

CABRINI ACADEMY

Course Description Guide 2024-2025



ST. FRANCES CABRINI
ACADEMY

ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST

COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2024-2025



**"I Can Do All Things In Christ Who Strengthens Me"
Philippians 4:13**

15305 Wick Road Allen Park, MI • (313)388.0110 • cabrinihighschool.org

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MISSION STATEMENT

St Frances Cabrini Schools brings our Catholic Faith to life by instilling wisdom and compassion in our students and community. We are committed to the total development of each student spiritually, academically and physically from early childhood through high school. Our students are confident leaders who, like Mother Cabrini, declare, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

INTRODUCTION

St. Frances Cabrini Academy is committed to preparing our students for the next step in their educational process. Cabrini Academy students will benefit from some of the best resources on campus, instruction from both highly qualified academy, and in some instances, high school faculty members, and appropriate integration into the high school experience. The Academy has been deliberately established to prepare our students for the rigors of a college preparatory high school.

Academy students receive a strong faith-based curriculum built on six core subjects: English, Literature, Math, Religion, Science and Social Studies. Honors level courses are available in English, Literature, Math and Science. Additionally, students can select elective courses in physical education, art, drama, choir, band, foreign language and yearbook. Students take part in weekly Mass with the high school. They are active participants in the liturgy as altar servers, lectors, gift bearers and choir members.

Academy students participate in CYO (Catholic Youth Organization) sports, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Detroit. Our athletics include baseball, basketball, bowling, cheer, cross country, football, soccer, softball, track, and volleyball. Extra-curricular activities include Junior National Honors Society and STEM Club.

ACADEMIC PROBATION AND GRADE PLACEMENT

- The student's academic performance is evaluated at the end of each semester. This evaluation is part of the school's effort to support each student's learning and total growth.
- Each student is expected to maintain a grade point average of at least 1.5. The student whose GPA falls below 1.5 at the end of the first semester is considered to be on academic probation. Should the student's GPA fall below 1.5 for a second consecutive semester, the student may be required to withdraw.
- When a student's GPA shows significant and consistent improvement during the probation period, but has not yet reached 1.5 at the end of that time, the student's case is reviewed and the probationary period may be extended.

REPORT CARDS

Cabrini Academy schedules courses on a two-semester system. Grades received at the conclusion of each semester are final and become a part of the student's permanent scholastic record. Report cards are distributed online at the conclusion of every quarter of the school year. Throughout the school year, report cards as well as progress reports are available online.

GRADING POLICY

Cabrini Academy will follow the Archdiocese of Detroit grading scale:

Grade	Percent	Scale
A	100-93	4.00
B	92-83	3.00
C	82-72	2.00
D	71-60	1.00
F	59-0	0

- The marking system is based on two quarters and one exam each semester. The semester grade is computed on the formula $45\% + 45\% + 10\% = \text{semester grade}$.
- A "D" is required for passing any course.
- Honors courses carry the same weight as regular courses. Students are encouraged to excel and develop persistence and be self-initiating.

INCOMPLETES

Incompletes "I" is a temporary grade and is used if a student has not completed academic requirements due to medically documented illness or approval by the Principal. The "I" must be changed to a letter grade (A-F) within ten school days of the start of the following marking period. Exceptions must be approved by the administration. After ten school days, the teacher will submit a letter grade based upon work submitted for credit.

PROGRESS REPORTS

The school's Gradebook system is also available to all parents/guardians to check their student's progress. Teachers will update the online reports at least once a week.

EXAMINATIONS

- Teachers will administer written exams at the end of each semester. The final exams cover the entire semester's work. A student, absent due to illness from the regularly scheduled exam, must make arrangements with the guidance department to take the exam within two days of returning to school.
- Students who **have not served their acquired detentions** will not be able to take their exams at the designated times until the detentions have been served.

HONOR ROLL

Requirements for receiving Honor Roll status are:

1. A student must be taking 7 subjects per semester or 14 per year.
2. A student must receive a semester grade point of 3.0 or better.
3. A student must not receive any grade less than a "C" in any class.
4. Honor Roll will be determined only through the semester GPA.

