

SAINT THOMAS MORE ACADEMY
INTERMEDIATE & SENIOR DIVISIONS

OVERVIEW

Saint Thomas More Academy currently offers only the Intermediate Division (9th-10th grades) for the upcoming Academic Year. We plan to expand to the Senior Division (11th-12th grades) in future academic years, and provide the following information about both divisions for planning purposes for families considering Saint Thomas More Academy for high-school aged students.

The Intermediate Division meets for lessons on Tuesdays and Thursdays during the space between Morning Prayer and Mass. Tuesday courses offered include History, Literature, Philosophy, and Theology. Thursdays, students take Choir, Art & Art History, Geography, and Nature Study. Seniors participating in Senior Seminar will meet Tuesdays following Mass and Lunch for a two-hour interdisciplinary seminar. Thursdays, Senior Division students will join Intermediate students in the morning courses listed above.

Following the classical Catholic model of education, Philosophy and Theology are taught each year at the high school level. Contrary to the secular world, which relegates these disciplines to “electives” in the college-prep transcribing mindset, the Christian framework calls Theology the Queen of the Sciences, and Philosophy her Handmaid.

“The children of the philosophers speak of Geometry and Music and Grammar and Rhetoric and Astronomy [reference to the Trivium & Quadrivium, i.e. the “Seven Liberal Arts”] as being ancillary to Philosophy; and in the same way we might speak of Philosophy itself as being ancillary to Christianity.”

-Origen's Letter to Saint Gregory Thaumaturgos, circa 235 A.D.

Saint Thomas More Academy is committed to returning clear thinking and the Triune God to their proper place at the pinnacle of secondary education. We believe that we can support parents in educating their students the way countless saints have learned, while still meeting the basic expectations of a college-preparatory transcript should families discern that path for their students.

STATE OF GEORGIA HOMESCHOOL LAW & REQUIREMENTS

The State of Georgia requires students enrolled at *accredited institutions* to accumulate a minimum of 23 credits to be awarded a high school diploma. They are required to complete a certain number of courses in predefined content areas. Homeschool students are **NOT** required to comply with these

requirements. Rather, state law gives parents who are home educators full responsibility in setting the course of study and requirements for completion of a “home study program.”¹ A high school diploma earned by a homeschooled student is awarded by the parents and their individual homeschool. This diploma is the legal equivalent of a diploma awarded by a private or public secondary institution. It is advisable that a student complete 23 credits before a diploma is awarded, though often homeschool students complete many more.²

While state law gives parents full autonomy over their home study curriculum, parents are encouraged to consider the future goals of their student. If post-secondary education is your goal, the University System of Georgia (along with other public and some private post-secondary institutions) hold transcript requirements for their homeschool applicants. However, there are a great many private and/or liberal arts colleges that do not make the same stipulations for homeschooled applicants. However, in keeping with state law, home educators are required to write an annual progress assessment for each child in their homeschool.³ A transcript of material studied and courses taken at the high-school level is a wise addition to this assessment, regardless of a student’s future goals.

The University System of Georgia outlines a Required High School Curriculum which includes its requirements for applicants to Georgia public colleges and universities. Applicants graduating from non-accredited homeschools or high schools must meet the admission criteria required of other applicants but may demonstrate their graduation and completion of the RHSC in an alternative way.⁴

University System of Georgia
Required High School Curriculum

Subject	Credits
Mathematics	4
English	4
Science	4
Social Science	3
Foreign Language	2

¹ O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690

² Georgia Home Education Association, *ghea.org*

³ O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690

⁴ University System of Georgia, Board of Regents Policy Manual 4.2.1.1

Saint Thomas More Academy is a support to parents. We offer courses that can be transcribed to meet a portion of the above requirements. While we assist parents aiming to meet these secular requirements, they ultimately are woefully insufficient to provide a classical Liberal Arts education. Additionally, an attempt to transcript Liberal Arts disciplines along contemporary lines leaves parents to some degree trying to fit a square peg into a round hole. In order to abide by secular convention, we recommend awarding course credits as found below. The Catholic tradition of education considers Theology and Philosophy weightier in terms of rigor and importance, but in an attempt to conform to expected post-secondary norms we have awarded them half-credits annually in the scheme below so as not to overload student transcripts with so-called “elective” credits.

Across four years in our Intermediate and eventually our Senior divisions, students can expect to be awarded the following credits:

Discipline	Two-Day Credits*	Tues. Credits	Thurs. Credits
English (Literature & Composition)	4	4	0
Social Science (Philosophy; History; Geography)	7	6	1
Science (Biology; Anatomy - <i>when courses make</i>)	2	0	2
Fine Arts (Choir; Studio Art & Art History)	4	0	4
Theology	2	2	0
<i>Total</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>7</i>

**Students are eligible for a full course credit when coupled with at-home instruction and completion of Academy reading and assignments. Home educators are required by law to complete the equivalent of 180 days consisting of 4.5 school hours every 12-month “academic year.”⁵ Many homeschool families choose to extend learning beyond Saint Thomas More Academy’s two 12-week terms.*

In addition to the courses offered, Saint Thomas More Academy also offers free math tutoring at all levels. Students wishing to complete a college-preparatory high school curriculum will need to complete science, mathematics, and foreign language credits at home or through other means. As we continue to grow, we hope to expand our offerings at the high-school level.

