

Expanded Educational Opportunities at York Catholic

York Catholic Middle & High School educates five hundred fifty students, grades 7-12, and they come to us with a wide array of interests and talents. We continue to look for new ways to better educate our students, taking into account their personal strengths and attributes, and we recognize the need to pursue opportunities that afford York Catholic students choice, exposure, and educational experiences beyond our doors. The following four programs do just that.

York Catholic students have the option to pursue online study through VHS, the **Virtual High School**. VHS offers students a variety of courses not found in our course catalog, and offers specialized study in any discipline from Astronomy to the Stock Market to Business Law. Students grades 9-12 can opt to take a semester-long course online, choosing from an extensive course listing. Popular online course titles include Principles of Engineering, Cyber Security, Forensic Science, and American Sign Language. A complete list of offerings can be found at vhslearning.org

College in the Classroom is a well-established program at York Catholic that allows juniors and seniors the opportunity to earn college credit through Alvernia University in Reading, Pennsylvania. Students earn college credit at their desks in York Catholic classrooms, taught by York Catholic faculty members. The total cost per course is \$240, and families cover the cost of these courses. At the end of senior year, students request that an Alvernia transcript be sent to the school of their choice, and those college credits can be used to fulfill graduation requirements toward an undergraduate degree. The program is flourishing, and this year we have 75 students participating, with 146 courses in progress. Many students are taking more than one course; six seniors in the class of 2023 are currently earning 12 credits apiece from their desks right here at 601 East Springettsbury Avenue. Our College in the Classroom offerings for the 2023-24 school year include the following:

- Sociology / Psychology
- Business 100
- Latin
- Statistics
- Spanish 5
- Journalism
- Music History
- Music Theory

Dual Enrollment is a program that allows students to take collegiate level courses at Penn State York, York College, and Harrisburg Area Community College (HACC) at a discounted rate. Seniors are allowed to leave the YC campus and with preapproval to take a college class with credits awarded both at the college or university and York Catholic. A senior could, for example, leave York Catholic after their sixth period lunch and take a 1:30 PM class at HACC. The introduction to the collegiate classroom in 12th grade has obvious benefits and credits transfer. Students are encouraged to fulfill general education requirements this way, but are able to explore career possibilities on the introductory level as well.

A fourth educational opportunity is the FLEX program through **York County School of Technology**. This program is for juniors and seniors, and allows students to study at YC through the morning and attend a class of interest at York County School of Technology in the afternoon. Students are able to graduate with a York Catholic diploma and benefit from elective offerings at York Tech; six York Catholic students are enrolled in this program for the 2022-23 school year. Classes offered through the FLEX program include the following:

- Introduction to Automotive Technology
- Construction Technician
- Introduction to Welding
- Nail Technology

As we enter a new decade, we will maintain the tradition of academic excellence in our classrooms. We do, however, recognize the need to expand and explore options that provide our students with choice and career exploration, catering to personal aptitude and interest. For questions regarding VHS, College in the Classroom, Dual Enrollment, or the FLEX program at York County School of Technology, contact Kathy Hand in the Studies Office at khand@yorkcatholic.org or 717-846-8871 x1313.