SCHEDULE CHANGE PROCEDURE

Since course selections should be made only after careful consultation with parents, teachers and counselor, we do not anticipate schedule changes when students return in the fall. Upon receipt of the schedule requests each spring, classes are planned and teachers are hired to accommodate these requests.

Schedule changes have a serious effect on class size and other educational factors; therefore, they must be made sparingly. All students are strongly encouraged to remain with the schedule they receive during the spring scheduling period. For this reason, students will not be permitted to add or drop a course unless there is a valid need for a change. **SCHEDULE CHANGES INITIATED BY THE COUNSELING OFFICE OR ADMINISTRATION WILL BE THE EXCEPTION.** Changes will not be made to satisfy a student's convenience. Unless a schedule change is recommended by a counselor, administrator or teacher, a fee of \$40.00 will be charged, per change.

TO ADD OR DROP A COURSE

Students enrolled in a full year elective course cannot drop the course(s) unless they have obtained a failing grade for the semester. **Final date to withdraw officially from classes is the second week of any semester.**

Procedure for dropping or adding a course **during the first two weeks of each semester:**

1. Consult with a counselor.
2. Discuss the reasons for requesting to drop or add courses with the teacher(s) involved.
3. Complete the necessary paperwork.
4. Obtain the signature of parents/guardians, **teacher(s)** and counselor.
5. Fill out, sign the form and return it to the guidance office.
6. Pay a fee of \$40.00

*Students will attend their current classes until permission for a new schedule is granted.

STUDENT SERVICES

GUIDANCE AND COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

Cabrini Academy is committed to the formation of the total person in the Gospels of Jesus. The guidance and counseling department is so structured as to contribute to that primary effort. Through its various programs and services, the guidance and counseling department assists the student in becoming a person of the Gospels, fully prepared to meet the challenges of higher education and the modern world.

The purpose of the guidance and counseling department is to:

- Assist students in the realization of their fullest potential as responsible persons by providing the basic elements of education, career, personal and social counseling.
- Provide the level of guidance and/or counseling needed for each individual to understand him/herself by focusing attention on interests, abilities and needs in relation to home, school and other personal contexts.
- Utilize knowledge of the individual student as a consultant to the faculty in providing for individual curriculum needs and assist the student in developing his/her strengths.
- Create a sense of trust and assurance of confidentiality so the student may experience the freedom to grow as a total person.
- Establish good rapport among parents, teachers and other school personnel and to provide an awareness of the guidance services available to our students.

Students are welcome to make arrangements for appointments before school, after school, during lunch or at any other mutually acceptable time. A special feature of being a parish school is that all students have access to a priest. Appointments can be made from the school office or by calling the parish office at (313) 381-5601.

SPECIAL SERVICES

Cabrini Academy receives special services, including teacher consultants, from Allen Park Public Schools.

Any student or parent who has the need of these services should make them known to the student's counselor.

A NOTE ON REVISION

The "Course Description Guide" is revised annually yet changing circumstances and state mandates may require more frequent updates. Such additions, deletions and clarifications may occur at any time.

FINE ARTS

The goal of the Cabrini Fine Arts Department is to have every student realize their own unique artistic potential. This is accomplished through a sequence of classes that explores all media and techniques, thus giving the student an opportunity to discover their own talents.

1635, 1646
1 sem

ART

Open to: 7, 8

Academy students experiment with a variety of media and techniques in creating two- and three-dimensional works of art. Students follow specific guidelines but are strongly encouraged to express their own unique, creative style. The lessons are related to the elements and principles of design as well as the *Michigan Curriculum Framework Arts Education Standards*.

1601
1 sem

DRAMA

Open to: 7, 8

This academy drama course is an introduction to the dramatic arts. All students will get an overview and understanding of theatre pedagogy and practice. The class is broken into three categories: history of theatre (Greek, Medieval, Renaissance, Russian Realism, and Modern Broadway), fundamentals of acting—including movement and improv, and introduction to technical theatre—including sound effects and props. ***NEW – FEB 2024***

ENGLISH

The English program consists of courses and activities designed to develop the skills of reading, writing, listening, and speaking which are valuable to students in their personal, social, and occupational life. The goal is to improve accuracy and comprehension in reading, fluency in speaking and use of logical arrangements and effectiveness in writing. Much attention is given to the structure and power of the English language and how to use it effectively to communicate ideas in written and spoken forms. In an effort to improve reading skills, students read from all genres. Placement in all English classes will be determined by the instructor and/or counselor.

