

2011 - 2012  
Curriculum



**ST. BRENDAN**  

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**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

Guide

**Curriculum Program Guide**  
**Revisions for the 2011 - 2012 School Year**

*Teachers will use the weighted average for placement*

English Department.....Page 17

--New offering: *AP English Language – Alpha*

Foreign Languages Department ..... Page 24

--New offering: *Italian II and Italian II - Honors*

Mathematics Department ..... Page 25

--Courses and Pre-requisites for courses have changed; review carefully

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**ST. BRENDAN**  

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**CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL**

**Building a better world, one student at a time.**

## Principal's Message

Dear Students:

This guide is serves as a practical resource for you and your parents in making responsible and realistic selections of courses for the coming school year. Course selections should be a combined effort by you, your parents, your guidance counselor, and your teachers.

Your classes for next year should be chosen in light of your needs, ability, interests, preferences and plans for the future. Teachers have the distinct advantage of knowing your academic ability and can describe the nature and difficulty of courses in their department. Their evaluation and opinion is taken into consideration. Your guidance counselor can evaluate your grades and your scores on the standardized tests you have taken. Your counselor can also suggest courses you need for college acceptance or to prepare you for a career after high school.

You will notice that some courses have certain requirements. These are determined after analyzing years of student performance, proving that unless a student possesses the prerequisites, he/she is likely to fail. Therefore, pre-requisites are set to assure that you can pass this course, if you have taken the previous course work.

If you are planning to continue your education after graduation, research the requirements of the college you hope to attend. Requirements set by universities play an important role in the selection of high school courses.

Do not make a quick or rash decision - but *do* remember deadlines. The choice you make now **must** be honored during the next school year. The scheduling process begins in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter, so that the school can best utilize resources and personnel. Many hours will be spent during the next few months designing and finalizing the master schedule to best meet student needs. Therefore, the courses you select now are the ones you will be enrolled in and are expected to keep next school year.

I continue to challenge you to grow and make this world a better place. God bless you.

Sincerely,

*Bro. Felix Elardo*

Brother Felix Elardo, FMS  
Principal



## *Vision Statement*

To challenge students toward self-realization and to nurture life-long learners, who will contribute to a culturally diverse society with a commitment to the Catholic Christian vision.

## *Mission Statement*

Our mission is to:

- ❖ Instill the guiding principle of devotion to faith in a Catholic atmosphere.
- ❖ Cultivate the spiritual, intellectual, social, and physical development of each student.
- ❖ Provide a challenging, multi-faceted, and comprehensive education that allows students to achieve success.
- ❖ Design an academic curriculum that addresses individual needs.
- ❖ Offer a wide array of extra-curricular activities and opportunities that recognize the uniqueness of each student.
- ❖ Provide a safe and structured environment for learning.
- ❖ Establish positive relationships and mutual respect amongst and between students and staff.
- ❖ Teachers, administrators, parents, and the community share the responsibility of advancing the school's vision.

## *Levels of Curriculum Offerings*

Guided by our mission, Saint Brendan has designed various level courses to meet the needs of the individual student at his/her academic ability and interest. Courses are offered in four levels for most subjects. The following is as a guide to understanding the different levels.

### **Champagnat Program**



Designed for students who have specific learning disabilities or attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder. The program consists of both an inclusive model with support, as well as self-contained classrooms for those in need of greater academic assistance. Instruction in self-contained classrooms is provided by certified special education faculty. Acceptance to the program based on prior academic progress, letters of recommendation, psychological evaluation and diagnosis, and an interview process. All students enrolled in the program must fulfill the 24 –credit graduation requirement required by the State of Florida.

### **Alpha Program**



The Alpha Program is an accelerated academic program designed to enable high-achieving students attain excellence in academics. Students are invited to participate in the program based on standardized test scores, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade report cards and recommendation from the elementary school principal. The program offers St. Brendan's most challenging curriculum, as well as summer programs and enrichment activities.

