



ST. STEPHEN'S
SCHOOL *Rome, Italy*

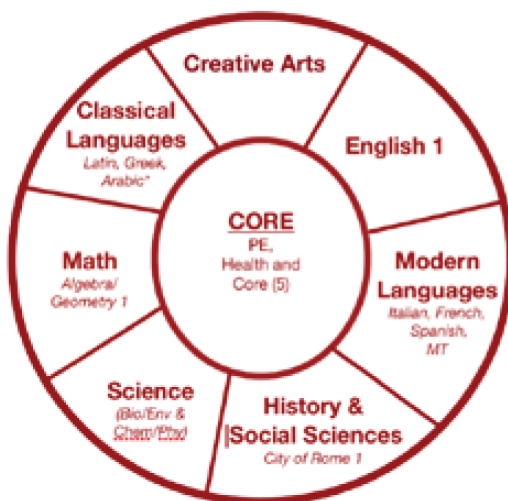
GRADE 9
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

St. Stephen's provides a demanding academic program taking full advantage of its location in the historic center of Rome. In developing and nurturing the whole student, St. Stephen's provides a rigorous college preparatory curriculum, which is balanced by a diverse co-curricular program that fulfills the requirements for the full International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme and a US high school diploma.

Our education model in grades 9 and 10 encourages students to excel and gain confidence in their academic choices. This two-year academic plan provides an excellent segue to the IB coursework students will carry out in grades 11 and 12.

Specialized classes such as City of Rome 1 and 2, Classical Greek & Roman Studies, Latin, Greek, Arabic, Italian Language, and Art History that fully exploit the local context add to the richness and diversity of a St. Stephen's education.

Our proud tradition of academic excellence brings all the best elements of American and international education traditions to our students. In 1975, St. Stephen's was the first school in Italy to offer the International Baccalaureate Programme to students in grades 11 and 12. As a leading IB World School, our graduates have consistently ranked in the top percentile of IB exams, including perfect scores of 42 and the highest IB scores in the history of the School in recent years. Our average IB score is 36.



English 1
Science 1: (Bio/Env - Chem/Phy)
Math: Alg/Geo 1 (3 levels)
History & SS: City of Rome 1
2nd Language: (ITA/FRE/SPA/MT)
Classical Language: (LAT/GRE/ARA)*
Creative Arts
CORE: (PE, Health, IT, Critical Thinking & Study Skills)

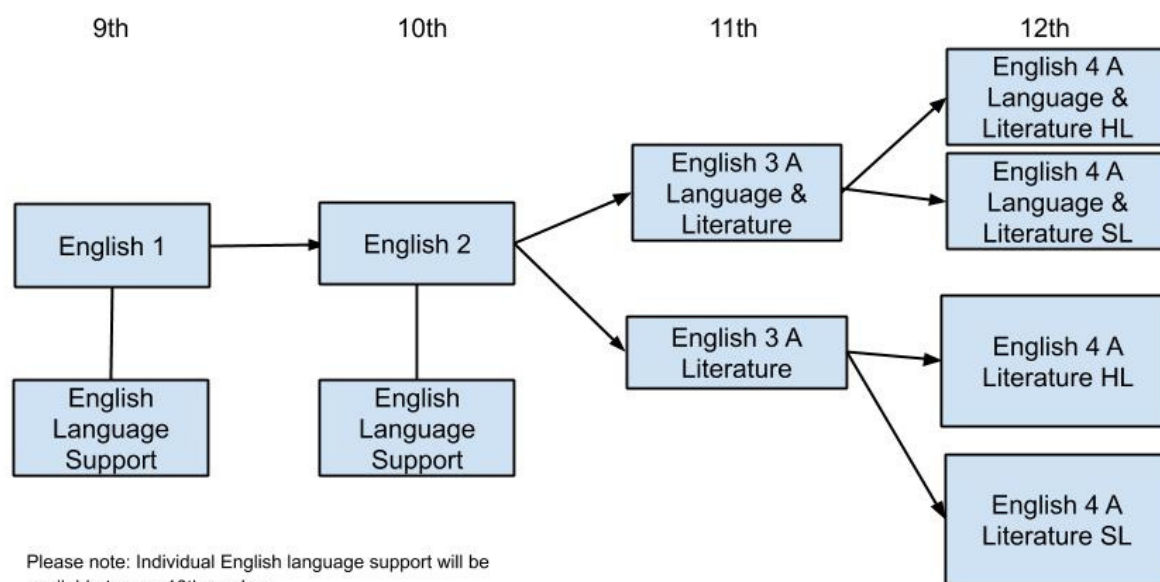
English 2
Science 2: (choice of 2)
Math 2: Alg/Geo 2 (2 or 3 levels)
History & SS: City of Rome 2
2nd or classical Language
OPTIONAL: 3rd language: (ITA/FRE/SPA)
Creative Arts: (including pre-IB Art)
CORE & Holistic Project

ENGLISH

The St. Stephen's English department creates an inquiry-- based, student--centered learning environment, where instruction encourages critical thinking, reading, and writing. Through active discourse, students develop an appreciation of how the texts they study connect to other texts, their lives, and the world around them. We nurture an appreciation of language and cultivate student confidence.