1005, 1025
2 sem

READING-7TH GRADE

Required: 7

Students will read, comprehend, analyze and engage with fictional and informational texts in the form of multicultural short stories, drama, and poetry. Each student will also independently study a novel of his/her choice. Course topics include reading strategies for comprehension and analysis, literary terms, literary devices, and vocabulary in-context.

1006, 1026
2 sem

READING-8TH GRADE

Required: 8

Students will read, comprehend, analyze and engage with fictional and informational texts in the form of multicultural short stories, drama, and poetry. Each student will also independently study a novel of his/her choice. Course topics include reading strategies for comprehension and analysis, literary terms, literary devices, and vocabulary in-context.

1658, 1659
2 sem

HONORS READING-8TH GRADE

Open to: 8

Students will read, comprehend, analyze, and engage with fictional and informational texts in the form of multicultural novels, short stories, drama, and poetry. This is an advanced class that moves at a faster pace and requires students to be reading proficiently at or above grade level. Each student will

also independently study a novel of his/her choice. Course topics include reading strategies for comprehension and analysis, literary terms, literary devices, and vocabulary in-context. Students will practice literary analysis and composition skills. **Prerequisite:** teacher recommendation; **Corequisite:** Honors English - 8th grade

1022, 1638
2 sem

ENGLISH-7th GRADE

Required: 7

English courses in the Academy review grammar terms and concepts presented in the previous grades. The writing focus is on sentence structure and paragraphing. Both formal and creative writing are explored as students utilize the writing process to generate drafts, edit, revise, and publish.

1003, 1023
2 sem

ENGLISH-8th GRADE

Required: 8

English courses in the Academy review grammar terms and concepts presented in the previous grades. The writing focus is on sentence structure and paragraphing. Both formal and creative writing are explored as students utilize the writing process to generate drafts, edit, revise, and publish.

1640, 1647
2 sem

HONORS ENGLISH-8th GRADE

Open to: 8

This advanced English class reviews grammar terms and concepts at a faster pace. Speaking and listening skills are practiced on a regular basis with informal and formal discussions and presentations. Students keep a writer's notebook to practice journaling, creative writing, and word study (vocabulary, roots and affixes). Students participate in the writing process to generate drafts, edit, revise, and publish. Literary analysis, argument writing, and informational/explanatory writing are taught and practiced. **Prerequisite:** teacher recommendation; **Corequisite:** Honors Reading - 8th grade

MATHEMATICS

The objective of the Mathematics program at Cabrini Academy is to provide a rigorous and comprehensive discipline of instruction in preparation for high school. The department exposes students to the various occupational opportunities in mathematics and instills in all students a curiosity about, and an appreciation for, logical thinking and problem-solving.

1302, 1322 **PRE-ALGEBRA**

2 sem Required: 7

This course focuses on five critical areas: (1) developing an understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) operations with rational numbers; (3) working with algebraic expressions and linear equations; (4) solving problems involving scale drawings, geometric constructions, surface area, and volume; and (5) drawing inferences about populations.

1305 1650 **HONORS PRE-ALGEBRA**

2 sem Required (with approval): 7

Accelerated Pre-Algebra challenges students with a rapidly paced study of algebraic concepts and their application to problem solving. ***Prerequisite: Recommendation by Math Department.***

1303, 1323 **ALGEBRA CONCEPTS**

2 sem Required: 8

This course focuses on three critical areas (1) applying equations in one and two variables; (2) understanding the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) applying the Pythagorean Theorem and the concepts of similarity and congruence.

