



ST. STEPHEN'S
SCHOOL *Rome, Italy*

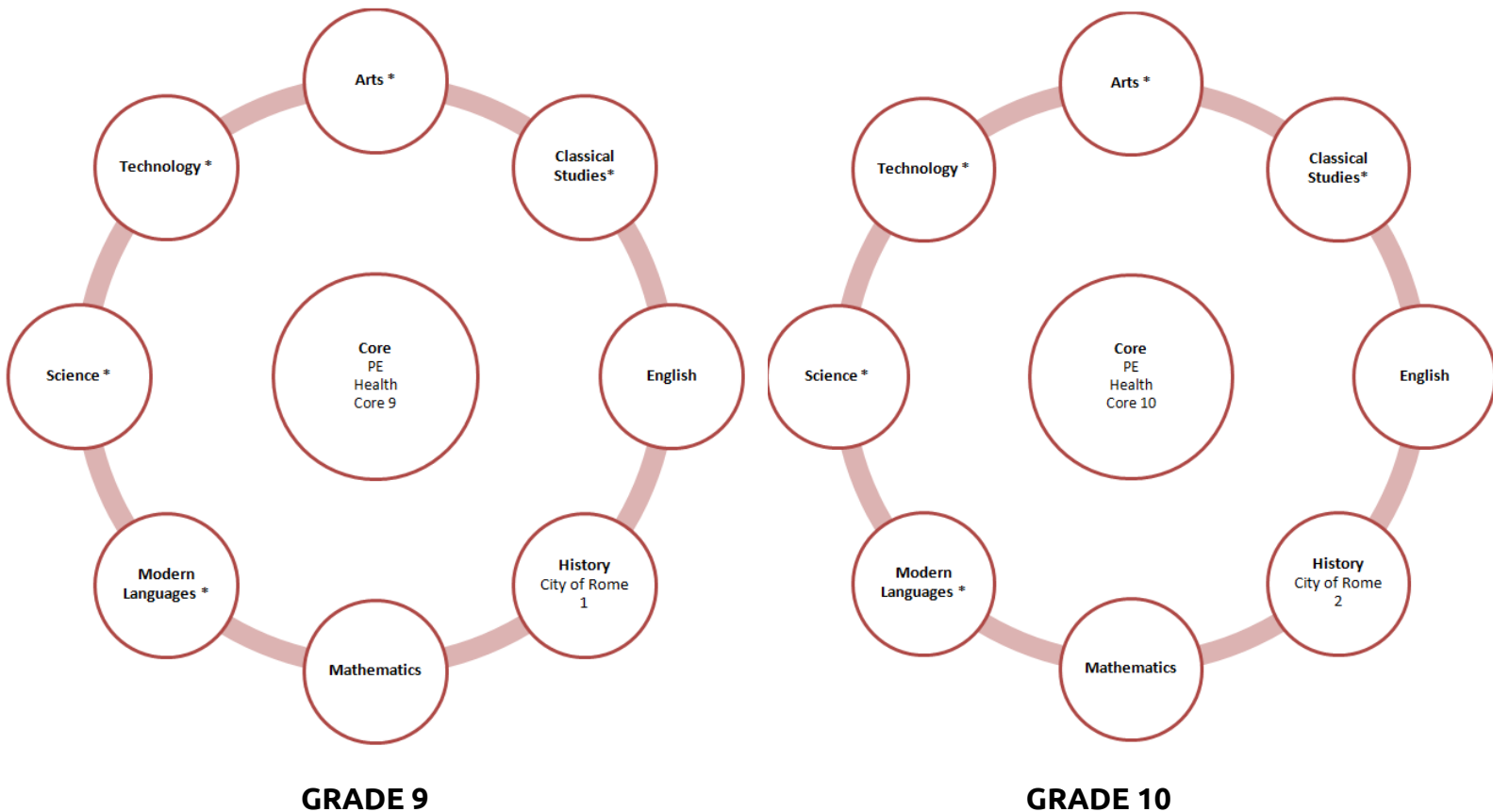
GRADE 9
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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 45 and the highest IB scores in the history of the School in recent years. Our average IB score is 36.