St. Stephen's English classes aim to:

- foster an appreciation of craft in a variety of genres
- develop critical reading strategies that allow students to interpret, evaluate and appreciate challenging texts
- inspire students, through their writing, to assimilate their critical reading experiences with the world around them
- study texts from a wide range of places and time periods
- encourage students to be articulate speakers who use language and register that is appropriate for different audiences and purposes.



ENGLISH 1

This course is designed to enhance students' appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of language, to promote an enjoyment of and interest in literature, to emphasize the writing process in its various stages, to develop skills in written and oral expression, and to encourage independent thought and academic rigor. Above all, the course encourages a lifelong appreciation of literature. A major theme of English 1 is Coming of Age, and students will look at the definition of gender and how it shapes notions of self and the world. They will learn to identify key overarching themes of global and literary interest, as well as draw critical connections between texts of different origins. They will also learn the significance of historical context in defining an author's approach to a genre and the foundational elements of the major genres.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SUPPORT (EAP)

This is a supplementary course for non-native English speakers who need extra support in the basic English language skills of reading, writing, listening and speaking. There is an emphasis on vocabulary acquisition, grammar practice and oral participation.

MODERN LANGUAGES

St. Stephen's Modern Language department believes that knowledge of other languages is an essential requirement for any individual in today's world. We also believe that knowledge and study of a second language broaden students' horizons and their outlook on other cultures, and consequently enhances the capacity for self-expression, understanding, and interaction between individuals from a variety of backgrounds and nationalities. Language courses are divided into two strands: 1) first language and literature and 2) foreign language.

First language and literature courses at St. Stephen's aim to:

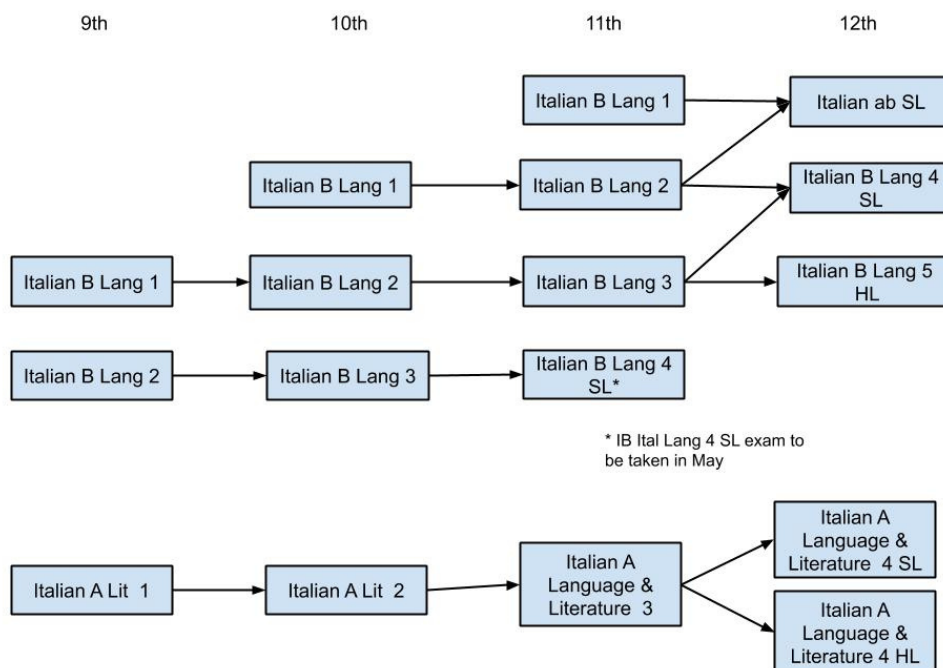
- study texts from a wide range of places and time periods
- foster an appreciation of craft in a variety of genres develop critical reading strategies that allow students to interpret, evaluate and appreciate challenging texts
- inspire students, through their writing, to assimilate their critical reading experiences with the world around them encourage students to be articulate speakers who use language and register that is appropriate for different audiences and purposes

Foreign Language courses at St. Stephen's aim to:

- promote an appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of language
- heighten awareness of language as a means of expression and communication and enhance students' capacity for expression
- encourage students to engage freely in conversation and to explore the culture(s) connected to the language studied broaden outlooks on other cultures by studying original language texts covering an extensive range of topics that promote enjoyment of, and interest in, the literature and cinema of different cultures

Placement of new students in the appropriate level is determined through interviews and a writing sample, where applicable.

ITALIAN



ITALIAN LANGUAGE 1

The goals of Italian 1 are to instruct the absolute beginner in vocabulary, grammar and idiomatic expressions so that he or she may begin to speak correctly and develop an awareness of Italian culture. Oral and written expression of Italian is approached through a series of graded exercises and simple conversations. Field trips to historical sites in Rome are taken regularly in order to acquaint the student with the city and its people.

