

## Mother of God Scholars, 2022-2023

Our day will begin with 9:00 Daily Mass at St. John Neumann.

### Mondays – High School

10:00-10:50	10:50-11:50	11:50-12:35	12:35-1:35	1:40-3:10	3:15-4:30
Precalculus	Math 12	lunch	Algebra 2	Chemistry	Choir
H.S. Writing <i>10:00-11:00</i>			Catholic Doctrine	Faith & Morality <i>1:40-2:40</i>	
			Elementary Writing	Middle School Writing <i>1:40-2:40</i>	

### Thursdays – High School

10:00-11:00	11:00-12:00	12:00-12:55	1:00-2:00	2:15-3:45
		lunch	British Literature	Public Speaking (twice per month)
Precalculus	Math 12		Algebra 2	

**Cost.** High school religion, writing, and literature classes are \$400 per year. Public Speaking is \$200. Chemistry is \$475. Elementary Writing and Middle School Writing classes are \$435. This includes grading papers and tests.

Math classes are \$250 per year, with parents responsible for grading homework and tests.

Additional option: Precalculus and Algebra 2 are available *with test grading* for \$375. Note that math classes meet twice per week.

Choir is \$250 per year plus materials fee.

Registration fee is \$25 per family; this fee is waived for families who register by June 1.

**Study hall** is available for one period per student when needed. Requests for more than one study hall period will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Parent volunteers will be needed to staff the study hall and lunch period. Open to 9th - 12th graders.

**Class meeting dates.** Mondays: August 29, Sept. 12, 19, 26, Oct. 3, 10, 17, 24, 31, Nov. 7, 14, 28, Dec. 5, 12, Jan. 9, 23, 30, Feb. 6, 13, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27, April 3, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15, May 22 make-up date

Thursdays: Sept. 8, 15, 22, 29, Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27, Nov. 3, 10, 17, Dec. 1, 8, 15, Jan. 12, 19, 26, Feb. 2, 9, 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, April 20, 27, May 4, 11, May 18 make-up date

No class: Sept. 5, Nov. 21 - 24, Dec. 19 - Jan. 5, Jan. 16, Feb. 20, April 6 - April 13

**Timely work.** Students are expected to submit work on time. Late assignments will affect student grades, at each instructor's discretion.

## Course Descriptions

**Algebra II**, using Saxon Algebra II text

*Instructor: Bob Stack*

Mondays, 12:35-1:35 and Thursdays, 1:00-2:00

Students will cover geometric functions such as angles, perimeters, and proportional segments; negative exponents; quadratic equations; metric conversions; logarithms; and advanced factoring. At home they will complete exercises, and their parents will correct their work and keep records of grades. Then students will bring their questions back to Mr. Stack. *Optional: test grading by Mrs. Melissa Dimarzio available.* Open to 9th - 12th graders who have taken Algebra 1. Maximum class size: 15.

### British Literature

*Instructor: Kirsten Marchand, MA*

Thursdays, 1:00-2:00

Students will study British literature from the early Anglo-Saxons to modern British crime literature through careful reading of classic works of fiction and nonfiction, including epics, legends, poetry, plays, histories, and novels, all examined through a Catholic lens. Though not a history course, the literary study will include social and historical applications. Frequent quizzes will cover literary terms, elements of poetry, and vocabulary from the readings. Students will improve their writing and literary analysis skills through instruction in poetry as well as the regular use of a response journal for each reading and several short essays. Active participation in the class discussions is mandatory and will account for a percentage of the final grade. We will read approximately one full-length novel per month in addition to shorter weekly readings. Students are expected to have their own copies of the full-length novels in class, but the instructor will provide copies or links to the poems and other selections. The anticipated novel list includes the following: Beowulf, King Lear, Tale of Two Cities, Pride and Prejudice, The Importance of Being Earnest, The Invisible Man (by H.G. Wells), Animal Farm, That Hideous Strength (by C.S. Lewis), and Whose Body? (by Dorothy Sayers).