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

Core

- Physical Education, Health and Core in Grades 9 and 10
- Core in Grades 9 and 10 focuses on critical thinking and study skills
- Theory of Knowledge (IB requirement) taken in Grades 11 and 12

Arts

- Students can choose up to 2 courses per semester
- ¼ credit per course

Classical Studies

- Students must take a Classical Language in Grade 9
- Choose from Latin, Classical Greek or Arabic

English

- Students take English 1 in Grade 9
- Students are required to take 4 years of English

History

- St. Stephen's Signature Course - City of Rome in Grades 9 and 10
- History and Social Sciences offered in Grades 11 and 12

Mathematics

- Students placed into Algebra/Geometry based on level
- Students levels are reviewed periodically

Modern Languages

- Students can choose from Italian, French or Spanish
- Levels must be approved by the language department

Science

- Students take Science 1 in Grade 9
- Students have a choice of Sciences in Grade 10

Technology

- Students can choose up to 1 course per semester
- ¼ credit per course

CORE

CORE 1/2 GRADES 9/10

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.

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 grade 10, students complete a holistic project in which they are able to demonstrate their personal interests and skills acquired. Assessments throughout two years include a variety of in-person and video presentations, research essays, and collaborative projects.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH GRADES 9/10

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

SERVICE GRADES 9/10

All students are required to complete the school Service requirements. Students are given the choice of which clubs and activities they join in order to find ways to become involved in their community. Examples of service activities: Gardening Club, Beach Clean up, Soup Kitchen.

ARTS

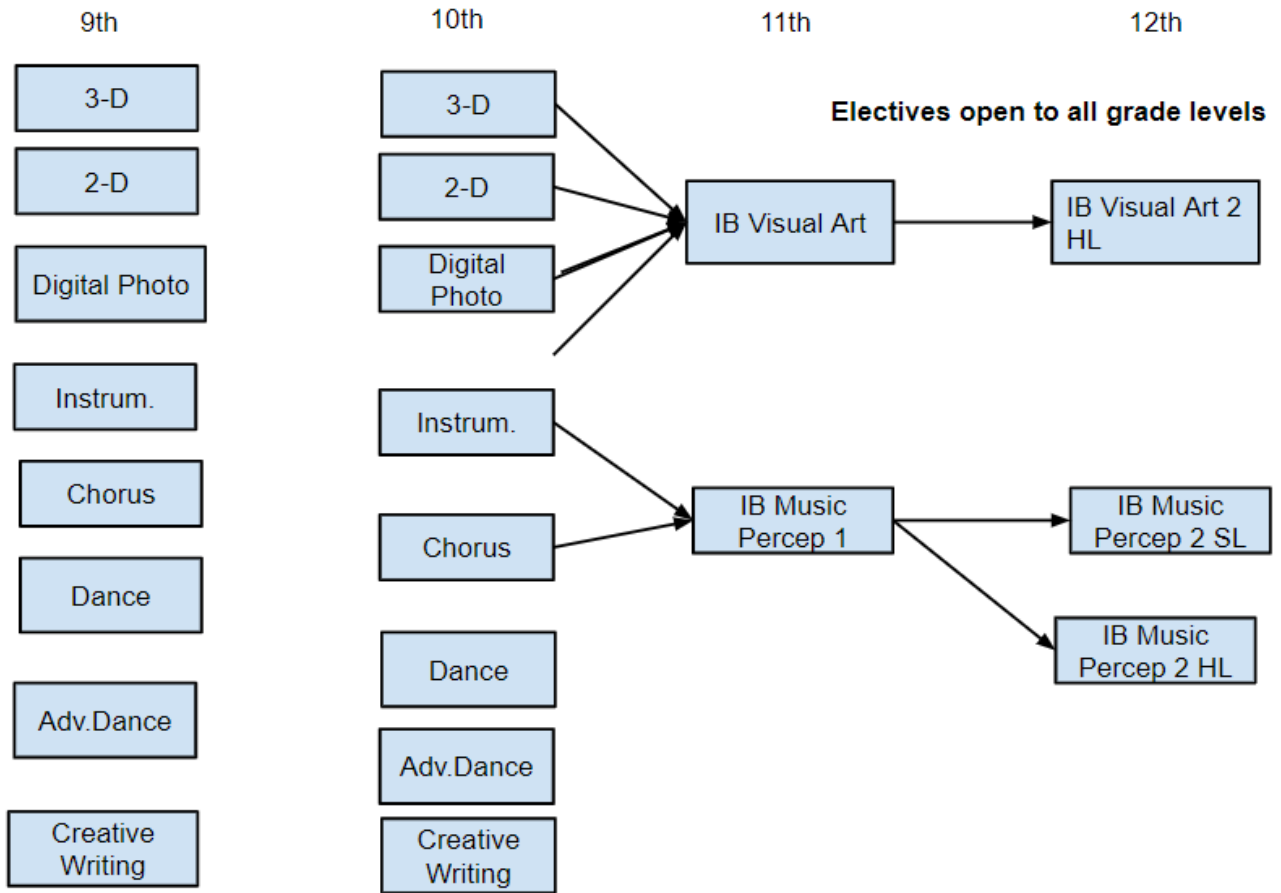
With Ancient, Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, and contemporary Rome omnipresent, Arts classes at St. Stephen's stimulate and nurture the student's aesthetic sense. Placing contemporary artistic trends in a long-term historical, social, and aesthetic perspective comes naturally to students whose everyday 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 awarded 1/4 credit per semester. Students are encouraged to take the arts throughout the four years of high school.