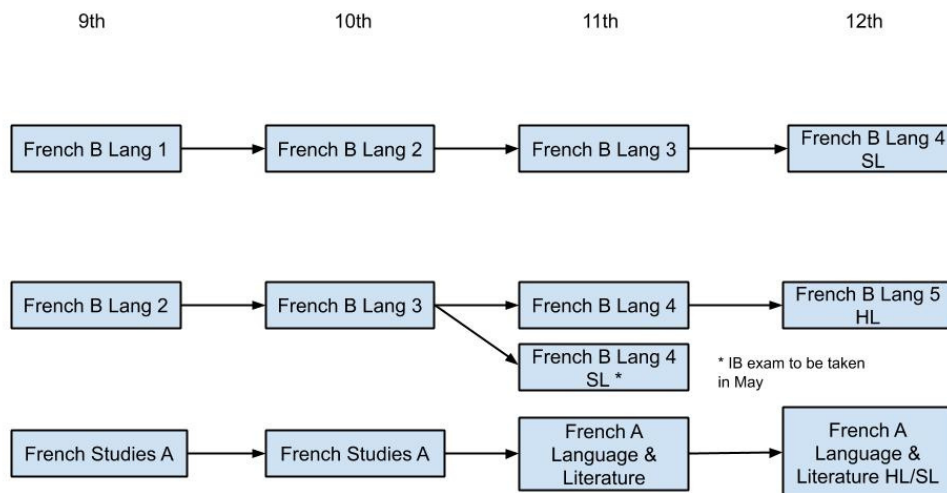
ITALIAN LANGUAGE 2

Italian 2 continues the work of Italian 1 by reinforcing the student's knowledge of the language as an expression of Italian civilization. Grammar, vocabulary and syntax are reviewed and students begin to prepare for upper level courses as they gain a wider and deeper sense of Italian culture through Italian movies, field trips, and the study of 20th century Italian history.

ITALIAN LITERATURE 1

This course is designed for native or bilingual speakers who have studied Italian as a primary language. This course builds a foundation for reading literature, writing literary analysis, and understanding Italian culture and history. Students work on reading comprehension at a sophisticated level, and learn to write analyses of texts. Through frequent compositions and essays, they will improve their grasp of written grammar. Students are required to participate in class discussions, which then forms the basis for more structured oral presentations. In addition, the exposure to newspaper articles, political cartoons, and movies inspires and guides discussions about Italian history and civilization.

FRENCH



FRENCH LANGUAGE 1

This course teaches the basic structure of the French language with the aim of developing the student's reading, writing and speaking skills. Oral expression is approached through reading aloud, pronunciation exercises and simple conversation.

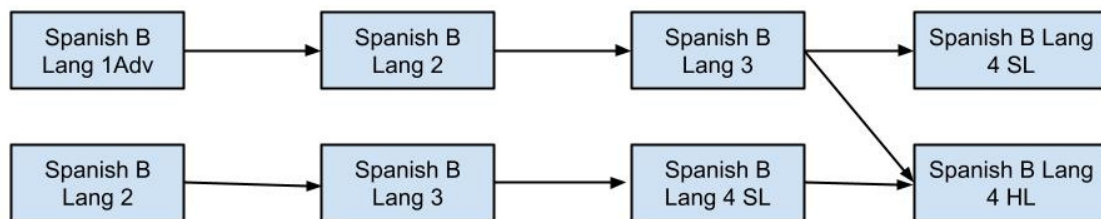
FRENCH LANGUAGE 2

French 2 continues the development and mastery of fundamental reading, writing and speaking skills in French. The vocabulary learned in French 1 is extended and increased, and one begins to approach civilization topics through the use of videos and movies as a means of further introducing the student to a wider knowledge of the French language and culture.

FRENCH STUDIES

This course is designed for native speakers and bilingual French students. Poems, songs and movies enrich the revision of basic grammar. Emphasis is placed on French culture, literature and history. Students will be asked to do research, make oral presentations and read French literary works.

SPANISH



SPANISH LANGUAGE 1 ADVANCED

This course is designed for students of Spanish as a Foreign Language who have some previous knowledge of basic grammar: verbs, moods, tenses. Emphasis is given to interaction to improve fluency in the use of the language. The students read and make summaries on articles at the advanced basic level.

SPANISH LANGUAGE 2

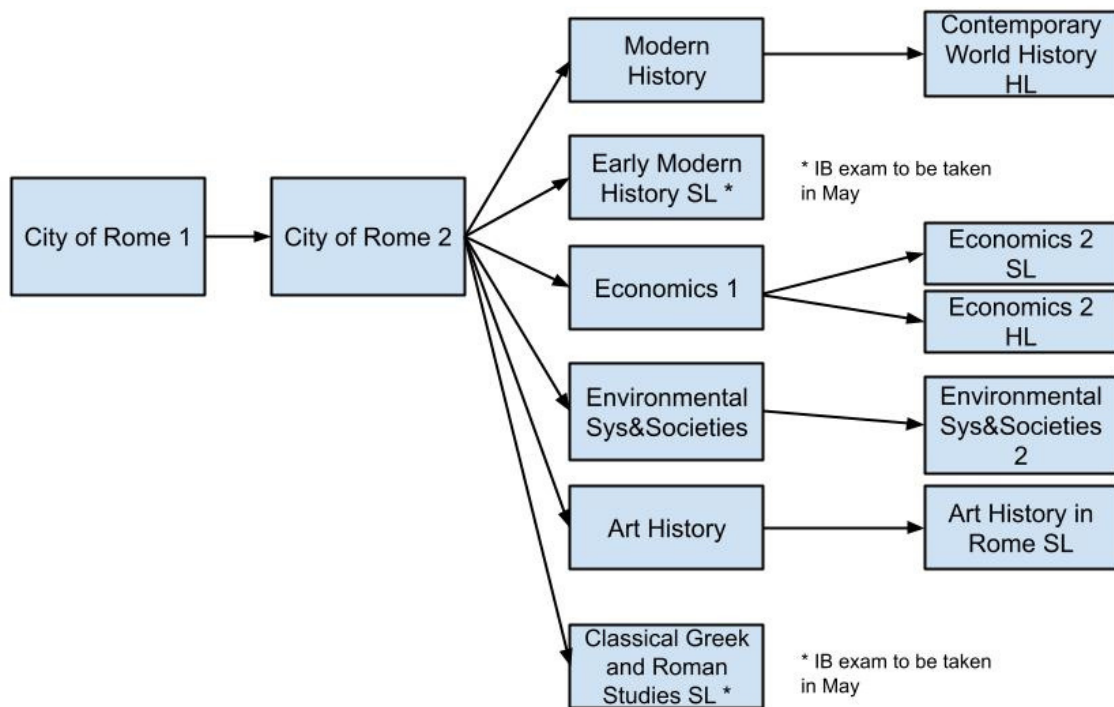
This course is designed for students of Spanish as a Foreign Language who have attended a formal basic grammar program. They should know regular and irregular verbs, all of the moods and tenses and have a fair command of the spoken language. The students read and summarize articles from advanced intermediate level texts and analyze excerpts from Spanish and Latin American literary works. By the end of the year, the students should be able to read short stories and handle brief summaries and analyzes.