1306, 1326 **HONORS ALGEBRA I**

2 sem Required (with approval): 8

Students will study and demonstrate knowledge of how to evaluate and simplify expressions; write and solve linear and quadratic equations, functions and formulas; and graph functions with and without a calculator. ***Prerequisite: Successful completion of Honors Pre-Algebra.***

MUSIC

It is the desire of the Music/Drama Department that students receive a full music education, which includes the teaching and learning of musical knowledge, in addition to attaining a superior performance of a wide variety of music and/or theatrical experience. The objectives and goals of this department are four-fold:

- Cultural: to continue the development of music appreciation through the study and performance of the best in music.
- Educational: to develop interested and discriminating listeners and provide a well-rounded fine arts background.
- Service: to lend color and atmosphere to school and community affairs, while promoting and enhancing the dignity and reputation of Cabrini Academy at all concert or drama productions.
- Recreational: to provide students with an opportunity for worthy use of leisure time, an emotional outlet and positive social experiences.

1636, 1637
1 sem

ACADEMY BAND

Open to: 7, 8

This class too is open to everyone interested in playing in the band. Some have already played in 4th and 5th. There are opportunities at this level to join with the high school and participate in events such as Homecoming as the The Monarch Marching Band as well as concerts throughout the school year.

1614, 1634
1 sem

ACADEMY CHOIR

Open to: 7, 8

This class continues the singing experiences began in elementary school. Students will improve their singing skills with daily singing, emphasizing proper vocal technique. Music theory, notation, history and interpretation will be integrated and applied to lessons. Students will sing at mass and perform in one or more concerts. This class may be taken multiple times throughout middle school.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The philosophy of the Physical Education/health department is that all students develop an awareness of current health issues. The course also introduces and develops individual and team skills in various lifetime activities. Promoting a healthy lifestyle physically and mentally is the focus of the program.

1641, 1649
1 sem

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Open to: 7, 8

Students learn to play various indoor and outdoor sports, skills and games as well as work on personal fitness and health.

SCIENCE

The immediate objectives of the Science Department are to provide a rigorous and comprehensive program of instruction for those students entering college, technical and applied science fields while at the same time, satisfying the needs of the non-scientifically oriented student. This department will expose students to the various occupational opportunities in science and instill in all students a curiosity about and an appreciation of the natural world. All required science classes must be completed in consecutive semesters within the same course.

1202, 1222
2 sem

LIFE SCIENCE-7th GRADE

Required: 7

Throughout their seventh grade year, students will develop a deeper, more critical understanding of the systems that shape our planet, the organisms that inhabit it, and the energy that ties them together. Through labs, videos, and lecture students will gain the knowledge and skills to become better stewards for their world. Authentic assessment will reinforce concepts to everyday life.

1205, 1225
2 sem

HONORS LIFE SCIENCE-7th GRADE

Required (with approval): 7

Through labs, videos, and lecture students will gain the knowledge and tolls to become aware of science in their world. The class will move at an accelerated rate with more critical thinking and in-depth knowledge of the topics. *Prerequisites: Approval of Science teacher.*

1203, 1651
2 sem

PHYSICAL SCIENCE-8th GRADE

Required: 8

Physical Science: Throughout their eighth grade year, students are introduced to the concepts of physics and chemistry. In this inquiry-based setting, students are encouraged to explore and investigate real-world applications through hands-on laboratories and demonstrations that highlight principals covered during lectures.

1206, 1226
2 sem

HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Required (With Approval): 8

Honors Physical Science is a laboratory-oriented Physical Science course. Students move at an accelerated pace through the topics of Chemistry & Physics to gain an in-depth knowledge of the topics.

Prerequisites: *Successful completion of Science-7th Grade and approval of Science teacher.*

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department implements a number of principles throughout its curriculum. The content and methodology strive to aid the student to grow and develop in self-knowledge, understanding others as well as appreciating other societies. The importance of dignity of the individual is stressed. The courses aim to develop a sense of self-worth in the student with a hope that each person sees great value in his/her own unique contribution to society as a whole.

1109, 1119
2 sem

WORLD HISTORY 7

Required: 7

Students will study world history from the beginning of civilizations to the Renaissance (1300). Studies will focus on the Eastern hemisphere, classical traditions, world religions, and major empires.

