

Incoming Freshmen Course Booklet

GENERAL INFORMATION

Mission Statement: La Salle High School

The mission of La Salle High School is a Catholic school in the LaSallian tradition, preparing young men to achieve their full potential in body, mind and spirit.

Vision Statement:

Students will be guided to live as disciples of Jesus Christ.

CURRICULUM GUIDE

This curriculum guide has been prepared to assist you in planning your years at La Salle High School. Consideration has been given to individual differences in interest, abilities, and future objectives. The resources of the school and community are available to help you achieve your goals.

Course Selection

Students should confer with their parent(s) regarding the choice of subjects for the next school year. Parental approval is required for final course selection. Final scheduling of course offerings for the current school year will be determined by the student enrollment/optioning process. Insufficient student enrollment in a specific course may result in course cancellation.

Graduation Credit Requirements for Class of 2026

A minimum of 25 credits are required for graduation class of 2026 including the following

Religion	4 Credits
English	4 Credits
Math	4 Credits
Social Studies	3 Credits
Science	3 Credits
Fine Arts	1 Credit
Physical Education	.5 Credit
Health	.5 Credit

Academic Placement and Course Levels

La Salle is a college preparatory high school that is comprehensive in nature. Courses are assigned levels; students are placed by the school's professional staff in these courses according to the following criteria:

- Honors and Advanced Placement (HP & AP): Rigorous courses - some of which are Advanced Placement courses or college credit courses through either an articulation arrangement between La Salle and various universities or post-secondary option opportunities. These courses are designed for students who excel greatly and pursue the highest achievement of academic success.
- Advanced College Prep (ACP): Accelerated courses aimed to prepare students to excel in college.
- College Preparatory (CP): Courses geared to provide students with the skills necessary for collegiate success.

An adjustment in the level of courses being taken by a student may be initiated through the recommendation of his teacher(s) or counselor.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

La Salle uses the following method for determining GPA and Grade Indication:

Unweighted GPA Scale:

90%-100% = 4.00	79% = 2.50
89% = 3.86	78% = 2.38
88% = 3.71	77% = 2.25
87% = 3.57	76% = 2.13
86% = 3.43	75% = 2.00
85% = 3.29	74% = 1.80
84% = 3.14	73% = 1.60
83% = 3.00	72% = 1.40
82% = 2.88	71% = 1.20
81% = 2.75	70% = 1.00
80% = 2.63	≤69% = 0.00

Grade Indication

A = 90 – 100% indicates outstanding work
B = 83 – 89% indicates above average work.
C = 75 – 82% indicates average work
D = 70 – 74% indicates below average and unsatisfactory academic work.
F = <70% is considered a failing grade and indicates that the student does less work than the minimum required in class

Weighted GPA Scale:

For weighted GPA calculations, College Board AP and College Credit Plus courses are based on a 5.0 scale; Honors courses are based on a 4.5 scale; and all other courses with numerical grades are based on the 4.0 scale.

Freshmen Classes

Religion Department

Religion I (Introduction to the Bible) (Grade 9)

Old Testament

This course introduces the student to the roots of our Christian faith as they are found in the Hebrew Scriptures. The Old Testament tells the story of Jesus Christ's people and the religious traditions he loved and practiced. This course reminds the student our adventures with God are mirrored in the story of ancient Israel. This course presents Hebrew Scriptures as inspired revelation and as a source for finding the presence of God.

Prerequisite: None
credit

Semester course – 0.5

New Testament

This course takes an in-depth look at how the books of the New Testament were written, for whom they were written, the message for the people of the time, and how the message is relevant to our lives today. Emphasis will be placed on the fact the New Testament is not a separate book from the Old Testament, but a compliment to and the fulfillment of the Old Testament.

Prerequisite: None
credit

Semester course – 0.5

Health/PE Department

Physical Education I (Grade 9)

This course is a semester class for all freshmen students and offers a variety of physical activities which fulfill the course objective to develop the students' psychological, sociological and physiological growth. Both individual and team concepts are incorporated daily. An emphasis is placed on cooperation and leadership, beyond the individual student and his comfort level. Students will be encouraged to discover expanded levels of physical development, growth and fitness.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 0.5 credit

English Department

Freshmen English

This course is designed around grade-level literary and informational texts to develop the skills in reading, writing, speaking and listening that are the foundation for creative and purposeful expression. Emphasis will be placed on close, attentive and critical reading to tackle complex texts and to evaluate intricate arguments. Writing will be developed as a means of asserting and defending claims, demonstrating what the students know and conveying what they have thought, felt, or experienced. Each grade level addresses the English Language Arts standards by concentrating on literature of a specific thematic orientation or national origin. The course options available under each grade heading are designed to address the needs of students according to ability level. Each English 9 course offering is a survey of various literary genres and time periods.

