



# PATHWAYS TO *Excellence*

## Empowering Student Choice and Academic Challenge

Pathways to Excellence is a vital part of our school's vision to provide a dynamic and personalized educational experience. This program empowers students to take ownership of their learning by offering a variety of focused academic and career-oriented tracks. Each pathway is designed to reflect students' individual interests and goals, while maintaining a strong foundation of academic rigor.

**What sets Pathways to Excellence apart is its unique balance of flexibility and challenge.** Students are encouraged to explore their passions and make meaningful choices about their education, all while engaging in coursework that pushes them to think critically, solve problems, and strive for excellence. This approach not only deepens engagement but also prepares students for success in college, careers, and beyond.

By fostering both independence and high expectations, Pathways to Excellence helps students develop the skills, confidence, and direction they need to thrive in an ever-evolving world making it a cornerstone of our school's commitment to excellence in education.

ASSUMPTION HIGH SCHOOL



## MEDICAL SCIENCE

Assumption High School's Medical Science Pathway offers students a rigorous and comprehensive foundation in health and medicine through in-depth coursework in anatomy, biology, and chemistry. This academic pathway is further enriched by the AP Research program, where students have the opportunity to explore and investigate a medical topic of their choice. By combining theoretical knowledge with hands-on research, students not only develop a strong understanding of medical science but also gain critical-thinking, analytical, and communication skills. This interdisciplinary approach equips students with the tools necessary for success in future medical, nursing, or health science programs, providing a well-rounded preparation for careers in the healthcare field.

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSES** of Biology, Chemistry, and Physics

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

**AP BIOLOGY II** - This intensive course includes a detailed study of molecular biology, explores the role of genetics in evolution, and includes a comparative study of microorganisms, plants, animals, physiology, and their impact on the environment.

**AP CHEMISTRY II** - This course builds heavily upon the foundation laid in Advanced Chemistry I and includes advanced topics in atomic structure, structure and properties of compounds, intermolecular forces, solubility, equilibrium, redox, kinetics, electrochemistry, and acid-base systems.

### **AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS**

Designed for engineers, this course explores concepts such as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion, work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory work and in-class activities to investigate phenomena and use calculus to solve problems.

### **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: PRINCIPLES OF BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE**

In this course, students explore concepts of biology and medicine as they take on roles of different medical professionals to solve real-world problems. Students are challenged in various scenarios including investigating a crime scene to solve a mystery, diagnosing and proposing treatment to patients in a family medical practice, tracking down and containing a medical outbreak at a local hospital, stabilizing a patient during an emergency, and collaborating with others to design solutions to local and global medical problems.

### **PROJECT LEAD THE WAY: HUMAN BODY SYSTEMS**

Students examine the interactions of human body systems as they explore identity, power, movement, protection, and homeostasis in the body. Exploring science in action, students build organs and tissues on a skeletal Maniken®; use data acquisition software to monitor body functions such as muscle movement, reflex and voluntary action, and respiration; and take on the roles of biomedical professionals to solve real-world medical cases.

### **ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

This lab course investigates the structure and function of the tissues, organs, and systems of the human body. Lab experiments and dissections are required.

### **AP RESEARCH**

This course is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation using a variety of research methods from multiple perspectives. The project can build on a topic, problem, or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students will submit a 4,000-5,000 word academic paper as well as complete a presentation and oral defense of the research findings to a panel. Students complete research ethics training and employ ethical practices in their research processes. The academic paper and presentation and oral defense components contribute to the overall AP Research score.

### **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Participate in one of our medically focused clubs: National Science Honor Society or the Future Physicians of America
- Complete a job shadow experience with a healthcare professional—such as a physician, nurse, medical technician, or public health specialist—to gain firsthand exposure to clinical environments, patient care, and the daily responsibilities of medical science careers.
- Attend career-related sessions that introduce students to various medical science fields, healthcare systems, and emerging trends in medicine.
- Participate in the Seeds of Change Costa Rica research trip.



## ENGINEERING

The Engineering Pathway at Assumption High School is designed to ignite curiosity, foster innovation, and prepare students for the dynamic and evolving world of engineering and technology. This pathway offers a rigorous, hands-on curriculum that blends foundational knowledge in math and science with real-world applications in engineering, design, and aviation.

Students in this pathway are encouraged to think critically, solve complex problems, and collaborate on creative solutions—skills that are essential in any engineering discipline. Through a combination of advanced coursework, including AP science classes and specialized electives like 3D print & design and aviation science, students gain both the theoretical understanding and practical experience needed to thrive in college-level engineering programs and beyond.

What sets this pathway apart is its flexibility and depth. Whether a student is passionate about aerospace, mechanical systems, environmental design, or emerging technologies, the Engineering Pathway provides opportunities to explore those interests while building a strong academic foundation. Students also benefit from access to cutting-edge tools and technologies, such as 3D printers and flight simulators, which bring learning to life in meaningful and engaging ways.

Beyond the classroom, students can participate in STEM-related clubs, competitions, and service projects that reinforce their learning and connect them with the broader engineering community. By the time they graduate, students in the Engineering Pathway are not only well-prepared for college—they are equipped to lead, innovate, and make a lasting impact in the world.