Arts



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 historical ideas and practices related to 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 in the studio and 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, create vessels from the "coil and slab" method, and use the electric wheel. They prepare mixed media projects, providing the technical and visual basis for exploring 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.

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, vocal exercises, and 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.

DANCE / ADVANCED 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.

Students are placed in Dance or Advanced Dance based on ability.

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 to the different ways of using a camera. Subsequently, a large part of the class will be dedicated to using the camera to create small pieces of art so that photography becomes a tool for self-expression. Photoshop and similar computer programs will be studied to manipulate the digital image according to the student's esthetic intentions.

CHORUS

This is a four-part SATB chorus. The music the choir sings is drawn primarily from the popular music repertoire of the past fifty 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 and on various other occasions – within or outside the school. The chorus is frequently accompanied by the school's instrumental ensemble in concert. Smaller vocal groups and soloists drawn from the choir also perform during these shows. Previous musical experience is helpful but not required for chorus participation.

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 perform together (often with the chorus) in larger ensemble works. During the first month of the course, attention is given to developing general musicianship – sight reading abilities (meter, rhythm, pitch) and rehearsal technique - and 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.

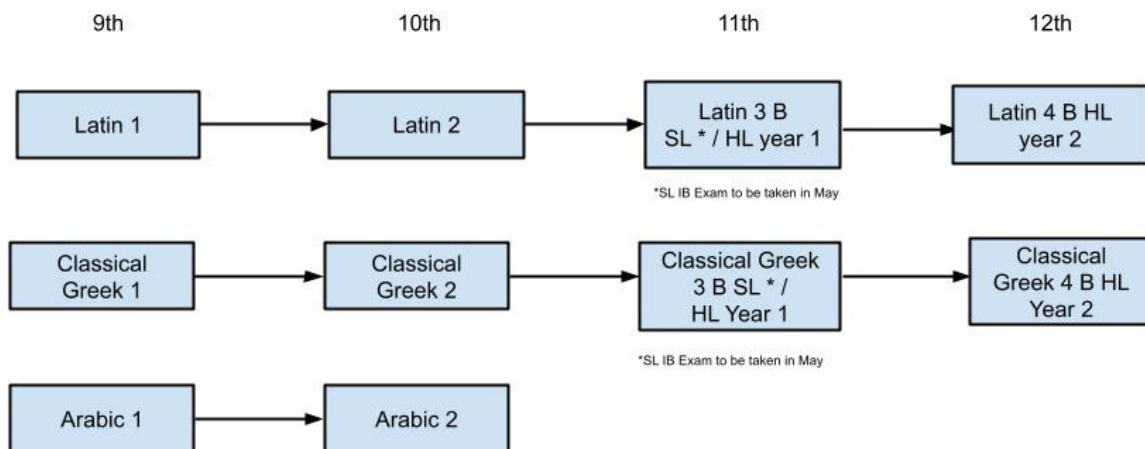
CLASSICAL STUDIES

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 the 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.

