

Valley Catholic High School Graduation Requirements

To graduate from Valley Catholic High School, students must earn a minimum of 24 credits, though most earn more. These 24 credits must include the following:

4 credits of English: All freshmen take English 9, and all sophomores take English 10. Juniors choose between English 11 and AP English Language and Composition. Seniors choose between English 12 and AP English Literature and Composition.

4 credits of Religion: Freshmen take Introduction to Religious Studies. Sophomores take Salvation History. Juniors take World Religions and Catholic Social Teaching. Seniors take Relationships and Advanced Theology and Ethics.

3.5 credits of Social Science: Freshmen take Global Studies. Sophomores take Government and Modern History. Juniors take United States History. Juniors and seniors may choose from a variety of semester-long electives.

3 credits of Mathematics: The Math department offers courses that range from Algebra I to Calculus II. A placement exam will be given for freshmen wishing to enter above Algebra I. Students receiving a grade lower than C- for the second semester of Algebra I must recover the credit to enter Algebra II (junior year). Students receiving a grade lower than a C- for the second semester of Algebra II must recover the credit to enter Pre-Calculus.

3 credits of Science: All freshmen take Biology. Sophomores choose between regular and honors Chemistry. Juniors choose between Physics and AP Physics I and may opt to also take AP Chemistry or AP Biology. Seniors may elect to take a fourth year of science, including semester-long electives and year-long AP courses.

2 credits of the same World Language: Spanish and French are offered. Students who have completed a first-year World Language course in 8th grade must pass a challenge exam to be placed in an upper-level World Language. Students receiving a grade lower than a C- in a World Language will be required to repeat the course to enter the subsequent level.

1 credit of Physical Education: All students must earn .5 credit by taking either PE I or PE II. Students who compete in two seasons of the same Valley Catholic-sponsored sport, or an OSAA-sanctioned sport not offered at Valley Catholic, earn .5 PE credit. This requirement should be fulfilled before senior year.

1 credit of Health: Students are required to take both Health I and Health II. This requirement should be fulfilled before senior year.

1 credit of Fine Arts: Fine Arts courses include all art, drama, and music courses. Choir, Band, and Orchestra are offered during our sheltered “zero” period.

1 credit of Electives: Students may earn elective credit through a selection of ‘pure elective’ courses and through courses taken beyond any subject’s minimum credit requirement.

.5 credit of Computer Science: Semester-long courses include Yearbook, Graphic Design, and Intro to Computer Programming. Year-long courses include AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A.