

A Look at Grade 9 Course Assignments

Students entering 9th grade will take a prescribed set of classes. All students will take ELA, Leadership & Faith Formation, Math, Physical Education, Science, and Social Studies. *Additional classes might include World Language, Art, and Foundations.*

REQUIRED COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ELA – English 9: Grammar, Literature, & Composition

This course is designed to help students develop basic skills in grammar, composition, reading, vocabulary and literature. Students will review the basics of grammar while they develop more sophisticated writing skills. They will also examine a wide range of literary genres, including poetry, drama, short fiction, and the modern novel. Furthermore, students will learn about the research process, including library and research skills, in order to write a formal research paper.

Leadership & Faith Formation (LFF)

This class concentrates on the nature of Christian living and God's calling for your life. An emphasis will be placed on understanding who God is and how God has made you for a purpose. You should discover a lot about yourself and how God is leading you in your life.

Math – Algebra 1

After a brief review of arithmetic skills, the students begin a study of algebra that is intended to provide them with the necessary tools and ways of thinking for solving a broad variety of problems in many disciplines. Topics include linear equations and inequalities, quadratic functions, inequalities, coordinate geometry, data analysis, and statistics. At the end of this course, students will take the Algebra 1 (Common Core) Regents.

Physical Education

Activities are offered on a coed basis with emphasis placed on fitness, wellness, team, and individual sports and recreational activities. It is required of all students each year.

Science – Biology

This is a laboratory course that consists of a comprehensive study of biological processes in both plant and animal kingdoms. Emphasis is placed on the physiological processes that occur in organisms. Students will take the Living Environment Regents at the end of the course.

Social Studies – Ancient World History

This course is designed to provide students with sufficient information to comprehend the many social forces affecting the modern world. Each unit explores the geography, culture, and history of a different region of the world from ancient times up to the Reformation. The regions that are studied include the Middle East, Asia, Africa, Latin America, and Europe.

World Language – Spanish I

This is an introductory course that serves as the foundation for the four basic skills: reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students are exposed to culture and language through authentic materials such as film and texts. The primary focus of this course is vocabulary and phrases.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Art 1

This course is designed as an introduction to creating art and developing basic art skills. The course includes training in drawing techniques, color theory, and painting taught through the seven elements of design: line, shape, form, space, value, color, and texture. Art history is incorporated into the introduction of each lesson.

Introduction to Band

This course is for students who want to learn to play an instrument for the first time or who want to continue to play but are not ready for Jazz Band or Advanced Jazz Band. Students will learn the basics and refine their skills in preparation for performance with the top ensembles. The group performs in school concerts and at graduation.

Foundations

This is a freshman level course which helps prepare students with the skill set to help them become successful throughout their time at Martin Luther and beyond. Topics include developing a healthy self esteem, organizational skills, managing time, note taking, studying and test taking skills along with knowing when to ask for help. This class also completes the New York State standard for keyboarding.

Dance

This course will introduce students to different dance genres (ballet, jazz, lyrical, and tap). In each class students are required to participate in warm ups, choreography, and review. There will be major performances in which all students are required to participate. Dance class requires the students to be properly dressed, have appropriate footwear (jazz shoes or dance paws and tap shoes). Participation is essential to the fulfillment of this course, and will be assessed through performance. Dance may be taken in place of PE.

Geometry

While incorporating review of algebra topics, this course focuses on the study of geometry, including parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, area, volume, transformation, and geometric proof. At the end of this course, students will take the Geometry (Common Core) Regents. Students are considered for this course based on passing scores in both a Regents-level Algebra 1 course and on the Regents exam.

Earth Science

This laboratory course provides a comprehensive study of the geological processes in the earth. Topics include rocks and minerals, erosion, weather, water systems, landforms, and the universe. Students will take the Earth Science Regents at the end of the course. Students are considered for this course based on passing scores in both a Regents-level Biology (Living Environment) course and on the Regents exam.