LATIN 1

GRADE 9

This course provides an introduction to the language and culture of ancient Rome and her empire. Modern approaches are used to rapidly and effectively develop 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 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 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.

CLASSICAL GREEK 1

GRADE 9

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 on the 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 with an ability to approach the works of a variety of simple Classical Greek texts in the original language by the end of the academic year. The Greek language gives 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

GRADE 9

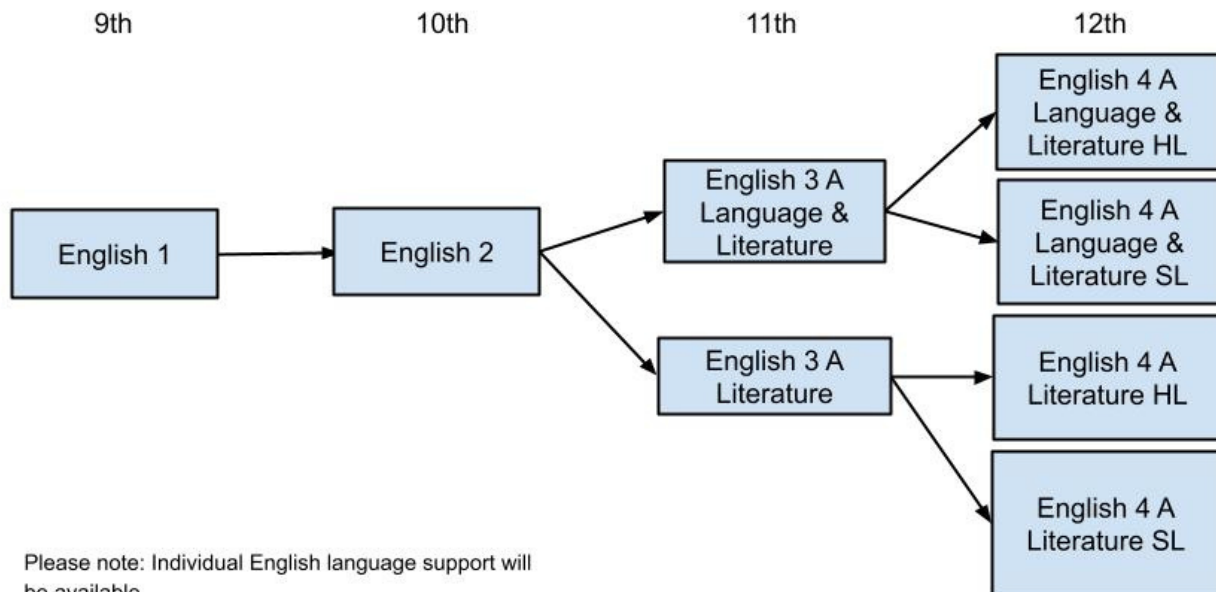
This course introduces modern standard Arabic and focuses on developing proficiency in standard written and formal spoken Arabic. It begins with learning the script and the sound system using the 'Alif Baa Book.' The book simultaneously introduces vocabulary so students can start performing dialogues 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.

