing Art requirement for SJM graduation can be met by any of the classes listed below.

*NOTE: Unless otherwise stated, the classes below meet an **F** (Visual/Performing Art) requirement on the A-G list.*

2/3 DIMENSIONAL ART 1P

2/3 Dimensional Art IP introduces the beginning student to the elements and principles of art through observation, study and self-expression. Students are introduced to the history and culture of art, art critique, art appreciation, and applications of the arts. Observation and compositional skills are developed through a drawing unit. These skills are formatted in three dimensional applications and printmaking to further develop the knowledge and language of the arts.

ART 1P

Art 1P introduces the beginning student to the Elements and Principles of Design through media exploration, art history, and self-expression. Drawing skills are developed with contour drawing, perspective drawing, portraits, still life and other experiences. As drawing skills progress, students are exposed to a variety of media as they continue to develop their understanding and application of principles of design by utilizing elements of art.

DRAMA 1P

This course is designed to introduce students to all areas of the theatre, including acting, technical skills, directing and producing. The students will also study various works from several prominent playwrights from periods of history. Students will have a chance to explore each of these areas, and will receive from the course a base, which prepares them to serve in many areas in any production. Students will also develop a better understanding of the hard work that goes into putting on a production.

SERVICE LEARNING

SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM:

15 hours of service freshman year (7.5 each semester) with 7.5 hours of direct face-to-face, Personally Serving the Marginalized (PSM). PSM hours must be service among the population the service benefits).

San Joaquin Memorial's Service Learning program is designed to enrich our students as active participants in the community. This is an opportunity for students to gain the skills and confidence to extend themselves to others. Students will also have a chance to grow in solidarity with others by achieving a greater awareness and understanding of living conditions and circumstances affecting disenfranchised and marginalized populations. Service learning offers students the opportunity to process these experiences in relation to their education and their faith. As people of faith it is essential to be involved with "the least of these" and bring awareness to the life and dignity of the human person in any situation. Our goal is to empower students to make positive changes in our communities and thoughtful choices for the future.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How are freshmen placed into honors-level courses?

Freshmen are eligible to be placed in **Honors English** if they score at or above the **80th percentile** in Renaissance STAR Reading test. Placement will be reviewed after end-of-year STAR scores are received. Students may also be considered for Honors by re-evaluation if they have an "A" in 8th grade English/Reading/Language Arts and achieve a minimum score of "4" on the writing placement test (to be administered at SJM).

Students are eligible to be placed **Honors Geometry** if they demonstrate Algebra proficiency and score in the 85th percentile or higher on a standardized math test.

How can students be placed in honors classes when they do not meet these initial requirements?

Students may sign up at Registration Night for a "reevaluation" of either English or Math placement. Reevaluation will include 8th grade grades, standardized test scores from previous or future testings, and for English, writing placement test (timed write) to be administered at San Joaquin Memorial.

Does a student have to take an honors class if he or she is recommended for it?

No, a student recommended for honors can choose to take a college-prep class instead of the honors class; however, we strongly recommend that students with the ability to challenge themselves do so. We also want parents and students to know that college admission possibilities can be greatly increased by strong performance in honors and AP classes. Taking honors classes freshman year keeps students on an honors/AP track for important upper-division classes in English, mathematics, science and social science.

If my student has already taken Algebra and/or Spanish, can he/she advance to a higher-level class?

At Freshman Registration, students will have the opportunity to sign up to take Spanish, Algebra and Geometry proficiency tests.

- ❖ Students who have had a full year of college-preparatory Algebra 1P may demonstrate proficiency.
- ❖ Students who have had a year of Spanish will be offered a proficiency exam in June.

Students who pass the proficiency tests will be awarded 10 units of 'P' (pass) on their San Joaquin Memorial transcript and will be moved to the appropriate level in math and/or Spanish.

SAMPLE 9th GRADE SCHEDULES

SAMPLE 1: A "TRADITIONAL" COLLEGE PREPARATORY COURSE OF STUDY

English:	English 9P
Freshman Requirement:	Writing Workshop P & Speech P
Math:	Algebra 1P <i>or</i> Geometry P
P.E.:	Boys <i>or</i> Girls Physical Education
Religion:	Understanding Catholicism
Science:	Biology P <i>or</i> Agricultural Biology P
World Language:	Spanish 1P <i>or</i> Italian 1P

SAMPLE 2: AN ACCELERATED/HONORS COURSE OF STUDY

English:	English 9HP
Freshman Requirement:	Writing Workshop P & Speech P
Math:	Geometry HP
P.E.:	Boys <i>or</i> Girls Physical Education
Religion:	Understanding Catholicism
Science:	Biology P <i>or</i> Agricultural Biology P
World Language:	Spanish 1P <i>or</i> Italian 1P

SAMPLE 3: AN ENRICHMENT COURSE OF STUDY

English:	English 9P
Freshman Requirement:	Writing Workshop P & Speech P
Math:	Algebra 1A/1B
Visual/Performing Arts:	Art 1P, 2/3 Dimensional Art 1P, Drama 1P
P.E.:	Boys/Girls Physical Education
Religion:	Understanding Catholicism
World Language:	Spanish 1P <i>or</i> Italian 1P