### PATHWAY COURSES:

#### AP BIOLOGY II

This intensive course includes a detailed study of molecular biology, explores the role of genetics in evolution, and includes a comparative study of microorganisms, plants, animals, physiology, and their impact on the environment.

#### AP CHEMISTRY II

This course builds heavily upon the foundation laid in Advanced Chemistry I and includes advanced topics in atomic structure, structure and properties of compounds, intermolecular forces, solubility, equilibrium, redox, kinetics, electrochemistry, and acid-base systems.

#### AP CALCULUS AB

Topics covered are the same as those for DC Calculus I with additional application problems, tests, and assignments included to match the rigorous nature of the AP exam. Students must take the AP AB Exam in May.

#### AP CALCULUS BC

AP Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first and second semester college calculus courses and extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections among these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

#### AP PHYSICS C: MECHANICS

Designed for engineers, this course explores concepts such as kinematics; Newton's laws of motion, work, energy, and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; rotation; oscillations; and gravitation. Students will engage in hands-on laboratory work and in-class activities to investigate phenomena and use calculus to solve problems.

## **PATHWAY COURSES:**

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES**

This course covers the basic principles of computer science and introduces students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. Students use technology to address real-world problems and build relevant solutions. This course is designed to open a pathway for students to continue studies in college-level STEM and computing courses. Students prepare for the AP exam and create a digital artifact to submit to earn AP credit.

### **AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A**

This course introduces students to object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language. Fundamental topics include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, and the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information. Students prepare for the AP CS-A exam through which college credit can be earned.

### **3D PRINT & DESIGN**

This course provides students with a hands-on introduction to the world of 3D printing. Students will explore the applications of 3D printing across various industries. The course emphasizes the use of Computer-Aided Design (CAD) software to create original 3D models. Students will learn to translate their digital designs into physical objects using 3D printers, fostering creativity and problem-solving skills.

### **FOUNDATION IN FLIGHTS AND AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS**

In this course students explore aircraft categories, components, and construction, gaining a solid understanding of the four forces of flight—lift, weight, thrust, and drag—along with essential flight calculations. The course covers key aircraft systems for both manned and unmanned vehicles, including powerplants, fuel, electrical, pitot-static, and vacuum systems. Students also learn to assess performance factors and determine critical operating data. The program includes a mandatory three-day summer kickstart and meets once every four days during the study block. Sponsored by Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

### **THE FLYING ENVIRONMENT AND FLIGHT PLANNING**

This course prepares students for the FAA Private Pilot Knowledge Test, covering pre-flight procedures, airspace, radio communications, regulations, airport operations, aviation safety, weather, cockpit and emergency procedures. Students also study pilot and aircraft qualifications, cross-country planning, weight and balance, performance, human factors, chart use, night operations, navigation, and aeronautical decision-making. Multiple practice exams are included, and schools may arrange FAA written exam sign-offs. The course meets once every four days during the study block and includes a mandatory three-day summer kickstart. Sponsored by Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association.

### **FLIGHT TEST PREP**

This course is to prepare for the Private Pilot Knowledge Test and Part 107 Remote Pilot Test to achieve a pilot or ground pilot (drone) license.

### **AP SEMINAR**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

### **AP RESEARCH**

This course is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation using a variety of research methods from multiple perspectives. The project can build on a topic, problem, or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students will submit a 4,000-5,000 word academic paper as well as complete a presentation and oral defense of the research findings to a panel. Students complete research ethics training and employ ethical practices in their research processes. The academic paper and presentation and oral defense components contribute to the overall AP Research score.

## **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Participate in the Architecture, Construction, Engineering (ACE) program.
- Participate in Women's Day in Engineering Day field trip to UofL Speed School.
- Complete a job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen field of engineering to gain real-world insight and explore your area of interest.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions designed to expose students to various engineering disciplines.
- Become a Student Technology Leader to assist students in the Boeckmann Lab.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

Assumption High School proudly offers the Teaching and Learning Pathway as part of a collaborative initiative with the University of Louisville's College of Education and Human Development (CEHD) and the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE). This innovative program allows high school students to explore teaching as a career while still in school, providing a head start on their journey into the education profession.

Through this pathway, students can complete three college-level courses—EDTP 201 The Teaching Profession, EDTP 215 Foundations of Instruction, and EDTP 107 Human Development and Learning, earning a total of nine credit hours. These credits can be applied toward a bachelor's degree in elementary, middle, or secondary education at the University of Louisville. Notably, EDTP 201 also fulfills a general education requirement in the social and behavioral sciences, making this pathway both a practical and enriching opportunity for aspiring educators.

### PATHWAY COURSES:

#### DC THE TEACHING PROFESSION

This course provides opportunities to survey the field of education through the study of foundations of education, the life of a teacher, teaching styles, how to create a classroom community, the importance of knowing your students and field experiences, curriculum, and use of technology in the classroom all in the context of evaluation of education as a career.

This course requires at least 18 hours of classroom work reported to KFETS outside of the Assumption school day.

#### DC FOUNDATIONS OF INSTRUCTION

This course introduces pre-service teachers to the planning and preparation skills needed to be an effective classroom teacher. These skills include identifying learning goals and objectives based upon standards-based curriculum; designing learning experiences with developmentally appropriate instructional strategies; creating a variety of assessments to gauge learning and motivate students to learn, and managing a range of students, materials, and classroom activities to honor students' diversity.