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

GRADE 9

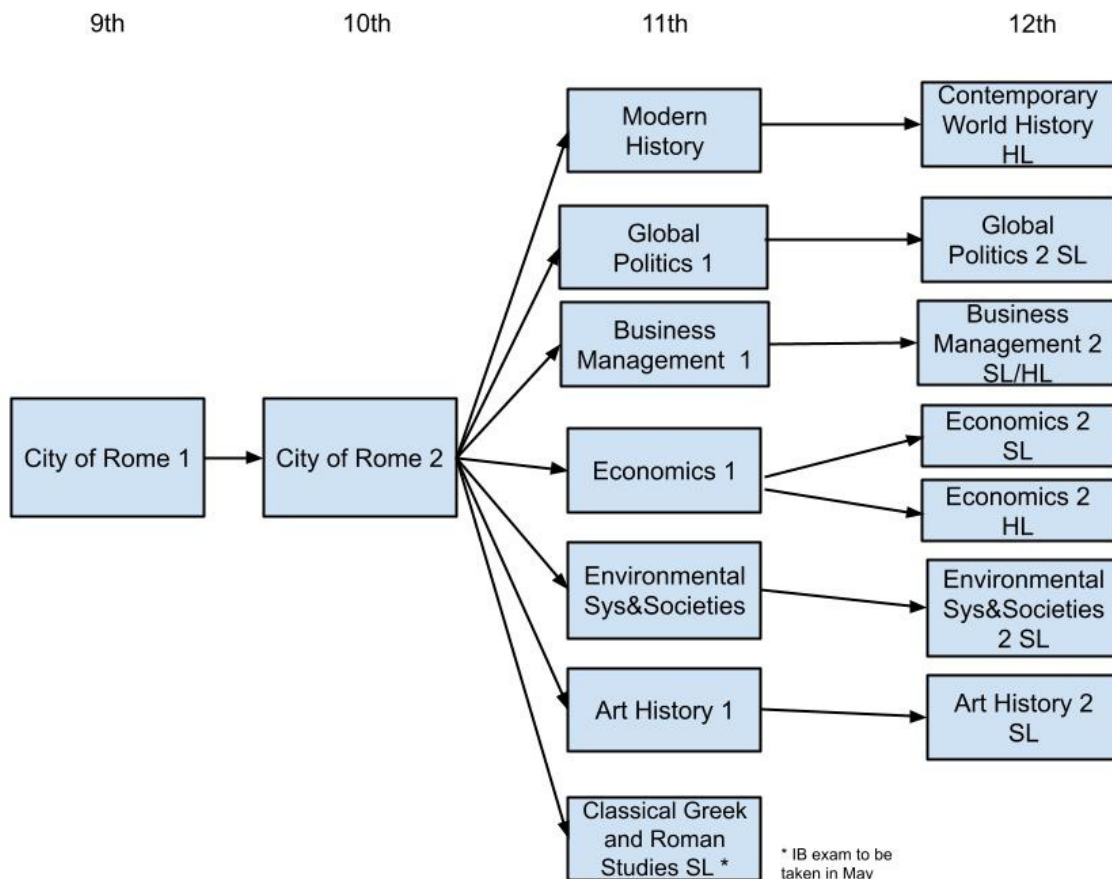
This course is designed to enhance students' appreciation of the wealth and subtleties of language, to promote an enjoyment of and interest in literature, to emphasize the writing process in its various stages, to develop skills in written and oral expression, and to encourage independent thought and 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.

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 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

GRADE 9

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.

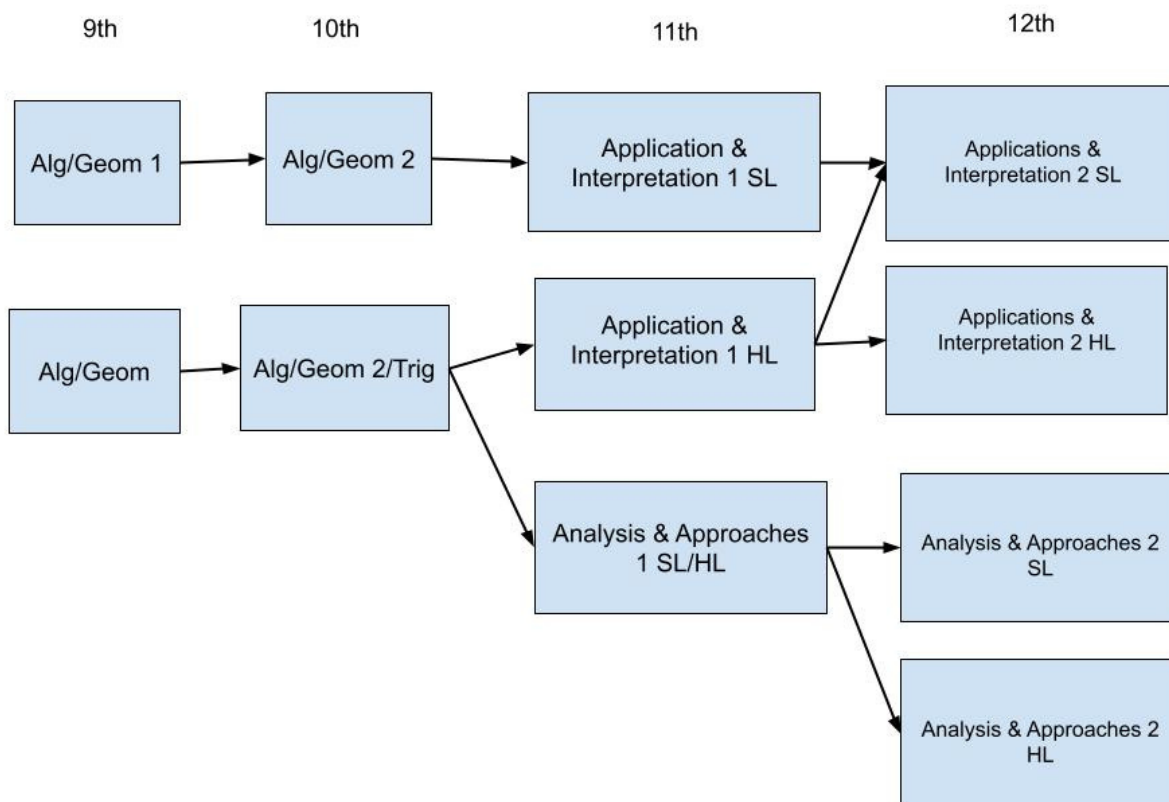
Students will study Roman history, culture, and society through direct study of the monuments and museums of Rome and through ancient sources, both written and material. Students will learn to look at Roman archaeology, art, and architecture as reflections of the social, political, economic, religious, 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.

