

Notes on Jesuit's Freshman Curriculum (Spring 2014 update)

You can view the complete description of all Jesuit HS courses and other academic information at: <http://www.jesuitportland.org/page.cfm?p=420>

All freshmen take seven classes:

1. World History
2. Physical Education I
3. Faith Formation

We use the STS High School Placement Exam (taken in December) to make preliminary placements in classes. In analyzing placement exam scores, Jesuit uses national, not local, percentiles.

4. **Math:** Students with math scores on the national scale of the placement exam of 35 and below will initially be forecast for General Algebra. Those with scores 36-81 will be forecast for Algebra I. Those with scores 82 and above will be forecast for Algebra I Honors. If you feel this is the right placement, you do not have to do anything further.

Students who wish to challenge their math placements take the Algebra Challenge Exam in the Gedrose Student Center on either Wednesday, April 23 from 3 to 4 pm (or to 4:30 for those also taking the Geometry Challenge) or on Thursday, May 1 at the same times. These are not standardized tests, but a chance to work through problems that correspond with our curriculum, created by Jesuit's Math Department. No calculators are allowed on these tests. Practice problems for these tests are available on the JHS website. Do not worry if you cannot do all the problems—we simply want to make sure you are in the right math class when school starts.

5. **World Languages:** Jesuit offers to freshmen courses in Spanish, French, and Chinese. Students with a composite score below 30 on the STS High School Placement Exam may be placed in Study Skills and begin their language study sophomore year.

Students who wish to begin a language at the second- or third-year level must take the Language Challenge Exam in the Gedrose Student Center on Thursday, April 24 or Wednesday, April 30 from 3 to 4 pm. Information about our introductory language courses is on the JHS website.

6. **Fine Arts or Honors Physics:** Students requesting placement in Honors Physics, must take the Algebra challenge exam and be placed in Honors Geometry. Math challenge scores and placement test scores will determine eligibility for Honors Physics placement.

All other freshmen will choose between Band I, Mixed Chorus, Fine Arts I, Tech Theatre or Art I. Placement in Art I requires work samples approved by Ms. Fleenor or Ms. Gordon-Manning.

7. **English:** Students with both Reading and Language scores above 84 may forecast for English I Honors (you do not have to do so). Students whose scores are close to 85, or total 170, on both Reading and Language may submit a portfolio of three papers to Mr. Smart in order to be considered for English I Honors, on a space-available basis.

Note regarding **Keyboarding skills**: Incoming freshmen must be able to type at least 25 words per minute with strong accuracy. In addition, students must have a good working knowledge of the Office 2007 versions of Word and PowerPoint, with at least some familiarity with Excel.

I will describe Jesuit's curriculum and the entire four-year sequence of classes at Curriculum Night on April 14, 2014 at 7 pm. Representatives of the various departments will be available as well.

Thank you for your interest in Jesuit's academic program!

Christopher Smart
Academic Vice Principal