This course requires at least 10 hours of classroom work reported to KFETS outside of the Assumption school day. This course is EDTP 215 in the UL Dual Credit Teaching and Learning Pathway.

#### DC HUMAN DEVELOPMENT & LEARNING

This course is an introduction to the basic principles of human development and learning as applied to home and school settings of children from birth to adolescence. This course also can be taken by students not in the Teaching and Learning Pathway who may be interested in working with children in other areas such as health care.

This course requires at least 15 hours of classroom work reported to KFETS outside of the Assumption school day. This course is EDTP 107 in the UL Dual Credit Teaching and Learning Pathway.

#### AP PSYCHOLOGY

This course covers topics including research methods, development, learning, the brain, emotions, sensations, perception, personality theories, psychological disorders, therapy for psychological disorders, and social psychology.

**ADDITIONAL ELECTIVE COURSES** should be taken in the desired teaching content areas.

### CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT

- Complete your job shadow experience with an educator or professional in the field of teaching and learning—such as elementary or secondary education, special education, counseling, or instructional design—to gain firsthand insight into classroom environments, student engagement, and educational practices.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that introduce students to various roles in education and learning, current trends in teaching, and pathways in the field.





## BUSINESS

Assumption High School also offers a dynamic Business Pathway designed to equip students with foundational knowledge and practical skills for success in the world of business. This pathway includes a diverse selection of courses such as Entrepreneurship, Business Law, Accounting, and Personal Finance, providing students with a comprehensive understanding of key business principles.

Through Entrepreneurship, students explore the process of starting and managing their own business ventures, fostering creativity and innovation. Business Law introduces them to the legal framework that governs commercial operations, while Accounting builds essential skills in financial recordkeeping and analysis. Personal Finance empowers students with the knowledge to make informed financial decisions, covering topics such as budgeting, saving, investing, and credit management. Together, these courses prepare students for further study in business-related fields and offer valuable life skills applicable to any career path.

### PATHWAY COURSES:

#### ADVANCED ACCOUNTING

This introductory course covers accounting theory and the accounting cycle for corporations. The central objective of this course is to introduce students to the role of accounting in business, the accounting model, and basic financial accounting concepts. This course is highly recommended and beneficial for those who wish to obtain a degree in any area of business while in college.

#### ENTREPRENEURSHIP

This course introduces the American economic system, including supply and demand, production and marketing, and the stock market. Students organize and run a company, manufacture and sell a product, buy stock in their company, and earn money from the profits made by selling the product. A stock game enhances this process. A businessperson will visit periodically to supplement course content with real world experience. This course is highly recommended for those students who wish to own their own business in the future.

#### BUSINESS LAW

This course introduces the application of legal principles and procedures to personal business problems. It deals with present-day criminal and civil laws and how they relate to minors. Included in the course are units on the Kentucky court system and DUI laws. Community speakers enhance the class. This course is very beneficial for those who wish to obtain a degree in business or any other major/career option in college.

#### DC INTRO TO BUSINESS

This class qualifies for dual credit through Western Kentucky University and satisfies the three hour requirement for Introduction to Commerce and Organizational Structures. Introduction to Business/ SUPR 100 is designed to serve students regardless of their major fields. The course covers the management process, production, marketing, finance accounting, personnel, and other functional activities of business are discussed.

#### DC PERSONAL FINANCE

This class qualifies for dual credit through Western Kentucky University as defined in the following WKU course description: FIN 161 Personal Finance. This course is designed to serve the personal finance needs of students regardless of their major fields. The curriculum includes practical applications in personal and family financial planning, including credit, buying, borrowing, banking, insurance, investments, taxation, estate planning, and home ownership.

### CLUBS & COMPETITIONS

- Participate in our award-winning Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) through team and individual competitions.
- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen area of business—such as marketing, finance, entrepreneurship, management, or accounting—to gain real-world insight into business operations, decision-making, and career opportunities.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that expose students to various business fields, industry trends, and professional pathways.



## VISUAL FINE ARTS

Assumption High School's Visual Fine Arts Pathway invites students to explore their creativity and develop technical skills through a variety of artistic mediums. Courses in drawing, painting, sculpture, photography, and digital media provide students with hands-on experience in both traditional and contemporary art forms. This pathway encourages personal expression, critical thinking, and an appreciation for visual culture. Students have opportunities to showcase their work through exhibitions and competitions, building a strong portfolio for college or future artistic endeavors.

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSES** include Intro to the Arts, Intro to Drawing & Painting, Intro to Digital Art, Intro to Ceramics & Sculpture

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

#### **DRAWING I & II**

These sequential courses offer students a comprehensive foundation and continued development in the art of drawing. Drawing I is designed for beginners and focuses on essential skills such as proportion, perspective, value, and mark making. Students work with a variety of media including pencil, pen, charcoal, and colored pencils while also studying the work of influential artists to inspire their own creations. Drawing II builds on these fundamentals, guiding students through more advanced techniques and deeper exploration of the elements and principles of art. Students experiment with media such as graphite, charcoal, colored pencil, and printmaking while exploring diverse artistic styles and developing their personal voice through creative expression.