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 modern society. To further support and challenge their understanding, 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 multiple representations 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 a historical perspective



ALGEBRA/GEOMETRY

GRADE 9

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.

To offer the best learning experience, grade 9 students will be placed in an appropriate level according to their proven academic records in mathematics and their admission testing results. The curriculum taught in Algebra/Geometry is the same for all, but the two levels differ in depth and pace.

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 enhance 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:

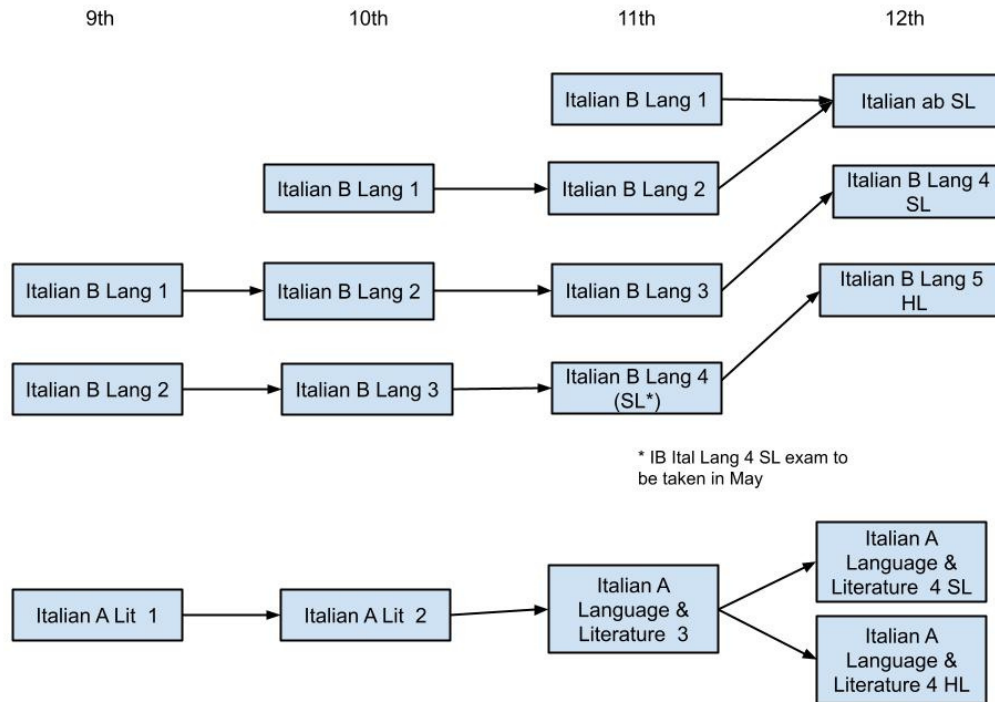
- study texts from a wide range of places and time periods
- foster an appreciation of craft in a variety of genres, develop critical reading strategies that allow students to interpret, evaluate and appreciate challenging texts
- inspire students, through their writing, to assimilate their critical reading experiences with the world around them and 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 explore the culture(s) connected to the language studied. Studying original language texts covering an extensive range of topics broadens outlooks on other cultures and promotes enjoyment and interest in the literature and cinema of different cultures.