HISTORY

History at St. Stephen's is a four-year program that instills a lasting love of the fundamental political, cultural, and socioeconomic forces that have shaped our world. Using one of the world's great museums of history – the city of Rome – students interact and explore on a personal level while teachers assist their growth, encouraging open--mindedness and critical thinking.

St. Stephen's History classes aim to:

- focus on the nature of history as a course of study in order to emphasize critical thinking about issues in the modern world
- introduce students to the fundamentals of historical writing and research while developing a critical approach to sources
- deliver a cohesive, coherent program of study that spans from the classical period to the modern era and maintains a local focus while placing these histories in context of our world.



CITY OF ROME 1

Rome was, for more than 1000 years, one of the most important cities in the ancient world, and it remains today a uniquely rich and fascinating city. How do we look at the city we live in, so we can understand and appreciate her monuments and interpret them as reflections of ancient Roman life- political, religious, social and artistic? This course, unique to St Stephen's School, gives students the opportunity to study ancient Rome in a multi-disciplinary way: its origins, political systems, art, archaeology, economics, geography and environment.

Students will study Roman history, culture and society through direct study of the monuments and museums of Rome and through ancient sources, both written and material. Students will learn to look at Roman archaeology, art and architecture as reflections of the social, political, economic, religious and artistic life of the time. St Stephen's central location allows regular weekly field trips, which form the basis of the course. Through the direct study and interpretation of sources, students learn about Roman history, culture and society in all its facets while, at the same time, making connections with the contemporary world. Students will participate in the Medusa Mythology Exam in April and take part in several interdisciplinary projects about Cultural Heritage.

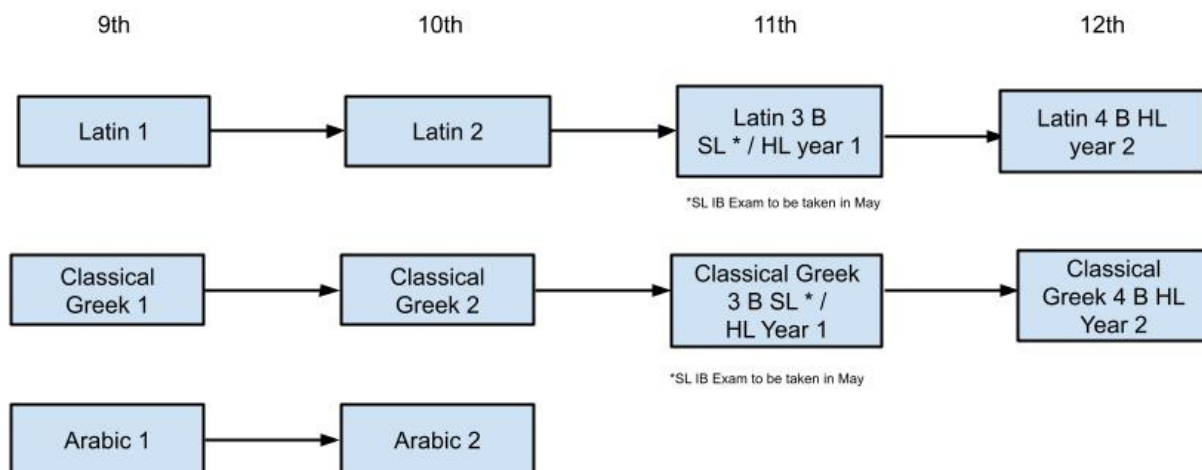
CLASSICAL STUDIES

St. Stephen's location in the heart of ancient Rome offers a unique dimension to the study of Classics, for the city inevitably becomes an extension of the classroom, both in the history (City of Rome, Classical Greek and Roman Studies) and the language (Latin and Greek) courses.

Field trips form the basis of the City of Rome course, and are also undertaken, when appropriate, in Latin. Greek and in the Roman semester of Classical Greek and Roman Studies.

Classical Studies classes at St. Stephen's aim to:

- encourage students to comprehend and appreciate the rich legacy of the Greco-Roman world through a study of the literature, art and architecture, language and history
- develop language skills and the awareness of language as an integral part of culture
- promote critical/analytical reading of primary sources, both literary and historical
- challenge students to make connections between the ancient world and other worlds, including their own.