The class is designed for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students, though younger students who have the maturity to grapple with difficult and occasionally adult themes are welcome.

Maximum class size: 15.

### Catholic Doctrine

*Instructor: Barbara Corbalis*

Mondays, 12:35-1:35

We will use Following Christ in the World by Anne Carroll. This is an excellent text and contains great topics for discussion. It examines the role of philosophy in theology, considers the

immortality of the soul, the divinity of Christ, social justice, abortion, contraception, euthanasia, grace, sin, suffering, and many other important topics. In addition, we use [Surprised by Truth](#) which provides some additional guidance in apologetics. We also include essay and paper topics. The Mother of Divine Grace [Catholic Doctrine Syllabus](#) has a day-by-day breakdown of this course along with paper topics, questions for discussion, tests, answer keys to the tests, and a variety of teaching resources. Open to 11th-12th grade. Minimum class size 5, maximum 15.

## **Chemistry**

*Instructors: Kirsten Marcolin, MS, assisted by Ann Welch, PhD*

Mondays, 1:40-3:10

Using the text, [General Chemistry, by John D. Mays, 2nd Edition](#), recommended by Mother of Divine Grace, this one credit course teaches according to principles of mastery and prepares the diligent student for college level chemistry, within a Catholic and scientific perspective. This comprehensive and engaging course includes topics of atomic structure and nomenclature, the periodic table, chemical bonds, molecular theory, chemical equations, stoichiometry, kinetics, gas laws, solutions, acids and bases, oxidation and reduction, and more.

Aimed at multiple learning styles, this class is for students with the maturity and study skills to work independently on high school level work on non-class days (approximately 5 hours a week). To maximize learning, tests will be taken at home and problem sets will be corrected by the student using solution guides. Class time will be used to work through the most difficult concepts and problems. Labs will be chosen carefully for efficient use of time while covering skills such as safe and proper use of lab equipment.

*Note: Though schools have traditionally offered biology before chemistry, the biochemical and cellular emphasis in today's biology courses (and standardized tests) makes taking chemistry before biology valuable and perhaps preferable.*

*Math requirements: a solid understanding of unit conversions and significant digits.*

Lab fee to be announced but not to exceed \$50. Open to 9th - 12th graders. Minimum class size 6, maximum 12.

## **Choir**

*Instructor: Celeste Pappas, MLM*

Mondays, 3:15-4:30

The Mother of God Schola will focus on learning classics from the great treasury of sacred music, from chant to modern compositions, in both Latin and English. While sacred music will be our focus, we may also include a secular choral piece from time to time. In the first semester, we will have a special emphasis on Christmas carols from around the world, sung in the original languages as much as possible. We will perform two concerts, an Epiphany concert in January, and one at the end of the school year. The schola will be available to sing at any homeschool Masses such as the Blessed Mother's birthday celebration in September and the TORCH graduation. There may be other opportunities to sing outside the homeschool community as Covid restrictions are lifted. We will not spend time learning to read music, as a basic

understanding of musical notation will be assumed to be known by most. We will, however, learn to read chant notation using Gregorian Chant for Church and School by Sister Mary Antonine Goodchild, O.P. Auditions will take place in July on a mutually agreed date and time to determine where the student is vocally. Materials and performance fee \$55 for new students and \$42 for returning students. Open to students in 7th-12th grade.

### **Faith and Morality**

*Instructor: Barbara Corbalis*

Mondays, 1:40-2:40

We will use Chief Truths of the Faith and Catholic Morality by Fr. John Laux. Chief Truths of the Faith covers the teachings of the Church, focusing on topics such as creation, original sin, Christ, faith, grace, eternal life, etc. Catholic Morality explains the basic elements of Catholic moral teaching focusing on topics such as sin, virtue, conscience, duties to God, duties to neighbor, etc. We also include essay and paper topics to give the student practice with writing in a variety of styles. The Mother of Divine Grace Faith & Morality Syllabus has a day-by-day breakdown of this course along with paper topics, quizzes, answer keys to the quizzes, and a variety of teaching resources. Recommended 9th-10th grade. Minimum class size 5, maximum 15.