The placement of new students in the appropriate level is determined through an interview and a writing sample, where applicable.

ITALIAN



ITALIAN LANGUAGE 1

ALL GRADES, IB LANGUAGE AB INITIO YEAR 1 (GRADE 11 ONLY)

The goals of Italian 1 are to instruct the absolute beginner in vocabulary, grammar, and idiomatic expressions so that students 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

ALL GRADES, IB LANGUAGE AB INITIO YEAR 2 (GRADE 12 ONLY)

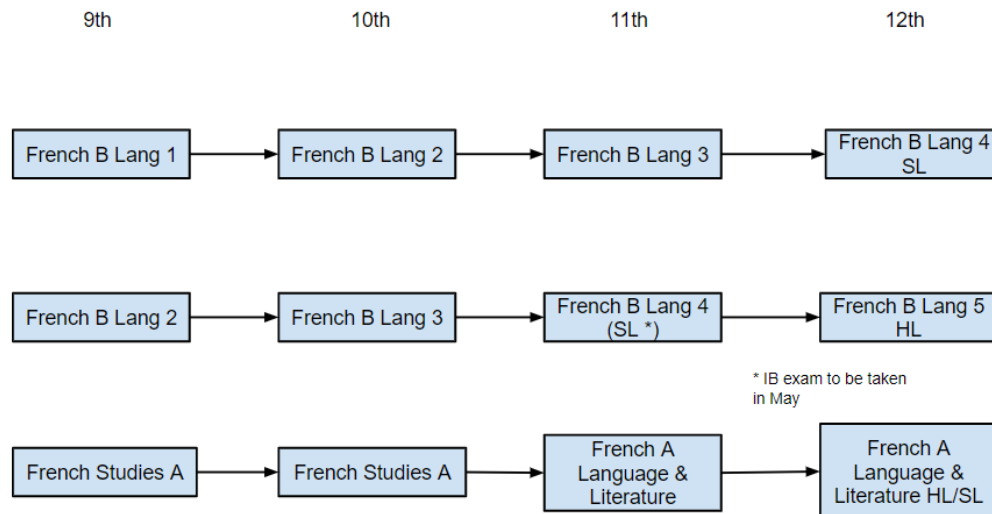
Italian 2 continues the work of Italian 1 by reinforcing the student's knowledge of the language as an expression of Italian civilization. Grammar, vocabulary, and syntax are reviewed, and students begin to prepare for upper-level courses as they gain a wider and deeper sense of Italian culture through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

ITALIAN LITERATURE 1

GRADE 9

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 form the basis for more structured oral presentations. In addition, exposure to newspaper articles, political cartoons, and movies inspires and guides discussions about Italian history and civilization.

FRENCH



FRENCH LANGUAGE 1 ALL GRADES

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.

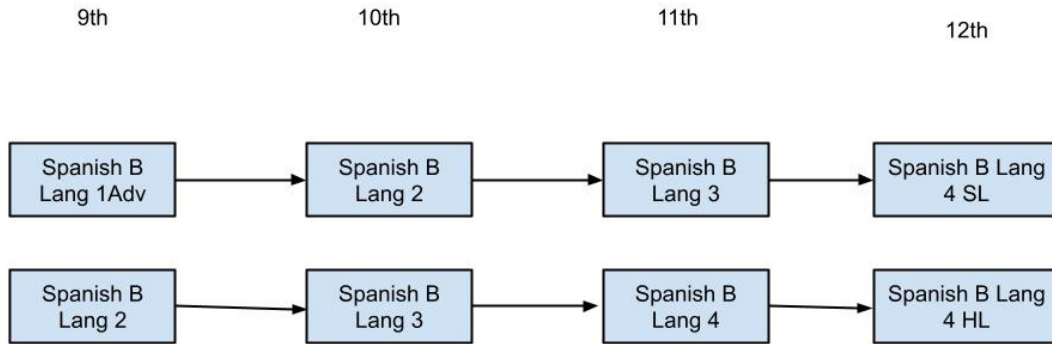
FRENCH LANGUAGE 2 ALL GRADES

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 GRADE 9/10

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 GRADE 9, 10

This course is designed for students of Spanish as a Foreign Language who have some previous knowledge of basic grammar: verbs, moods, and 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 GRADE 9, 10