See Classics Chair for further information.

CITY OF ROME 1

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LATIN 1

This course provides an introduction to the language and culture of ancient Rome and her empire. Modern approaches are used to develop, rapidly and effectively, the ability of the students to read Latin texts. Grammar and vocabulary are introduced inductively through readings rather than as isolated elements of the language. In this course, Latin is taught with a recently developed methodology that applies the same elements of modern 2nd language acquisition to the classical languages, shifting the focus to understanding both spoken Latin and texts (instead of translating). The four linguistic skills of communicative competence - listening, speaking, reading and writing - are practiced in each class to stimulate a fast language proficiency and to enhance students' confidence. There is considerable background material on religious, social, artistic and political life, and our unique location in the heart of ancient Rome makes field trips to relevant sites a valuable component of the course. Students participate in two international exams: the National Latin Exam in March and the Medusa Mythology Exam in April.

LATIN 2

Latin 2 aims to further students' understanding of Latin language, vocabulary and grammar, to continue studies of various aspects of Roman culture and literature, and to provide more rigorous preparation for the IB Diploma Program. The stories in the text focus more and more on the historical context of the civil war following the assassination of Julius Caesar, the rise of Octavian, and the establishment of Empire under Augustus. Horace's poetry is introduced early in the year and studied within its historical context. Students participate in two international exams: the Medusa Mythology Exam in December and the National Latin Exam in March.

Prerequisite: Latin 1 or equivalent

CLASSICAL GREEK 1

This course introduces students to the Ancient Greek language. After having mastered the alphabet and pronunciation, the basics of the grammar of Classical Greek are covered, while building the vocabulary necessary for reading short texts. The Athenaze textbook focuses upon frequent and early reading of continuous Greek. The texts offered as the course progresses - from Classical prose and poetry to the Greek of the New Testament -, will provide the students by the end of the academic year with an ability to approach the works of a variety of simple Classical Greek texts in the original language. The Greek language opens up to students a wealth of thought, culture, history, and literature, all of which they can read about in the essays provided in the book and reflect upon in class discussions, research projects and presentations. Students participate in two international exams: the National Greek Exam in February and the Medusa Mythology Exam in April.

ARABIC 1

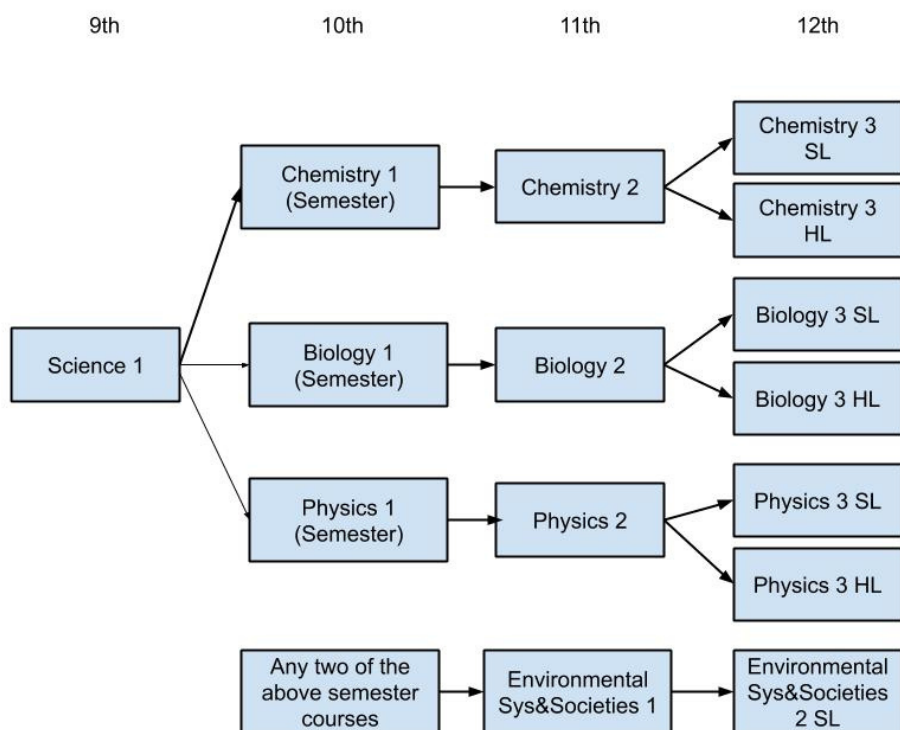
This course introduces modern standard Arabic and focuses on developing proficiency in the standard written Arabic as well as formal spoken Arabic. It begins with learning the script and the sound system using 'Alif Baa Book'. The book simultaneously introduces vocabulary so students can begin performing dialogues and other activities. After the Alphabet is covered, more grammar and vocabulary are introduced at a faster rate to build the foundation for general communicative competence, and greater cultural awareness.

SCIENCE

The St. Stephen's Science department provides our students with a solid foundation in all areas of science, offering courses in Biology, Chemistry, Physics, and Environmental Systems and Societies. Students are prepared for a world that is forever changing and advancing in the areas of medicine, technology, and biochemical engineering. The science curriculum offers students a variety of opportunities to engage with the world around them - in the classroom, in the laboratory, and through field work.

