

## ST. MARK'S CURRICULUM

St. Mark's seeks to develop students' abilities in key areas.

Students attending St. Mark's are challenged:

- To learn deeply and think critically.
- To be resilient and resourceful.
- To be creative problem-solvers with an understanding of the importance of inquiry.
- To develop intellectual self-confidence and curiosity.
- To communicate and listen effectively.
- To operate with integrity and honesty.
- To develop necessary skills to live in a diverse community and global world.
- To develop healthy habits of mind, body, and spirit.



The St. Mark's curriculum is built on several pillars of pedagogy and learning designed to challenge and support our students:

### College Preparation

Students will gain the necessary skills to be successful in a collegiate setting. Our younger students begin with basic skills and move on to higher order skills development as they advance through the curriculum. They enhance their ability to master developmentally appropriate skill sets such as critical/analytical thinking, logical argumentation, effective writing, and close observation. Students are exposed to a foundational core curriculum designed to sharpen skills and habits of mind upon which to build their secondary school and college careers.

### Diverse Curricular Offerings

Students encounter a diverse and wide ranging curriculum. Our diverse faculty work collaboratively and also maintain pedagogical freedom that enriches student learning experiences.

### Collaborative Learning

Our students and faculty work closely together and are engaged in collaborative work across the curriculum. Group work is a part of course design and students are encouraged to extend cooperative work to other areas outside of the classroom.

### Spiritual Center

Built into our curriculum is the two-semester religion requirement signaling the importance of intellectual inquiry of spiritual matters and discussion of ideals such as ethics, integrity, compassion, and spiritual cultivation.

### Exploring the World Beyond Campus

Our students are encouraged to discover the world beyond Southborough. Teachers explore global perspectives within our curriculum and regularly engage our students beyond the classroom on local day trips or by taking students to countries abroad.

### Advanced Course Offerings

Consistent with the national dialogue about trends shaping the future of education, St. Mark's has undertaken an in-depth curriculum review, including a thorough examination of Advanced Placement's role in the School's academic program. Starting in the fall of 2014, we designated our most rigorous courses as Advanced, rather than AP. These courses meet or exceed the challenge of the Advanced Placement curriculum and allows for greater flexibility in curriculum design. This approach best supports the educational goals identified in our Strategic Plan, St. Mark's School: 2020. Students who receive departmental permission to enroll in Advanced Courses will not be required to sit for AP examinations. Teachers of Advanced Courses in disciplines offering an AP examination will collaborate with students who wish to pursue AP testing to develop an appropriate preparation plan.

For our full Academic Program and course listings, including information on St. Mark's Saturdays and Lion Term, please visit [www.stmarksschool.org/academics](http://www.stmarksschool.org/academics).

# ST. MARK'S SCHOOL

## DIPLOMA REQUIREMENTS

Arts	One-Year Course for incoming III and IV Formers  One-Semester Course for incoming V Formers
English	Four years for incoming III Formers  Three years for incoming IV Formers  Two years for incoming V Formers
History	Global Seminar for incoming III Formers  United States History, usually in V Form year
Language	Completion of one language to Level III  For incoming students, placement is contingent upon departmental approval in consultation with the Dean of Academics.
Mathematics	Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II  For incoming students, placement is contingent upon departmental approval in consultation with the Dean of Academics.
Religion	Two-semesters for incoming III and IV Formers. All students take one semester of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and one elective.  One-semester for incoming V Formers
Science	Two lab sciences for incoming III Formers  One lab science for incoming IV Formers
St. Mark's Saturdays	Three trimesters for all students
Lion Term	Three weeks per year for all students

III Form students are required to take six courses each semester. All other Forms are required to take a minimum of five courses per semester, but with permission of the Dean of Academics, students on honors may take six courses.

### Honors and High Honors

A student who receives a grade average of B+ or higher in a cumulative Window (quarter), with no C- range grades will have honors designation for that marking period.

A student who receives a grade average of A or higher in a cumulative Window (quarter), with no C- range grades will have a high honors designation for that marking period.