#### **PAINTING I & II**

These courses guide students through both the foundational and advanced techniques of painting, offering a rich exploration of artistic expression through various media. Painting I introduces students to the fundamentals of working with acrylic and watercolor paints, with a strong emphasis on color theory, color mixing, and basic painting techniques. Students also study renowned painters and the art movements they represent to inspire their own creative work. Painting II is designed for the more experienced and committed artist, expanding into advanced topics such as portraiture, abstraction, and en plein air painting. In addition to acrylic and watercolor, students are introduced to oil painting and continue to explore the works and styles of influential artists throughout history. Together, these courses provide a comprehensive and inspiring journey into the world of painting.

#### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I & II**

These courses offer a comprehensive journey into the art, technique, and creative expression of digital photography. Digital Photography I introduces students to the fundamentals of photography, including camera operations such as aperture, shutter speed, and semiautomatic functions, all using professional-grade cameras. Students learn to edit images using Adobe Photoshop, explore various file formats, and focus on composition to create visually compelling photographs. Projects include portraiture, action, landscape, and nature photography. Digital Photography II builds on these skills with an emphasis on shooting in full manual mode and refining artistic voice. Students deepen their understanding of composition and lighting, explore experimental techniques, and enhance their editing skills using both Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Through critiques, field trips, and a studio-based approach, students create a digital portfolio and exhibit their work throughout the semester.

#### **AP DRAWING**

This is a college-level class in which students add to their portfolio from Drawing II and Painting II. The portfolio is developed around a personal theme that students expand on throughout the school year. Students select their own subject matter and media for this course as they complete 12 original pieces. In May, the digital portfolio is submitted to the College Board for judging. All artwork is returned to the students.

#### **AP 2D ART & DESIGN**

This is a college-level class in which students add to their portfolio from Digital Photography I and II and Graphic Design I and II. The portfolio is developed around a personal theme that students expand on throughout the school year. Students select their own subject matter and media for this course as they complete 12 original pieces. In May, digital images of the artwork and five selected originals are sent to the College Board for judging. All artwork will be returned to the students.

## **PATHWAY COURSES:**

### **CERAMICS I & II**

These courses guide students through the fundamentals and advanced techniques of working with clay. In Ceramics I, students build on basic 3D art concepts and develop hand-building skills using coil, pinch, and slab methods, while also being introduced to wheel throwing. Ceramics II deepens these skills with more complex forms, refined wheel techniques, and new surface treatments, encouraging greater creativity and craftsmanship in ceramic art.

### **SCULPTURE**

This course builds on the elements and principles of 3D art and basic sculpture techniques introduced in Introduction to Ceramics and Sculpture. Students work with plaster, clay, cardboard, and metal to further explore casting, assemblage as well as jewelry fabrication.

### **AP 3D ART & DESIGN**

This course is designed to allow the advanced art student the opportunity to further develop the skills taught in previous 3D art courses. It is an intense study of various three-dimensional techniques and media, resulting in an AP portfolio consisting of 16 works to be reviewed for college credit

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN I & II**

These courses provide a comprehensive foundation and deeper exploration into the world of graphic design. Graphic Design I introduces students to core design principles through hands-on projects using Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator while also exploring the history of design movements and influential designers. Graphic Design II builds on these skills with a focus on design, illustration, and advertising. Students create professional-level work such as logos, posters, and informational graphics, study contemporary design trends, and engage in real-world experiences by working with clients and applying the Design Thinking process.

### **AP ART HISTORY**

In the AP Art History course, students explore painting, sculpture and architecture from cave paintings to 21st century art. Students learn about European art, as well as art from around the globe, as they discuss such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Students prepare for the AP Art History exam through which college credit can be earned.

## **CLUBS & COMPETITIONS**

- Participate art clubs including Art Club and *Rose Window* literary magazine.
- Submit your artwork in the Scholastic Art competitions.
- Attend the community art shows.
- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen fine arts discipline—such as visual arts, illustration, graphic design, ceramics, or art education—to gain firsthand insight into creative processes, studio practices, and career opportunities in the visual arts.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that introduce students to a variety of fine arts fields, industry practices, and creative career paths.





## PERFORMING FINE ARTS

The Performing Fine Arts Pathway at Assumption High School offers students a vibrant and collaborative environment to grow as performers and storytellers. Through courses in theater, vocal and instrumental music, and dance, students gain experience in performance, technique, and stage production. Whether on stage or behind the scenes, students develop confidence, discipline, and a deep appreciation for the performing arts. Performances, concerts, and showcases throughout the year allow students to share their talents with the school and wider community.

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSES** include Intro to Music and Intro to Theatre.

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

#### **CHAMBER CHOIR**

This is an intermediate level, full-year course which focuses on proper vocal production to produce good tone quality and basic music theory. This class concentrates on two- and three-part harmonization, sight singing, and some advanced techniques. Students may represent the school in various regional, state, and national forums. Students may take this course more than once.

#### **ADVANCED CHOIR**

This is an advanced-level, full-year course for musically talented vocalists which emphasizes music reading, sight reading, advanced vocal techniques, and stylistic interpretation. This class concentrates on three- and four-part harmonization as well as advanced sight singing. Students may represent the school in various state, regional, and national forums. Students may take this course more than once.

#### **ADVANCED INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE**

This course is designed for students who would like to play a traditional instrument in a small-group setting (violin, flute, clarinet, trumpet, oboe, etc.) Guitar, keyboards, and electric bass are not instrumental options. Students practice and perform chamber music and advanced ensemble music. The school cannot provide an instrument for a student who does not have her own; it may be necessary for the student to rent one.