- Standard College Prep (Phase 1)** Designed for students who need to improve skills in a specific subject area. Major emphasis and direction is on fundamental concepts necessary for college.
- College Prep (Phase 2)** Prepares the average college preparatory student who can assume the responsibility of working independently to some degree.
- Advanced College Prep (Phase 3)** Designed for the advanced student who is capable of learning much beyond the ordinary content of a course and who assumes the responsibility of working independently.
- Advanced Placement (Phase 4)** The curriculum is determined by the College Board and courses are intended for students who take the AP exams in May. The AP exam is mandatory for those who enroll in such a class.



## ***Student Placement***

Student placement in appropriate course levels is an important part of the school's academic program to ensure that the student's courses meet his/her educational and career needs. Counselors, teachers, department chairpersons, the assistant principal for curriculum, and the principal assist in making these decisions.

Freshmen are placed in the appropriate course of studies as a result of their scores on the STS Entrance Exam, placement tests, grades earned in elementary / middle school, standardized test results from middle school, and input from department chairpersons. Transfer students' placement is based on grades and standardized test scores from their previous school, as well as a placement test whenever possible.

Sophomores, juniors, and seniors are placed in courses of personal interests and goals, educational proficiency in the subject area, and teacher recommendations. High school-level courses, designated by Florida Dept. of Education numbers on the transcript and successfully completed by 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students with grades of *B* or above may be included for college admission purposes, but are *not* included in the analysis of credit for graduation nor the calculation of GPA. Students are placed in the next course in the sequence, and must pass the first quarter of the course with a *B* or better. If not, the student's schedule is adjusted to repeat the previous course.

Placement in a particular level of a course in a given year does not limit a student's ability to change course levels the following year, provided the prerequisites are met.

## ***Course Load***

Educational planning is a must for all students. A planned program of course selection will help clarify a student's personal goals, as well as provide the basic, necessary, skills to continue his education. School life and a great deal of the future depend on how well a student plans a course of studies. Therefore, take time to consider career interests when deciding which courses to choose. Decisions regarding course choices should be made on the basis of the student's academic record, extra-curricular involvement, and plans for the future. Careful consideration must be given to the school's graduation requirements, scholarship opportunities, universities' admission policies, dual enrollment, and Advanced Placement (AP) credit opportunities. Decisions to enroll in courses should only be made after consultation with parents, teachers and the grade-level counselor.

## ***General Scheduling Information***

***When building the master schedule, every effort is made to program class sections so that students will be enrolled in the electives they request as first choice. However, that is not always possible for reasons listed below.***

1. Selection of courses is a serious process; therefore, the student should discuss alternatives with parents, teachers and the grade-level guidance counselor.
2. Students may not always be enrolled in the courses that they request because of one or more of the following reasons:
  - a. students do not satisfy course prerequisites
  - b. the course section(s) is(are) filled to capacity
  - c. scheduling conflicts (two courses selected are slated for the same period)
  - d. there are too few requests for the class and the class is not offered
3. Choices of **alternative course should be given the same consideration as that given for first choices.**
4. Juniors with an unweighted GPA greater than 2.0 and 75 service hours are allowed to enroll in 6 credits and leave school early. However, they may also choose to take a 7<sup>th</sup> period to improve their grade point average or enroll in another academic class.
5. Juniors with an unweighted GPA of **less than 2.0** will be scheduled for 7 credits.



## ***St. Brendan High School Graduation Requirements***

1. A minimum of 27 credits.
2. A cumulative un-weighted grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale.
3. 100 community service hours. At least 25 hours of community service at each grade level.
4. There are no outstanding financial debts.
5. Additionally, students must earn credits in the specific areas set forth below (continued on the next page).

English	4 credits	Personal fitness	0.5 credit (Class of 2011)
Mathematics (Alg I & higher)	4 credits	Life Management Skills	0.5 credit
Science	3 credits	Performing Fine Arts*	0.5 credit
Social Sciences	3.5 credits	Practical Arts (Com App I)***	0.5 credit
Religion	4 credits	Computer Sci (Comp App II)	0.5 credit
Foreign Language (same lang.)	2 credits	Elective courses	5.0 credits

\*Performing Fine Arts (PF) - This requirement is satisfied by any one of the following: Art 2/D, Art 3/D, Ceramics/Pottery I, Vocal Ensemble, Computer Graphic Design, Dance Technique I, Fabrics/Fibers I, Film I, History of Fashion, Speech I, Television Production I, Acting I, II, or III, Vocal Performance I, II, or II, and Introduction to Music.