Courses in the Experimental Sciences at St Stephen's have the following aims:

- to foster critical thinking and inquiry skills
- to allow students to engage in individualized scientific research and design their own laboratory investigations
- to promote an appreciation of the principles of science in an increasingly scientific and technological society
- to understand how to work successfully and safely in a laboratory setting, using a wide variety of laboratory equipment, data logging apparatus, and analytical techniques
- to teach students how to collect, process, and present scientific data and effectively develop hypotheses, research questions and the necessary precision in the use of language, both oral and written, to report their findings.



FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE

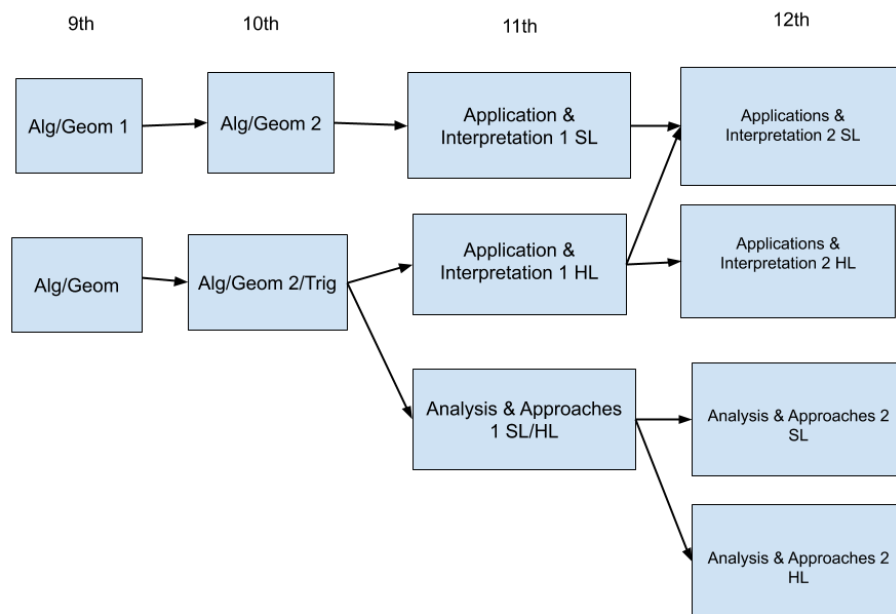
Foundations of Science is the first year of a dynamic, rigorous IB preparatory course in which students will learn the fundamental concepts of biology, environmental sciences, physics, and chemistry. Students will explore the basic elements of what constitutes matter, how energy passes through systems allowing life to evolve and lead to complex organisms and their interactions with their environment. Important contributions of biology, chemistry, physics, and ecology to the understanding of the natural world and man's relationship with it are investigated. The laboratory component complements theoretical study and students learn the importance of the scientific method by engaging in weekly investigative practical work. Group projects allow self-directed student learning and the opportunity to present work to fellow students. This course provides a basic understanding of some of the central principles of science. By the end of the course, students should have developed a good level of scientific literacy and should be able to make informed decisions about further studies in science.

MATHEMATICS

Through inquiry-based instruction and integrated technology, the mathematics classes at St. Stephen's challenge students to reach their full potential while engaging them in a demanding program of study. We train students to think logically and critically and to use the language of mathematics with precision both orally and in writing. Through the study of algebra, geometry, trigonometry, statistics, probability and calculus, students appreciate the important role mathematics plays in a modern society. To further support and challenge their understandings, we also utilize a range of resources, including peer tutoring, math laboratory, and math competition activities.

St. Stephen's Mathematics classes aim to:

- encourage students' persistence and creativity in problem solving
- teach students to use technology, allowing a multiple representation of concepts and enhancing their understanding and knowledge of mathematics
- develop students' confidence in mathematics and encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning
- increase students' awareness of the structures that unify the branches of mathematics
- foster an appreciation of mathematics from an historical perspective



ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

This course provides students with the skills and concepts in order to progress to the Algebra/Geometry 2 or Algebra/Geometry2/Trigonometry course in grade 10. Calculators and laptops will be integrated into the course as learning tools. Students require an approved graphic display calculator. The course is designed to:

- Prepare students to be proficient in using mathematics in their daily lives
- Develop a positive attitude towards the role of mathematics in everyday life
- Develop logical, critical and creative thinking, as well as patience and persistence in problem-solving
- Employ and refine their powers of abstraction and generalization
- Communicate mathematical concepts in a comprehensible, coherent and rigorous way.

In order to offer the best learning experience, grade 9 students will be placed in three levels according to their proven academic records in mathematics and their admission testing results. The curriculum taught in Algebra/Geometry is the same for all the three levels.

Algebra/Geometry 1

Basic Level

This level is for students who need to reinforce their basic math skills while learning the new curriculum.

Algebra/Geometry

Intermediate Level

This level is for students who have a solid background in mathematics.

Algebra/Geometry

Extended Level

This level is for students who have an excellent background in mathematics and eventually want to be part of our math teams for international competitions.