#### **GUITAR I**

This semester course is designed for a beginning acoustic guitar player who has limited or no experience on the guitar. This course emphasizes music reading, sight reading, individual and group guitar techniques, and stylistic interpretation. Students represent the school in school concerts. Students should have access to a guitar at home if possible, but for classwork a guitar is provided.

#### **GUITAR II**

This semester course is designed for the student who has had previous experience playing the guitar. Students must be able to read treble clef notes and play basic chords. This course emphasizes music reading, sight reading, individual and group advanced guitar techniques, and stylistic interpretation. Students represent the school in school concerts and assemblies. This class may be taken more than one time.

#### **AP MUSIC THEORY**

This course focuses on preparing students to take the AP exam in Music Theory. It covers musicianship, theory, sight reading, music dictation, and musical materials, and procedures. It is designed to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a score. The course assumes fluency in reading notation, key signatures, and simple time signatures and moves quickly into more complicated musical elements. It is ideal for those considering a career in music.

## **PATHWAY COURSES:**

### **THE HISTORY OF ROCK AND ROLL**

This course is designed for those students who have an interest in music but do not enjoy singing or playing an instrument. It explores the development of Rock and Roll from its beginning to present time. This course does not fulfill the Fine Arts requirement.

### **ADVANCED ACTING**

Building on performance standards from Intro to Theatre, this course provides more in-depth studio work for acting. Students practice diverse acting styles, deeper text and character studies, advanced vocal techniques, and audition preparation through monologues and partnered scene work. Students may take this course more than once and, with the instructor, choose pathways for independent study.

### **ADVANCED THEATRE**

Designed for the higher-level theatre student, this course studies how to devise, direct, and produce original works for the stage. Together, students form a production-based theatre collective for an entire school year. In the first semester, all students write 10-minute plays and create production concepts and designs; in the second semester, they collaborate on all areas of stagecraft to mount the annual BLOOM Theatre Project as well as other original artistic pieces. Students may take this course more than once.

### **HUMANITIES II**

This course expands the worlds of music, art, and theatre learned in Humanities I. Students have hands-on experience taking their prior knowledge and creating unique and imaginative student-driven works of art, music, and drama, as well as experiencing videography and dance. These works are then showcased in the Humanities II Extravaganza, which takes place at the end of the semester.

### **ROSE THEATRE PROGRAM**

Assumption's Theatre Arts Program is a vibrant and inclusive creative community that empowers students to explore and refine their talents both on stage and behind the scenes. Each year, the company produces two full-scale productions, offering students the chance to shine in a professional-caliber environment.

Students are selected through a competitive audition process held approximately 6–10 weeks before each production. Whether aspiring actors or behind-the-scenes visionaries, students engage in a rigorous and rewarding rehearsal process that builds confidence, collaboration, and creativity.

What sets our program apart is its student-led technical crews, which provide hands-on experience in:

- Lighting & Sound Design
- Costumes, Hair & Makeup
- Publicity & Marketing
- Set Design & Construction
- Props Management
- Stage Management and more

These roles allow students to take ownership of the production process and develop real-world skills in theatre arts and production management.

Performances are held in the state-of-the-art Humana Foundation Performing and Fine Arts Center, featuring a 295-seat theatre with a thrust stage and an adjacent art gallery space that celebrates visual creativity alongside the performing arts. Recent productions include:

- Fall Musical: *Anastasia*
- BLOOM Production: A student-driven creative showcase
- Spring Play: *James and the Giant Peach*

Whether stepping into the spotlight or working behind the curtain, Assumption's Theatre Arts Program nurtures passion, discipline, and artistic excellence—preparing students to lead, create, and inspire.

### **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Attend career-related RTI sessions designed to immerse students in the world of performing arts, highlighting diverse disciplines, industry insights, and creative career paths.
- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen area of the performing arts—such as music, theater, dance, or production—to gain firsthand insight into the creative process, performance preparation, and behind-the-scenes operations.



## GLOBAL STUDIES

Assumption's Global Studies Pathway offers students a rich, interdisciplinary experience that fosters cultural awareness, global citizenship, and academic excellence. Through four years of French or Spanish, students build language fluency while exploring diverse perspectives in courses like AP Human Geography, AP/DC World History, DC World Religions, and AP Art History.

Beyond the classroom, students can participate in international exchange programs, study abroad opportunities, and immersive experiences like the Seeds of Change Costa Rica Research Trip and Mission Week. With involvement in the Foreign Language National Honor Society and the Future Problem Solving Club, students develop leadership skills and a deeper understanding of global issues, preparing them to thrive in an interconnected world.

**FOUNDATIONAL COURSES** includes two years of either Spanish or French.

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

#### **AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY**

This course is designed to introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surfaces. Students employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to analyze human social organization and its environmental consequences. Students also learn about methods and tools geographers use in their science and practice.

#### **AP OR DC WORLD HISTORY**

The course surveys world history, focusing on major historical eras of world history, as well as the politics, philosophy, socioeconomic conditions, and arts of various ages. Students learn to assess historical materials and to weigh the evidence and interpretation presented in historical scholarship. Geography and current events are integral parts of this course.