\*\*\*Practical Arts/Exploratory Vocational Education (VO): This requirement is satisfied by Computer Applications I required freshmen year.

Saint Brendan High School will withhold diplomas and final transcripts if all requirements for graduation are **not** met, including the requirement for community service.

### ***College-Bound Students***

Students should begin planning for college during their freshman year by investigating individual university requirements. Such a student should follow a rigorous academic program during all four years of high school to enable making a successful transition into college life. College admission officers evaluate the following: difficulty of subjects taken, class rank, SAT or ACT scores, letters of recommendation, and involvement in extra-curricular activities. The Guidance Office has books and computer access to information about colleges, their admission requirements, tuition costs, and other information. Students are invited to use the resources available and do their own independent research on the Web, and begin discussing college plans early in their high school career.

The State University System (SUS) requires a minimum of 16 credits for admission. Therefore, your elective choices are crucial. Choose elective courses identified with *SUS* next to their name in this guide. Such courses enhance the probability of admission to state universities. Refer to *Admissions Policies for the State Universities of Florida* below, before selecting courses.

#### ***Admissions Policies for the State Universities of Florida Minimum Admissions Policies***

The State of Florida Board of Regents has established minimum state-level admissions policies for first-time college students and for students transferring without having AA degrees from Florida public community colleges. The policies include a list of required high school academic courses considered to be the best preparation for entry to college, **identified in the program guide as SUS**. These requirements are minimum state standards when applying to any of the state universities.

**Since each state university may have more stringent admissions standards**, students should exceed the following minimum requirements to enhance the probability of admission

1. Graduation from an accredited secondary school or successful completion of the GED;
2. Completion of 16 academic units in a college preparatory curriculum;

English	4 units (3 units must include substantial writing components)
Math	4 units (Algebra I or higher)
Natural Sciences	3 units (2 units must include a laboratory component)
Social Sciences	3 units
Foreign Language	2 units (same language)
Academic Electives	4 units (SUS approved courses may be used as additional academic credits)
3. Submission of official SAT or ACT scores



## *College Credit Programs*

Students have the opportunity to earn college credit while enrolled in high school courses. Credit is granted either through a Dual Enrollment program (DE), or through the Advanced Placement Program (AP). However, there are some significant differences between the two programs.

### **Dual Enrollment Program**

The Dual Enrollment Program allows students to earn college credits in specific courses granted by St. Thomas University. Students can earn 3 or 4 college credits per semester. Credit is recognized within Florida by most colleges and universities, but may or may not be accepted outside of Florida. Each college or university has established policies regarding acceptance of dual enrollment credits. A student must receive a final grade of “C” or better to transfer the credit. Dual enrollment courses are open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above who register in any of the following courses:

**Business:** Computer Applications II, Computer Programming Basic I, Web Design

**English:** AP English Literature, English IV-Honors.

**Math:** Pre-Calculus, Pre-Calculus Honors, Calculus I, Calculus I- Honors, AP Calculus, Calculus II – Honors, Statistics, Statistics Honors, and AP Statistics

**Foreign Languages:** AP Spanish Language, AP Spanish Literature, Spanish Speakers V – Honors.

**Science:** Anatomy and Physiology Honors, AP Biology

**Social Sciences:** AP US History, US History-Honors, and Introduction to Criminal Justice

### **Advanced Placement**

The College Board sponsors and designs the curriculum for Advanced Placement (AP) courses. AP exams are administered in May. Students enrolled in an AP course **must** sit for the AP exam. Results are nationally recognized, and an exam score of 3 or above is required for most colleges to grant credit. Saint Brendan offers AP courses in the following areas: biology, physics, calculus, AB Calculus, statistics, English Literature, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature, US History, psychology, economics, government, World Human Geography, and World History.