REQUIRED GRADE LEVEL COURSES

CORE 1

Core class uses academic and societal concepts and global issues as a framework to teach students how to actively learn and to use the skills necessary for their work throughout high school and the IBDP (IB Diploma Program). Core classes are central to increasing students' self-awareness of their own learning and are aimed at mastering skills such as communication, critical thinking, research, self-management, and social skills. Teaching and learning focus on an interdisciplinary approach and project-based learning. Throughout the course, the students do units on Health, Digital Citizenship, and IT. By the end of the two years, students should have created a portfolio of activities and reflections that help them understand themselves as learners and the process of “learning to learn”. At the end of the year 2 students complete a holistic project in which they are able to demonstrate their personal interests and skills acquired. Assessments throughout two years includes a variety of in person and video presentations, research essays, and collaborative projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is part of Core 1. We believe that healthy students make excellent learners. Physical activity, whether team or individual sports, impacts learning, overall growth, well-being, and academic performance. St. Stephen's physical education and sports program introduces students to a wide variety of physical activities that allow them to practice different sports all year round.

The objectives of the program are to:

- improve physical coordination and advance talent
- create individual self-assurance and general good health
- promote critical and strategic thinking
- develop social skills and interpersonal relationships

Students participate in soccer, basketball and volleyball tournaments throughout the year either at St. Stephen's or other area private schools, and at international sporting events in Milan, Spain, and Portugal.

COMPUTER AND ILAB OFFERINGS

ROBOTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This fall 9th and 10th graders will be offered a semester-long course to explore, design, build and program various robotics and AI projects. We will work with Arduino, chatbots, Machine Learning, and other tools and applications of technology and intelligences, computational and design thinking processes, and explore the pros and cons of the future of these fields.

Offered in first semester in period H.

3-D DESIGN AND MIXED REALITIES

Using SketchPad, Fusion 360, Unity, and a variety of VR and AR tools, students will study the world of 3 dimensionalities and augmented and virtual realities. No previous experience needed, just a desire to explore and learn. Apps compatible with Windows and Macs will be provided, but a small graphics tablet with a stylus would be helpful to have (iPad, Android, Wacom, or a hybrid laptop).

Offered in second semester in period H.

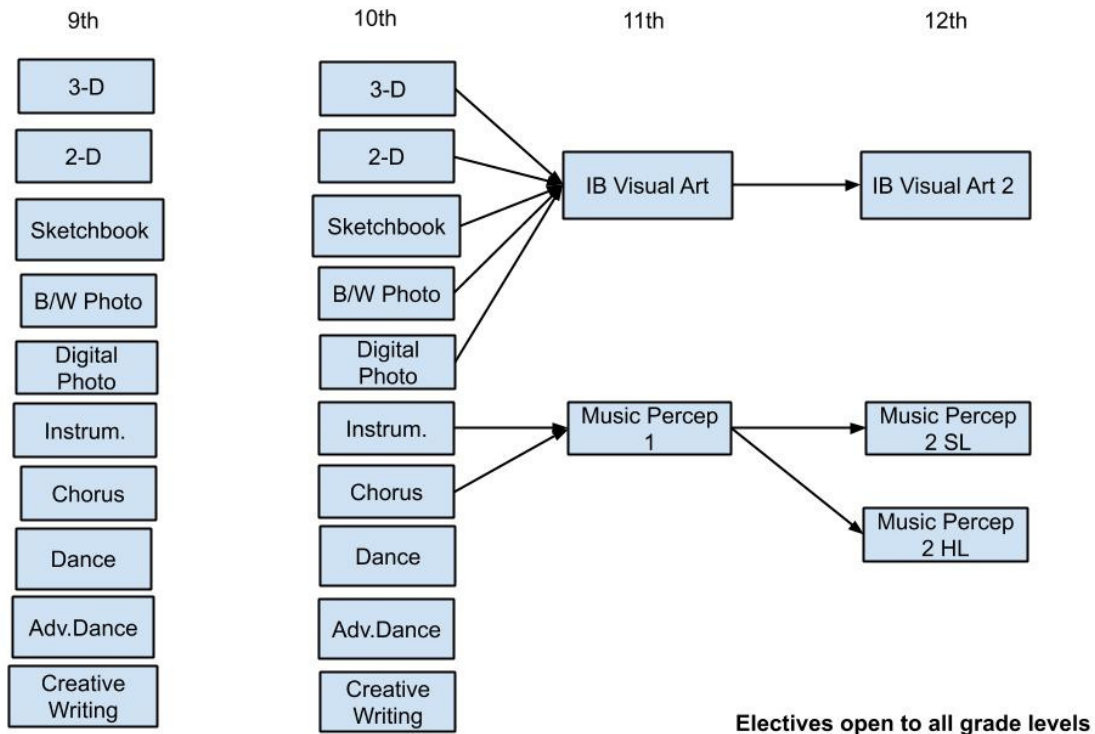
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

With Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque and contemporary Rome omnipresent, Arts classes at St. Stephen's stimulate and nurture the student's aesthetic sense. Placing contemporary artistic trends in a long-term historical, social and aesthetic perspective comes naturally to students whose everyday experience, though constantly connected to the present day world of computers and the internet, nevertheless contains persistent visible reminders of more than 2000 years of artistic accomplishment - of the attention humanity has paid to form and detail in its eternal quest to express the contemporary spirit.

The aims of the Arts courses at St. Stephen's are:

- to promote the student's aesthetic sense; to develop each student's familiarity with and confidence in his or her own artistic ability;
- to foster the student's acquisition of the fundamental skills and experience necessary for artistic expression;
- to stimulate the student to think "outside the box" while combining technique and control with a personal voice or vision; to encourage the student's appreciation of both the pursuit of perfection - the "job well done" - and of the personal patience and perseverance such a goal requires.