### **Math 12**

*Instructor: Bob Stack*

Mondays, 10:50-11:50 and Thursdays, 11:00-12:00

Mr. Stack is offering an innovative course: the first one third of the year will be SAT math prep, the second third an introduction to calculus, and the final third an introduction to statistics. This course reflects Mr. Stack's 50+ years of teaching math, and what he perceives as most helpful to seniors in high school. Open to students who have taken precalculus. Maximum class size: 15.

### **Precalculus**, using Saxon Advanced Math text

*Instructor: Bob Stack*

Mondays, 10:00-10:50 and Thursdays, 10:00-11:00

Students will cover trigonometry, logarithms, analytic geometry, and upper-level algebraic concepts. They will continue intermediate algebra and trigonometry concepts first introduced in Algebra 2. New lessons on functions, matrices, statistics, and the graphing calculator are also included. At home they will complete exercises, and their parents will correct their work and keep records of grades. Then students will bring their questions back to Mr. Stack. *Optional: test grading by Mrs. Melissa Dimarzio available.* Open to 9th - 12th graders who have taken Algebra II. Maximum class size: 15.

### **Public Speaking**

*Instructor: Kirsten Marchand*

2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month, 2:15-3:45

Even if you don't plan to become a politician or a motivational speaker, you will inevitably use public speaking skills over and over in your life. In this class, you will prepare and present informative and persuasive speeches, practice interview skills, enhance listening skills, evaluate external speakers, and become a more critical consumer of information, all while learning strategies to overcome the anxiety that often comes with speaking in front of others. This course is open to 9th – 12th grade students. The maximum class size is 15 students for the course as well as a minimum of 5 students to ensure a good audience. Class meets twice per month (on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays when American Heritage Girls and God & Gatorade do not meet). Recommended one- half credit.

### **Writing 1– IEW Level C**

*Instructor: Ann Salancy*

Mondays, 10:00-11:00

Student Writing Intensive Level C: This class will introduce the basics of writing using the Structure and Style of IEW. Nine units will be covered including research-based and creative writing. The curriculum provides clear daily assignments and includes vocabulary words, plus literature with on-the-spot grammar. Each lesson provides a step-by-step process for writing high level papers using a format which allows the student to progress at his/her pace. Literature will be included throughout the semesters.

Open to 9th - 12th graders. Minimum class size 6, maximum 12.

### **Writing – Elementary IEW Class (Level A, typically 3rd to 5th graders)**

*Instructor: Michael Jacobeen*

Mondays, 12:35 - 1:35

Students will learn to write with structure and style, learning Units 1-7 of the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) curriculum. They will learn how to take notes, make key word outlines, retell narrative stories, summarize references, structure paragraphs, and more. Additionally, students will learn various stylistic techniques and sentence openers which will help them to improve the complexity and quality of their sentences. We will use the IEW Theme-based writing book: "All Things Fun and Fascinating." Curriculum includes vocabulary cards and access to helpful downloadable resources. Students must be able to read and be able to write basic sentences before beginning the class. Minimum class size 8, maximum 12.

### **Writing – Middle School IEW class (Level B, typically 6th to 8th graders)**

*Instructor: Michael Jacobeen*

Mondays, 1:40 - 2:40

Students will develop their writing abilities by learning IEW structure and style. They will learn how to make good outlines, write from their outlines, retell narrative stories, summarize references, find facts and details for writing reports, construct introductory and concluding paragraphs, and more. Additionally, they will learn a number of different stylistic techniques and

sentence openers which will help them to vary their sentence structure, making their writing more interesting and captivating to read. We will use the IEW theme-based writing book: "Ancient History- Based Writing Lessons." The curriculum includes vocabulary cards which will be used as extra credit in the class. Minimum class size 8, maximum 12.