## *College Scholarships*

Florida's Bright Futures Scholarship Program consolidates current State scholarships and is funded by the state lottery. The program consists of three different scholarship awards, two to which we submit student grades for eligibility: The Florida Academic Scholars and Florida Merit Scholars scholarships.

To be eligible for an initial award for any of The Florida Bright Futures scholarships, a student must:

1. Apply by completing the Florida Financial Aid Application during the last year of high school;
2. Be a Florida resident;
3. Earn a Florida standard high school diploma or its equivalent;
4. Be accepted by or enrolled in a Florida public or independent postsecondary education institution;
5. Be enrolled for at least six semester credits or the equivalent;
6. Not have been found guilty of or pled no contest to, a felony charge; and
7. Begin using the award within 3 years of high school graduation.



**CAVEAT:** Since the State of Florida's funding appropriations and scholarship academic requirements change each year, make sure you are aware of a particular program's current requirements. **Do not rely solely on the following information.** Go online to the Bright Futures website at: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/) For financial aid information, go to [OSFA@fldoe.org](mailto:OSFA@fldoe.org) (1-888-827-2004).

There are numerous scholarships, besides the Bright Futures Program, that parents and students should investigate as early as the first year of high school. Students who plan to attend out-of-state post-secondary schools especially need to review the entrance and financial aid / scholarship possibilities.



*Current Eligibility Requirements for Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Programs*

The Florida Legislature is authorized to change eligibility and funding requirements.	Florida Academic Scholars Award (FAS)	Florida Medallion Scholars Award (FMS)	Florida Gold Seal Vocational Scholars (GSV)
<p><b>Award Amount</b></p> <p>A student may receive funding for only one award (FAS, FMS, or GSV.) The highest award earned by the student will be selected.</p>	<p><b>Public and Private Institutions</b></p> <p>All students will receive the specified award amounts established by the Florida Legislature in the General Appropriations Act. Award Amounts for the 2010-11 academic year will be available in summer 2010 after the legislative session.</p> <p>For current year award amounts visit: <a href="http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm">www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org/SSFAD/bf/awardamt.htm</a></p>		
<p><b>Grade Point Average (GPA)</b></p>	<p>3.5 weighted GPA using the credits listed below combined with the test scores and community service hours listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded)</p>	<p>3.0 weighted GPA using the credits listed below combined with the test scores listed below.</p> <p>(Note: GPAs are not rounded)</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>Required Credits</b></p> <p>See the Comprehensive Course Table on the Bright Futures Web site to identify courses that count toward each award level.</p>	<p>Courses must include 15 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>3 Social Science</li> <li>2 Foreign Language (in the same language)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>16* Credits</p>	<p>Courses must include 15 credits of college preparatory academic courses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4 English (3 with substantial writing)</li> <li>4 Mathematics (Algebra I level and above)</li> <li>3 Natural Science (2 with substantial lab)</li> <li>3 Social Science</li> <li>2 Foreign Language (in the same language)</li> </ul> <hr/> <p>16* Credits</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>Community Service</b></p>	<p>75 hours, as approved by the district or private school.</p>	<p>No requirement</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>
<p><b>Test Scores</b></p> <p>Sections of the SAT or ACT from different test dates may be used to meet the test criteria.</p> <p>For spring eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of January will be admissible.</p> <p>For summer eligibility evaluations, test dates through the end of June will be admissible.</p>	<p>Best composite score of 1270 SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) Or 28 ACT (excluding the writing section)</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>Best composite score of 980 SAT Reasoning Test (based on the combined Critical Reading and Math sections only) Or 21 ACT (excluding the writing section)</p> <p>NOTE: The writing sections for both the SAT and ACT will not be used in the composite.</p> <p>SAT Subject Tests are not used for Bright Futures eligibility.</p> <p>(ACT scores are rounded up for scores with .5 and higher; SAT scores do not require rounding.)</p>	<p>Not applicable</p>



## Curriculum at a Glance

### Community service requirement – all students: 100 hours

Students are required to accumulate 100 service hours. Students **should** engage in a minimum of 25 hours of community service at **each** grade level. Following are courses available depending upon meeting pre-requisites in the respective level of College Prep.