Courses in this area of St. Stephen's curriculum include a variety of electives in the fine arts (visual arts and creative writing) and performing arts (dance, drama and music). One credit unit in the Arts is required for graduation. Each course is offered as a semester course which meets twice a week and is awarded 1/4 credit per semester.



SKETCHBOOK: DRAWING AND PAINTING

This course will be held predominantly outside at different locations close to school for various levels of students who want to explore drawing and water based paints in a sketchbook by practices related to the two dimensional representation and expressive interpretation of reality. The focus of the class will be learning to capture the outside setting of the location by observing and practicing with quick studies made with various degrees of materials. The class will prepare students with a firm foundation who wish to continue their studies at a higher level, or acquire some artistic skills and ways to record a daily moment.

DRAWING AND PAINTING (2-D)

This course is designed to develop the student's creative and technical abilities in a variety of two-dimensional media. This is a mixed level course for students who wish to learn about the visual, aesthetic and historic ideas and practices related to the graphic representation and expressive interpretation of reality through drawing and painting. Problems in composition, perspective, figure ground, volume, tone and color will be explored. Pencil, charcoal, pen and ink, pastels, tempera, acrylic paint, and collage will be utilized. Students will have the opportunity to work from direct observation both in the studio as well as outdoors. Some of the subjects covered in the studio will be still-life, landscape, the portrait and the figure.

SCULPTURE (3-D)

The fundamentals of sculpture techniques are introduced and developed in this semester course. Students learn to manipulate clay, creating vessels from the "coil and slab" method, as well as using the electric wheel. They prepare mixed media projects, which provide the technical and visual basis from which they will then explore sculpture making with traditional non-traditional materials. The projects all evolve from resources available in Rome (museums, exhibits, competitions). Mold making in plaster, paper mache, metal sculptures, glazing and firing techniques are studied and applied.

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

This semester course focuses on photography as an art form and as an expression of individual creativity. Students learn about its history, including the life and work of celebrated artists. Students apply design elements and principles to create their own compositions using a variety of photographic techniques, both modern and traditional. They learn the basics of the contemporary SLR camera as well as black and white film processing in the darkroom. Visits to current exhibitions are also organized. Students will capture, through the lens, the architectural splendor and unique lighting offered in Rome.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

This semester course is designed for students who want to learn about photography in general and digital photography in particular. Part of the activity will be devoted to examining photos made by the students and by other artists. The purpose of this is to get new ideas and to develop a critical but constructive approach to the images viewed. Students will learn the technical aspects of photography through both direct experience and a theoretical introduction into the different ways of using a camera. Subsequently a large part of the class will be dedicated to the use of the camera to create small pieces of arts, so that photography becomes a tool for self expression. Photoshop and similar computer programs will be studied and used to manipulate the digital image according to the student's esthetic intentions.

CHORUS

The chorus is a four part, SATB, chorus. The music the chorus sings is drawn primarily from the popular music repertoire of the past 50 years with a strong emphasis on contemporary works as requested by the students. The chorus performs at concerts held at the end of each semester as well as at various other occasions – within or outside the school. In concert the chorus is frequently accompanied by the school's instrumental ensemble. Smaller vocal groups and soloists drawn from the chorus also perform during these shows. Previous musical experience is helpful, but is not required for participation in chorus.

INSTRUMENTAL

The instrumental ensemble is divided into two units: an Electric Guitar group that performs music from the Blues/Rock tradition, and an Acoustic Instrument group that performs a Classical/Jazz repertoire. These groups meet separately, but also perform together (often with the chorus) in larger ensemble works. During the first month of the course, attention is given both to developing general musicianship – sight reading abilities (meter, rhythm, pitch) and rehearsal technique - and to deciding the repertoire to be performed. The selected music is then arranged for the instrumentation available and for the level of the participating musicians. Rehearsals begin in the second month of the course. Concerts are given at the end of each semester.

CREATIVE WRITING

The Creative Writing class is structured on the traditional workshop model, in which students bring in their own creative pieces for discussion among peers and the teacher. Contemporary and canonical works of poetry and fiction are also used as models for the students' own writing. The class covers poetic strategies including rhyme, meter, metaphor, sonic effects, and imagery; introduction to poetic forms such as sonnet, villanelle, sestina, syllabics, etc.; introduction to fiction, featuring elements such as character, plot, setting, structure, voice, as well as step-by-step story writing. At the end of term, students will compile a portfolio or chapbook of their own writing, and participate in readings or collaborative performances with other disciplines from the Arts Department.

DRAMA

For this course, students spend three to four hours a week at the beginning of the year doing body awareness exercises and vocal exercises as well as improvisation. Preparation of a show to be performed before the Winter Break begins at the onset of the course. This show can be improvised or published material. In the spring, the students perform a full length play. In both cases, the students are responsible for the entire production (costumes, lights, sets, posters, and publicity) under the guidance of the instructor.

MODERN DANCE

This course offers both physical activity and creativity through movement. Simple modern dance techniques are used for warm ups and then problem-solving improvisations are proposed. From these improvisations the students' original approach to movement emerges. The final result is choreographed and performed at the end of each semester. This course fulfills the physical education requirement.

SIGN-UP FOR YOUR COURSES [HERE](#).

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