## Teacher Biographies

**Barbara Corbalis** has taught many high school courses, both to her own six homeschooled children and to several other groups of teens. She comes highly recommended by TORCH parents whose older children have already taken her classes. Mrs. Corbalis has been homeschooling for 30 years. She and her husband, Leo, have raised six children, four of whom have graduated from college. She has been a Mother of Divine Grace School consultant since 2005, and a teacher for their Learning Support and Teacher Assisted programs since 2007.

**Michael Jacobeen** works as the Director of Faith Formation at St. John the Beloved parish in McLean, VA. He has been married since 2019 and he and his wife welcomed their first daughter in March, 2021. Growing up in Northern Virginia, he was homeschooled all the way through high school before receiving his bachelor's in philosophy from Catholic University and a masters degree in Theology from the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and Family. He has extensive experience with youth, having been involved in Catholic youth ministry since the early 2000s. As part of this work, he accumulated over seven years of classroom teaching experience in religious education classes. Additionally, he has offered private and small group tutoring since 2012, and has been specifically teaching the IEW Structure and Style as an accredited instructor for over seven years, primarily to late elementary and middle school students.

**Kirsten Marchand** earned a Master of Arts in Literature with a Certificate in Composition from the University of Akron. She taught undergraduate composition, then accepted a position teaching reading development skills to all ages, from early readers through adults, where she met her first homeschoolers. Inspired by those families, Kirsten and her husband decided any children they had would be homeschooled, and now after 13 years, their eldest has graduated. She still homeschools their other three children, and along the way she has taught religious education classes, Great Words sessions for a Classically Catholic Memory co-op, and other co-op classes. But mostly, she just loves to read and talk about books, and she is really looking forward to introducing some of her favorites to the Scholars!

**Kirsten Marcolin** earned a BS in Biology at Loyola University, Baltimore and an MS in Physical Therapy, Duke University. She worked in acute inpatient rehab with a focus on neurological patients and then “retired” to raise and homeschool eight children. She is especially passionate about the subject of chemistry, which she has taught in coops and homeschool classes at MOG. Formal teaching experience also includes first grade faith formation at St. Jude’s and swimming lessons to all ages at her community pool.

**Celeste Pappas** has always loved to sing and is excited to share that love again with homeschoolers for MOG Schola's second year. She received a Master of Liturgical Music from the Catholic University of America and is currently choir director, cantor, and organist at St. Peter's in Olney. As a homeschooling mom for the past 20 years, she has taught several co-op

classes including music, and has been involved with the music at many TORCH graduation Masses. She is a member of the Church Music Association of America and the American Guild of Organists.

**Ann Salancy** earned her BFA degree from the University of Georgia beginning study in Journalism and completing her degree in Theater. For almost twenty-five years she has home-educated her family of four children. Finally her caboose child is winding up his home career as a student. Yet, joyfully, she has instructed over 100 students from grades one to twelve from various parts of the country since 2009 using the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) method as a certified instructor.

**Bob Stack** has taught high school math for 50 years, 24 of them at nearby Good Counsel High School, where he enjoyed getting to know his students, especially when they met him before school to attend Mass together. Over these years he has tried numerous textbooks, and come to endorse the excellent way Saxon Math explains concepts, although its dry tone requires Mr. Stack to liven up his lessons with many entertaining games, especially using his homemade Jeopardy board! Now retired, he has decided to continue doing the best part of his job, which is teaching new math concepts and helping students with their questions, rather than grading homework and tests, or keeping records of their grades. He has graciously volunteered to do just that for our Catholic homeschoolers. Since the parents of his students will have to do the correcting, the grading and the record-keeping, they will enjoy a significant price reduction for his courses.