Standard College Prep	College Prep	Advanced College Prep
<b>Freshman Year</b>		
Religion I	Religion I	Religion I
English I	English I	English I – Honors
Reading Skills	Foreign Language*	Foreign Language *
Algebra I, Phase 1	Algebra I, Phase 2	Algebra I – Honors
Biology I	Geometry	Geometry - Honors
Computer Applications I	Biology I	Biology I – Honors
Physical Education	Computer Applications I	Physical Education
Life Management Skills (Health I)	Physical Education	Life Management Skills (Health I)
World Geography	Life Management Skills (Health I)	World Geography Honors
	World Geography	AP Human Geography (Alpha)
		Computer Applications I
<b>Sophomore Year</b>		
Religion II	Religion II	Religion II
English II	English II	English II - Honors
Foreign Language *	Foreign Language *	Foreign Language *
Basic Geometry	Geometry	Geometry Honors
Introduction to World History	World History	Algebra II Honors
Physical Science	Chemistry I	World History - Honors
Computer Applications II	Computer Applications II	Anatomy Physiology Honors
Art requirement	Art requirement	Chemistry I - Honors
		Computer Applications II
		Art requirement
		English Honors (Alpha)
		AP World History (Alpha)
<b>Junior Year</b>		
Religion III	Religion III	Religion III
English III	English III	English III Honors
American History	American History	American History Honors
Anatomy Physiology	Anatomy Physiology	AP American History
Chemistry	Anatomy Physiology Honors	Anatomy Physiology Honors
Algebra II, phase 1	Environmental Science	Biology II Honors
Foreign Language *	Algebra II, phase 2	Physics
Electives (1.0 credit)	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors
	Electives (2.0 credits)	AP English Language (Alpha)
		Electives (2.0 Credits)
<b>Senior Year</b>		
Religion IV	Religion IV	Religion IV
English IV	English IV	English IV Honors
American Government	American Government	AP English Literature
Economics	Economics	American Government Honors
Math for College Readiness	Pre-Calculus	AP American Government (1 credit)
Anatomy Physiology	Calculus	Economics Honors
Environmental Science	Discrete Math	Calculus Honors
Electives (minimum 2.0 credits)	Biology II - Honors	Calculus II Honors
	Electives (minimum 3.0 credits)	AP Calculus
		Statistics Honors or AP Statistics
		Physics I Honors
		Biology II Honors
		AP Biology
		AP Environmental Science
		Environmental Health Ethics
		Electives (minimum 1.0 credit)



## ***Champagnat Program Curriculum***

### **Freshman Year**

Religion I  
English I  
Reading Skills  
Algebra I  
Biology I  
Communication Skills\*  
Personal Fitness/Comprehensive Fitness  
World Geography

\*Students not enrolled in Communication Skills will take Computer Applications I and Health instead.

### **Sophomore Year**

Religion II  
English II  
Spanish I  
Geometry  
Physical Science  
Computer Applications I  
World History  
Life Management Skills (Health I)

\*\*Students who fulfilled their Computer Applications I and Health class requirements as freshmen will take a Computer Applications II class and an art class instead.

### **Junior Year**

Religion III  
English III  
Spanish II  
Algebra II  
Environmental Science  
U.S. History  
Elective (1 credit)

### **Senior Year**

Religion IV  
English IV  
Math for College Readiness  
American Government  
Economics  
Electives (2 credits)

The Champagnat Department's course descriptions are the same as ones found in the various departments' listings, but tailored to meet the needs of the students in the Champagnat Program. All students accepted in the Champagnat Program should be able to complete coursework required to earn a regular high school diploma.



*The following section of the program guide contains a description of courses, listed by department, which might be offered during a school year. Offerings depend upon the number of students enrolled in each course, once the master schedule is finalized.*