⁵ O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690

CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Saint Thomas More Academy seeks to integrate the disciplines across a four-year cycle. The charts below indicate the courses offered by year. The 2022-23 Academic Year is “Year B: The Medieval Era: Christendom & Life in the Light of Christ.” For example, students entering the Intermediate Division in the upcoming Academic Year could expect to complete Year B and Year C courses at the Intermediate level and Year D and Year A courses at the Senior level.

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

YEAR A: THE CLASSICAL ERA & THE COMING OF CHRIST	
Tuesday Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Classical Literature (<i>The Odyssey</i>, <i>The Aeneid</i>, Orations) & Composition ❖ Ancient Civilizations & Foundations of Historical Thought (<i>The Everlasting Man</i> by G.K. Chesterton) ❖ Theology: The Old & New Testaments & the Narrative of Salvation ❖ Philosophy: Plato’s <i>Republic</i> & Aristotle’s <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> 	One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit
Thursday Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Studio Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i>

YEAR B: THE MEDIEVAL ERA: CHRISTENDOM & LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST	
Tuesday Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Medieval Literature (Briton, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Nordic, Canterbury Tales, King Arthur, Dante) & Composition ❖ Early Medieval & High Medieval History ❖ Theology: St. Augustine, the Anglo-Saxons, & St. Aelred ❖ Philosophy: Boethius’ <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> & Medieval Thought 	One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit
Thursday Courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i>

YEAR C: RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION

<p>Tuesday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shakespeare & Composition ❖ Late Medieval - Renaissance & Reformation History ❖ Theology: Pre-Reformers & The Council of Trent ❖ Philosophy: The Rise of Naturalism, Voluntarism, & Nominalism 	<p>One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p>
<p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>

YEAR D: THE ENLIGHTENMENT & THE AMERICAN PROJECT

<p>Tuesday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ American & Modern Literature (Short Stories, American Novelists, 20th c. Literature), Creative Writing, & Composition ❖ Enlightenment & American History ❖ Theology: Catholic Social Thought ❖ Philosophy: The Rise of Liberalism 	<p>One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p>
<p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>

SENIOR DIVISION

<p style="text-align: center;">YEAR A: THE CLASSICAL ERA</p> <p>Tuesday: Seminar on Christian Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Classical Literature (<i>The Odyssey</i>, <i>The Aeneid</i>, Classical Orations) & Composition ❖ Ancient Civilizations & Foundations of Historical Thought (<i>The Everlasting Man</i> by G.K. Chesterton) ❖ The Old & New Testaments & the Narrative of Salvation ❖ Plato's <i>Republic</i> & Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i> <p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p> <p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies <u>Quarter</u>-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">YEAR B: THE MEDIEVAL ERA: CHRISTENDOM & LIFE IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST</p> <p>Tuesday: Seminar on Christian Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Medieval Literature (Briton, Anglo-Saxon, Anglo-Nordic, Canterbury Tales, King Arthur, Dante) & Composition ❖ Early Medieval & High Medieval History ❖ St. Augustine, the Anglo-Saxons, & St. Aelred ❖ Boethius' <i>Consolation of Philosophy</i> & Medieval Thought <p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>One English Credit</p> <p>One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p> <p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies <u>Quarter</u>-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">YEAR C: RENAISSANCE & REFORMATION</p> <p>Tuesday: Seminar on Christian Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Shakespeare & Composition ❖ Late Medieval - Renaissance & Reformation History ❖ Pre-Reformers & The Council of Trent ❖ The Rise of Naturalism, Voluntarism, & Nominalism 	<p>One English Credit One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p>

<p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>
<p style="text-align: center;">YEAR D: THE ENLIGHTENMENT & THE AMERICAN PROJECT</p> <p>Tuesday: Seminar on Christian Culture</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ American & Modern Literature (Short Stories, American Novelists, 20th c. literature), Creative Writing, & Composition ❖ Enlightenment & American History ❖ Catholic Social Thought ❖ The Rise of Liberalism <p>Thursday Courses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Choir (& Participation in Mass Choir) ❖ Art & Art History ❖ Geography ❖ Nature Study (Biology & Anatomy available in years when class makes) 	<p>One English Credit</p> <p>One Social Studies Credit Elective Half-Credit Social Studies Half-Credit</p> <p>Fine Arts Half-Credit Fine Art Half-Credit Social Studies Quarter-Credit <i>If Bio. or Anat., One Science Credit</i></p>