Honors

Prerequisite: None

Full Year Course - 1 credit

Description: This course is designed for students who are reading and writing above grade level.

ACP

Prerequisite: None

Full Year Course - 1 credit

Description: This course is designed for students who are reading and writing at or above grade level.

CP

Prerequisites: None

Full Year Course - 1 credit

Description: This course is designed for students who are reading and writing at or below grade level.

Mathematics Department

CP Integrated Math / Algebra 1

This is a 2-year course that focuses on increasing student mathematical skill sets and addressing the building blocks of Algebra 1. The major topics of this course are computations involving linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Students will use hands-on materials and calculators in solving problems where Algebra concepts are applied. After completing this course sequence, students should take CP or ACP Geometry, determined by teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Recommendation

2-Year course sequence – 1 credit each year

ACP Algebra 1

This course focuses on the development of Algebra 1 skills and applications. Prior to beginning this course, students are expected to have mastered topics including but not limited to operations on integers, fractions and decimals. Topics of this course include but are not limited to linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Students will be expected to solve problems with and without the use of a calculator. After completing this course, students should take ACP Geometry or CP Geometry, determined by teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Recommendation

Full Year course – 1 credit

Algebra 1(HP)

This is a rigorous course designed for freshmen who have had some exposure to algebra curriculum in the 8th grade. This honors course will focus on deep dive of Algebra 1 skills and applications. Prior to beginning this course, students are expected to have mastered topics including but not limited to operations on integers, fractions and decimals. Topics of this course include but are not limited to linear, quadratic and exponential functions. Students will be expected to solve problems with and without the use of a calculator. After completing this course, students should take HP Geometry, determined by teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Recommendation

Full-year course – 1 credit

Algebra II (HP)

This is a rigorous course designed to prepare students for Honors Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics. Instruction will be fast paced with high expectations. Students will be expected to work independently both in and out of the classroom. Topics include but are not limited to linear functions, quadratic functions, matrices, polynomial functions, radical functions, exponential functions and logarithms, rational functions, sequences and series, probability and statistics, periodic functions, and trigonometry. After completion of this course, students should take either ACP Pre-Calculus or Honors Pre-Calculus and AP Statistics, determined by teacher recommendation.

Prerequisite: Honors Geometry or Recommendation

Full-year course – 1 credit

Business Department

Lasallian Scholars Institute Business Seminar 1 (Grade 9)

This course is designed to challenge high-performing students to build career awareness in four high-growth industries: Information Technology and Information Management, Healthcare, Global Business, and Engineering. Furthermore, students will begin to develop an awareness of the interconnectedness of these industries. Through research, project-based learning, contact with industry professionals, and off-site experiences, students will explore careers in these industries and practice skills necessary to these careers. Students will also build essential soft skills through team leadership, project management, and professional presentations.

Prerequisite:

Semester course – 0.5 credit

· Admission into Lasallian Scholars Institute

Envision Business Seminar 1 (Grade 9)

This course is designed to build career awareness in four high-growth industries: Information Technology and Information Management, Healthcare, Global Business, and Engineering. Through research, project-based learning, contact with industry professionals, and off-site experiences, students will explore careers in these industries and practice skills necessary to these careers. Students will also build essential soft skills through team leadership, project management, and professional presentations.

Prerequisite: Admission into Envision

Semester course – 0.5 credit

Science Department

Biology (Grade 9)

This course will examine life from the micro level of the cell to the macro level organisms and ecosystems. Students will study cells, which are the basic unit of life. Students will continue their understanding of the cell with understanding how DNA controls cellular function and the basic unit of heredity. Using knowledge of heredity, students will explore the modern theory of evolution which provides a natural explanation for the diversity of life on Earth. Students will study ecology, including levels of organization in the ecosystem and predator/prey relationships.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

Honors Biology (Grade 9)

This course will examine life from the micro level of the cell to the macro level organisms and ecosystems. Students will study cells, which are the basic unit of life. Students will gain an understanding of how cells function to maintain themselves and to produce new cells. Students will continue their understanding of the cell with understanding how DNA controls cellular function and the basic unit of heredity. Using knowledge of heredity, students will explore the modern theory of evolution which provides a natural explanation for the diversity of life on Earth. Students will study ecology, including levels of organization in the ecosystem, predator/prey relationships, tropic levels and the effects of physical/chemical constraints on all biological relationships and systems. This is a rigorous course designed to prepare students for advanced science courses.