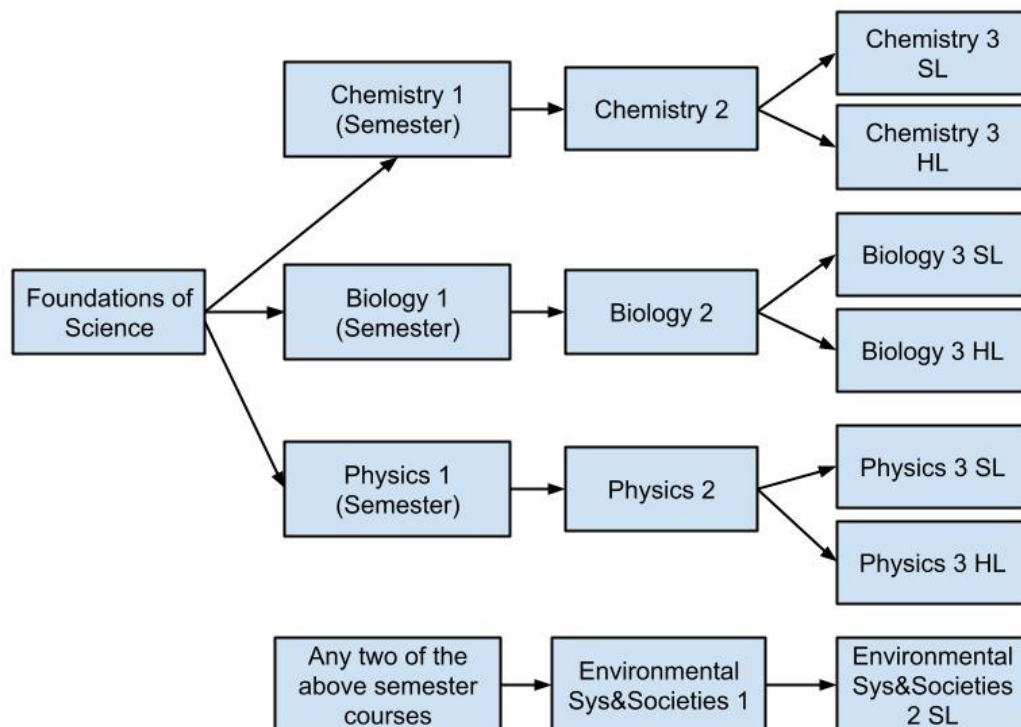
This course is designed for students of Spanish as a Foreign Language who have attended a formal basic grammar program. They should know regular and irregular verbs, all of the moods and tenses, and have a fair command of the spoken language. The students read and summarize articles from advanced intermediate-level 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 analyses.

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 fieldwork.

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

GRADE 9

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. The important contributions of biology, chemistry, physics, and ecology to understanding 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.

TECHNOLOGY

ELECTIVES

ROBOTICS AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

This semester course is an introduction to Computer Science and Programming. Students will have the opportunity 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.

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 is 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).

COMPUTER SCIENCE - PROGRAMMING

This semester course is an introduction to Computer Science and Programming using the language Python. The course is designed for students with no prior exposure to computer science or programming and aims to prepare how to think computationally and write programs to tackle useful problems. It also contains elements of Computational Thinking and Data Science. Students will learn how to analyze various problems and break them down into simple instructions creating algorithms. Students will then convert algorithms into coding language using the main data structures and coding instructions for sequences, selections, iterations, and functions. It is a project-based course that will require students to produce various weekly projects and a final project on graphical interactive animations.

St. Stephen's School
Via Aventina, 3
Rome 00153 Italy
Phone: +39 06 575 0605

Nadia El-Taha
Director of Teaching & Learning
nadia.el-taha@sssrome.it
www.sssrome.it