#### **DC WORLD RELIGIONS**

This course introduces the major religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Students investigate the ways in which other systems of belief and practice both differ from and are in harmony with the Catholic faith.

#### **AP ART HISTORY**

In the AP Art History course, students explore painting, sculpture and architecture from cave paintings to 21st century art. Students learn about European art, as well as art from around the globe, as they discuss such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Students prepare for the AP Art History exam through which college credit can be earned.

**\*Students may elect to advance their proficiency in a previously studied language or initiate the study of a new language at the introductory level to broaden their linguistic and cultural competencies.**

#### **AP SPANISH LANGUAGE & CULTURE IV & V**

These two yearlong courses prepare students for the AP Spanish Language and Culture exams and are equivalent in difficulty to a fifth- or sixth-semester college Spanish course. Students develop their proficiency by interpreting and responding to a wide range of authentic aural and written sources in Spanish, all centered around the six core themes: beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, families and communities, global challenges, personal and public identities, and science and technology. Through both interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing tasks, students strengthen their communication skills while learning grammar essential for success on the AP exam.

#### **AP FRENCH LANGUAGE & CULTURE IV & V**

These two yearlong courses prepare students for the AP French Language and Culture exams and are equivalent in difficulty to a fifth- or sixth-semester college French course. Students develop their language proficiency by interpreting and responding to a variety of authentic aural and written sources in French, all centered around the six core themes: beauty and aesthetics, contemporary life, families and communities, global challenges, personal and public identities, and science and technology. Students engage in both interpersonal and presentational speaking and writing tasks based on these themes, while also learning grammar essential for success on the AP exam.

## **PATHWAY COURSES:**

### **THE HOLOCAUST AND MODERN ATROCITIES**

This course examines the root causes and events of the Holocaust. Anti-Semitism and the nature of prejudice will be studied along with other examples of 20th and 21st century genocide and modern atrocities.

### **AP SEMINAR**

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

### **AP RESEARCH**

This course is the second course in the AP Capstone Diploma Program. Students design, plan, and conduct a yearlong research-based investigation using a variety of research methods from multiple perspectives. The project can build on a topic, problem, or issue covered in AP Seminar or on a new topic of the student's choosing. At the end of the project, students will submit a 4,000-5,000 word academic paper as well as complete a presentation and oral defense of the research findings to a panel. Students complete research ethics training and employ ethical practices in their research processes. The academic paper and presentation and oral defense components contribute to the overall AP Research score.

### **MERCY AMBASSADOR EXCHANGE PROGRAM**

Assumption's Argentine Exchange Program offers students a transformative opportunity to broaden their global perspective through a month-long reciprocal exchange with a Mercy school in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Participants host an Argentine student during the winter and, in turn, travel to Argentina in June to live with the same host family. This immersive experience allows students to engage fully in the daily life, language, and traditions of another culture.

While abroad, students attend school, participate in family and community activities, and explore the rich cultural heritage of Argentina. The program fosters independence, adaptability, and intercultural communication skills, while also deepening students' appreciation for global diversity and Mercy values. Many participants describe the exchange as one of the most meaningful and life-changing experiences of their high school years.

Applicants must have completed Spanish II and be enrolled in Spanish III. The program includes a modest participation fee and travel expenses, with financial assistance options available.

## **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Participate in the Seeds of Change Costa Rica research trip.
- Choose to study abroad in the various school sponsored international trips.
- Join the Foreign Language National Honor Society in French or Spanish.
- As a senior, attend the immigration field trips during Mission Week.
- Join the Future Problem Solving club or Spanish Scrabble.
- Complete a job shadow experience with a professional working in global affairs—such as international relations, diplomacy, humanitarian work, global business, or cultural exchange—to gain firsthand insight into global issues, cross-cultural communication, and international career opportunities.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that expose students to the diverse fields within global studies, including international policy, human rights, global economics, and cultural diplomacy.



## LIBERAL ARTS

Assumption's Liberal Arts Pathway is designed for students who are curious, open-minded, and eager to explore a wide range of academic disciplines. Rooted in the tradition of holistic education, this pathway encourages students to think critically, communicate effectively, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

Through a flexible and exploratory curriculum, students have the opportunity to discover their passions across the humanities, social sciences, and beyond. Whether diving into literature, philosophy, history, or the arts, this pathway helps students develop a strong intellectual foundation while discerning their unique academic and career interests.

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

#### **AP PSYCHOLOGY**

This intense course covers topics including research methods, development, learning, the brain, emotions, sensations, perception, personality theories, psychological disorders, therapy for psychological disorders, and social psychology.

#### **DC WORLD RELIGIONS**

This course introduces the major religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Judaism, Taoism, and Confucianism. Students investigate the ways in which other systems of belief and practice both differ from and are in harmony with the Catholic faith.

#### **AP STATISTICS**

This AP course follows the College Board syllabus and is equivalent to a one-semester, non-calculus-based college statistics course. Topics include exploring data, normal distributions, producing data, probability rules and distributions, confidence intervals, and hypothesis testing.

#### **AP ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

This course examines the scientific principles, concepts, and laboratory investigations required to understand the interrelationships of the natural world, to identify and analyze environmental problems both natural and human made, to evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and to examine alternative solutions for resolving and/or preventing them.