Prerequisite: Recommendation

Full Year course – 1 credit

Fine Art Department

Intro to Art (Grade 9)

Art 1 is an entry level year-long course designed to introduce students to various art forms, vocabulary and language of art. Students will develop a visual appreciation and the use of hands on media, methods and techniques to create art through studio projects. Students will learn new historical and current styles and theories of art through an interrelated study of artist. This studio course will also involve students participating in art criticism and aesthetics.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

Band (Grades 9-12)

Band is a year-long class open to any student participating in the band program. All students enrolled in the band class should anticipate being a member of both the Marching Band and Wind Ensemble co-curricular activities. The band program travels regularly to competitions, and gives concerts throughout the year. These performances will be based on gaining the skills of advanced music literacy, basic music theory, appropriate sound production, and all of the social and community aspects associated with participating with a musical ensemble. This course includes students in grades 9-12, and should be taken each year a student plans to be a part of the band program.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

Men's Choir I (Grades 9-12)

Men's Choir is an entry level, year-long performance based class, open to all students with little or no experience singing in a choir. Students are introduced to sight-reading, pitch memory, basic music notation, proper tone quality, breath management, vocal placement and interval recognition in all Men's Choir classes. Students are expected to participate in school assemblies and various concerts throughout the year. Any student enrolled in this class has the option to audition for Vocal Ensemble. This course is open to all students in grades 9-12 and may be taken all four years.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

Foreign Language Department/Guided Resource

German I (Grade 9)

This is an introductory course designed to equip the student with a working knowledge of the German language and the ability to communicate in familiar situations. The aim of the course is for students to be capable of the following: understand sentences and frequently used expressions; communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring exchange of information; and describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment, and matters of immediate need. At the beginning level, students will demonstrate an ability to actively communicate in a variety of situations, using the language effectively to express themselves. Prerequisites: none.

HP Spanish 1 (Grades 9-12)

This is a rigorous introductory course designed to equip the student with a working knowledge of the Spanish language and the ability to communicate in familiar situations. The aim of the course is for students to understand sentences and frequently used expressions, communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring exchange of information, and describe in simple terms aspects of their background and immediate environment. At the Honors level, students will demonstrate an ability to think in Spanish through expressing themselves in the language, elaborating their responses, and interacting in impromptu situations.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

ACP Spanish 1 (Grades 9-12)

This is an introductory course designed to equip the student with a working knowledge of the Spanish language and the ability to communicate in familiar situations. The aim of the course is for students to understand sentences and frequently used expressions, communicate in simple and routine tasks requiring exchange of information, and describe in simple terms aspects of their background, immediate environment, and matters of immediate need. At the ACP level, students will demonstrate an ability to actively communicate in a variety of situations, using the language effectively to express themselves.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

CP Spanish 1 (Grades 9-11)

This is an introductory course designed to equip the student with a working knowledge of the Spanish language and the ability to communicate in familiar situations. The aim of the course is for students to understand and use familiar expressions and basic phrases, answer questions about familiar topics, and interact in a simple way with some support. At the CP level, students will apply vocabulary and grammar concepts to understand print and audio selections as well as to construct their own personal expression. In addition, this course will have a cultural focus, with emphasis placed on customs, history, current events, and geography of Spanish-speaking countries. Students must note that CP Spanish 1 and 2 do not fulfill the prerequisites to advance to HP Spanish 3 and AP Spanish study.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 1 credit

Guided Resource (Grade 9)

Guided Resources is a class for students who are deferring foreign Language until later in their career and is designed to assist students with some guided study and reading skills to reinforce the needed foundations to be successful in all classes. During this class interventions will occur assisting students with the needed organizational skills, reading skills, writing skills, mathematic computation skills as well socialization skills.

Prerequisite: None

Full Year course – 0.5 credit