1103, 1123
2 sem

U.S. HISTORY 8

Required: 8

Students will study U.S. History from the American Revolution to Reconstruction. Studies will focus on the Western Hemisphere, Industrialization, Westward expansion, and the Civil War.

TECHNOLOGY

At the heart of the business education program is the belief and philosophy that all students need to be prepared to face the challenges of society in a productive manner. The course content is presented in a comprehensive, up- to-date, and organized manner.

1642, 1657
1 sem

JOURNALISM & MEDIA

Open to: 7, 8

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation in understanding media literacy, journalistic principles, and digital storytelling. Throughout the year, students will analyze a variety of print and non-print sources to explore purpose, structure, context, bias, and persuasive elements in the media. Students will engage with a variety of collaborative, digital tools to become informed consumers of information, as well as responsible content creators.

THEOLOGY

We live in a time of many technical, medical, scientific and political changes. The way that we have traditionally thought, acted and approached life does not always bring us the answers that we seek. At Cabrini Academy, we are concerned with communicating and sharing the truths revealed to us in Sacred Scripture, through the person of Jesus Christ and through the teaching Tradition of the Church. We believe that it is important that students learn not only the facts but also the process for living out the beliefs. Through academic class work, and worship, we attempt to help the students discover God in themselves and in their world and give them the skills and confidence necessary to live in a responsible and faith filled way.

Christian prayer is integrated into the curriculum at each grade level rather than being offered as a separate course offerings. Students are presented with the many avenues for connecting with God through formal, informal, individual, community, traditional and contemporary prayer forms.

WORSHIP

A variety of worship experiences are offered to the students throughout the year, marking the seasons of the year, the events of the student's lives and helping them connect to God. Emphasis is on the importance of coming together as a community of faith and students are encouraged to be actively involved in the planning and implementation of the Liturgies, Prayer Services and Reconciliation experiences.

1502, 1522

RELIGION 7: THE STORY OF JESUS AND THE NEW TESTAMENT

2 sem

Required: 7

The students will have an in depth look at the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus from the Four Gospels. They will be given the tools to read and understand the writings of the New Testament, especially the Synoptic Gospels. They will learn more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, the life of virtue, and how to pray. The primary course text is Blest Are We: The Story of Jesus.

1503, 1523

RELIGION 8: THE STORY OF THE CHURCH

2 sem

Required: 8

The students will have a survey of the History of the Catholic Church. Starting with the Acts of the Apostles, the students will learn about the development of the Christian movement from the small group of followers of Jesus to the largest religion in the world. They will look at the Church's relationship to other Christian groups, other religions, and the Roman Empire. They will discuss the development of monastic life, the sacraments, and the preservation of culture. The primary course text is Blest Are We: The Story of Our Church. Along with the

main content of the course, 8th Grade also focuses in a special way on the Sacrament of Confirmation, as students at Cabrini are generally confirmed at the end of 8th Grade year.

WORLD LANGUAGES

To be successful in an increasingly diverse and interconnected world, all students need the skills to successfully communicate in English and other languages. Students at Cabrini have the opportunity to meet this requirement in any of our language offerings. Our academy offers one semester courses which allow students to explore two different world languages so that they choose a language of study at Cabrini High School.

"In the twenty-first century, students must be able to speak, to read, and to comprehend both spoken and written language. They must be able to participate appropriately in face-to-face interaction with members of other societies, and they must be able to interpret the concepts, ideas, and opinions expressed by members of those societies through their media and their literatures." *Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century. National Standards in Foreign Language Education Project, 2006.*

1643

THE FRENCH EXPERIENCE

1 sem

Open to: 7, 8

The French Experience is designed to be a sampling of French language and culture. Students will have the chance to learn and practice basic French vocabulary and explore the cultures of France and the French speaking world.

1644

THE SPANISH EXPERIENCE

1 sem

Open to: 7, 8

The Spanish Experience is designed to be a sampling of the Spanish language and culture of the countries of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will learn and practice basic Spanish vocabulary. Students will also explore the cultures in thematic units through materials presented by the teacher and through their own research. Students will also practice Spanish vocabulary associated with those units.