#### **AP GOVERNMENT**

This course examines the U.S. Constitution, the basic structure of U.S. government, and its institutions. The course familiarizes students with various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that comprise U.S. political reality. Topics include the Constitution, political beliefs and parties, civil rights and civil liberties, and major Supreme Court cases. Major domestic and foreign issues are emphasized.

#### **AP ART HISTORY**

In the AP Art History course, students explore painting, sculpture and architecture from cave paintings to 21st century art. Students learn about European art, as well as art from around the globe, as they discuss such topics as the nature of art, its uses, its meanings, art making, and responses to art. Students prepare for the AP Art History exam through which college credit can be earned.

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### **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Participate in Film Studies club.
- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in your chosen liberal arts field—such as education, communications, law, public service, or the arts—to gain real-world perspective and explore potential career paths.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions designed to introduce students to a wide range of liberal arts fields, emerging trends, and professional opportunities.





## COMMUNICATIONS

Assumption's Communications Pathway empowers students to become confident, creative, and effective communicators across a variety of media. Through dynamic coursework such as DC Public Speaking, Broadcast Journalism, Yearbook Journalism, and AP Seminar & AP Research, students develop essential skills in writing, speaking, storytelling, and critical thinking.

Students also explore the visual side of communication through hands-on courses like Graphic Design I & II, Intro to Digital Arts, and Digital Photography I & II. Whether producing a broadcast, designing a publication, or competing in Speech & Debate, students in this pathway gain real-world experience and a strong foundation for careers in media, marketing, journalism, and beyond.

### **PATHWAY COURSES:**

#### **DC PUBLIC SPEAKING**

This course investigates the communication process, speech preparation, and execution. It will help students become critical, discriminating listeners. Students will gain confidence as they organize, deliver, and evaluate various types of speeches: personal experience, demonstration, informative, persuasive, impromptu, and special occasion. Students in DC Public Speaking may earn dual credit.

#### **INTRO INTO DIGITAL ARTS**

Introduction to Digital Arts introduces students to the basics of both graphic design and photography. The course focuses on developing ideas and creating both designs and photography that address the elements and principles of art. Photographs will be taken on cell phones and emphasize composition and what makes a "good" photo. Designs will center on the iterative design process. In order to complete projects students will learn to navigate in Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

#### **BROADCAST & DIGITAL MEDIA**

This course expands upon concepts studied in Journalism I: Media and runs as a hands-on experience allowing students to explore the many different skills within broadcasting, video productions, and digital media. Students will produce school news broadcasts and video projects including social media posts, public service announcements, multimedia storytelling, and more. Students will publish the online news website, *RocketLaunch*. Students have access to a wide variety of technology, including cameras, audio mixers, video editing software, live production video switchers, and more. Students use course content to become knowledgeable consumers and producers of media. If the student chooses, she can travel to the national high school journalism convention during the fall semester. Students can opt to take this elective for two years.

#### **YEARBOOK JOURNALISM**

This course expands upon concepts studied in Journalism I: Media and focuses on advanced copywriting and editing, photography, layout and design, and ad design. Students publish the school yearbook, *The Rosecast*, using the program Encore. They will also be able to use Photoshop and digital photography skills. Students are required to put in hours after school and on weekends for photo shooting assignments as well as sell some advertising. Students are required to return after graduation to complete final yearbook spreads. While they are not required, graphic design and photography courses will contribute to the students' skills needed for publication production. The class is unique because it runs as a staff as opposed to a more traditional classroom. Students will use the class as a workshop to complete their work for the publication. If the student chooses, she can travel to the national high school journalism convention during the fall semester. Students who elect to take this course will apply for a desired position on the staff and will be evaluated according to the individual job description of that position. Experience, other pertinent coursework, and performance in Journalism I are all items that contribute to obtaining leadership roles on the publications staff.

## **PATHWAY COURSES:**

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY I & II**

These courses offer a comprehensive journey into the art, technique, and creative expression of digital photography. Digital Photography I introduces students to the fundamentals of photography, including camera operations such as aperture, shutter speed, and semi-automatic functions, all using professional-grade cameras. Students learn to edit images using Adobe Photoshop, explore various file formats, and focus on composition to create visually compelling photographs. Projects include portraiture, action, landscape, and nature photography. Digital Photography II builds on these skills with an emphasis on shooting in full manual mode and refining artistic voice. Students deepen their understanding of composition and lighting, explore experimental techniques, and enhance their editing skills using both Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Through critiques, field trips, and a studio-based approach, students create a digital portfolio and exhibit their work throughout the semester.

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## **CLUBS & INVOLVEMENT**

- Complete your job shadow experience with a professional in journalism or communications—such as a reporter, editor, public relations specialist, broadcaster, or content creator—to gain firsthand insight into media production, storytelling, and communication strategies.
- Attend career-related RTI sessions that introduce students to the dynamic fields of journalism and communications, including media trends, ethical reporting, and digital storytelling.



# AP CAPSTONE DIPLOMA

The AP Capstone Diploma Program is a dynamic and empowering academic pathway that celebrates student voice, choice, and intellectual independence. Unlike more rigid academic models, AP Capstone invites students to chart their own course by selecting research topics and areas of inquiry that align with their unique passions, curiosities, and long-term goals. But the flexibility doesn't stop there; students also choose additional AP courses that reflect their individual strengths and interests, allowing them to build a diploma that is as unique as they are. Whether a student is drawn to neuroscience, environmental justice, digital media, or entrepreneurship, the program provides the structure to explore those interests deeply and meaningfully.

Through AP Seminar and AP Research, students learn to ask complex questions, evaluate diverse perspectives, and communicate their ideas with clarity and purpose. This freedom to pursue individualized learning fosters not only academic excellence but also personal growth, confidence, and a sense of ownership over their education. Graduates of the AP Capstone Diploma emerge not just as scholars, but as thought leaders, ready to innovate, collaborate, and thrive. With its emphasis on inquiry, analysis, and real-world application, the AP Capstone Diploma builds the strongest foundation for success in college and beyond.

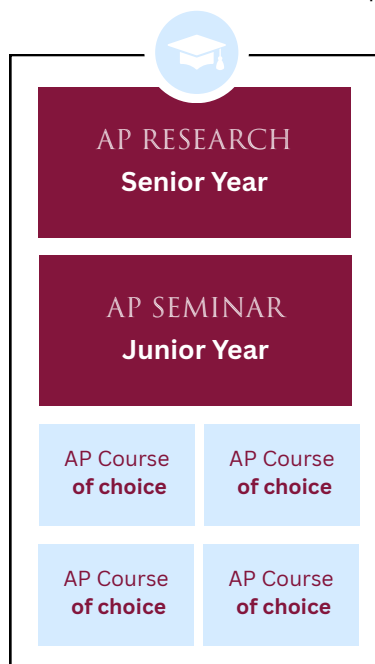
## PATHWAY COURSES:

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To earn the **AP Capstone Diploma**, complete **AP Seminar**, **AP Research**, and **four AP courses of your choice**, taken at any time during high school.

Explore AP course options here.

- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Chemistry
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- English Language
- English Literature
- Environmental Science
- French Language
- Government & Politics
- Human Geography
- Music Theory
- Physics
- Psychology
- Research
- Seminar
- Spanish Language
- Statistics
- Studio Art: 3D Design
- Studio Art: 2D Design
- Studio Art: Drawing
- U.S. History
- World History



### THE MCAULEY HONORS PROGRAM

The McAuley Honors Program serves as the academic cornerstone for students aspiring to pursue the AP Capstone Diploma Program at Assumption High School. Rooted in a philosophy of academic excellence and intellectual curiosity, the McAuley Honors Program is designed for highly motivated students who thrive in fast-paced, application-oriented learning environments. It emphasizes the development of critical thinking through the application, analysis, and synthesis of content across core academic disciplines.

**Students in the program are required to complete all core content area courses at the most advanced level offered at the high school, while also taking a minimum of four AP courses during their academic career.** This rigorous academic structure not only challenges students but also prepares them for the demands of college-level coursework.

Beyond academics, the McAuley Honors Program fosters a vibrant community of scholars who are enriched through deep discussions, artistic engagement, and participation in extracurricular academic activities. This holistic approach nurtures students' intellectual and personal growth, creating a supportive environment for scholarly exploration. Importantly, the program is not static—students may be invited to join based on their high school placement test scores or through demonstrated academic performance during their freshman or sophomore years.

### DUAL CREDIT (DC) PROGRAM

#### **Guaranteed College Credit. Real-World Readiness.**

As part of Assumption High School's strategic commitment to college readiness, the Dual Credit (DC) Program offers students a powerful and cost-effective way to earn guaranteed college credit while still in high school. Research shows that exposure to college-level coursework is the most effective way to prepare students for the college experience, and Assumption proudly offers 40 college-level courses through both Advanced Placement (AP) and Dual Credit programs.

Unlike AP courses, which require students to pass a national College Board exam to potentially earn credit, DC courses guarantee college credit upon successful completion of the course. These courses are taught by Assumption faculty who meet rigorous qualifications, including 18 graduate-level credit hours in their subject area and approval from the partnering college or university. Assumption partners with four institutions to offer DC courses: the University of Louisville, Bellarmine University, Western Kentucky University, and Jefferson Community and Technical College.

Affordability is a key advantage of the DC program. Partner universities charge only \$95 per credit hour—less than one-third the cost of the same course at a state university. Additionally, scholarships provided by the Kentucky Higher Education Assistance Authority (KHEAA) cover the cost of up to two DC courses per student, making this option even more accessible to families. By Kentucky state law, public universities must award credit for DC hours earned, and Assumption graduates regularly transfer these credits to colleges and universities nationwide.

This commitment to academic excellence and affordability has led to remarkable outcomes: 95% of Assumption's class of 2025 graduated with college credit, exceeding the goals outlined in our strategic plan and helping students reduce the overall cost of college while gaining a head start on their academic journey.

**Explore DC course options here.**

- SUPR 100 – Intro to Business
- FIN 161 – Personal Finance
- SPAN 102 – Spanish III
- SPAN 201 – Spanish IV
- FREN 102 – French III
- FREN 201 – French IV
- HIST 102 – World History
- COM 181 – Public Speaking
- MAT 171 – PreCalculus
- MAT 175 – Calculus
- ENG 101 – English IV
- ENG 102 – English IV
- EDTP 107 – Human Development and Learning
- EDTP 201 – The Teaching Profession
- EDTP 215 – Foundations of Instruction
- REL 130 – World Religions