



Welcome to the 11th Grade!

The 11th Grade Team is so excited to begin the school year with the students and parents of the Class of 2027! Junior year will challenge students (and parents) in ways that are intimidating, enlightening, necessary, and exciting. It's our goal as an 11th Grade Team to push and support every student and family through the coming months. It's going to be a great year!

During the first week of school, we will be sharing information with you on the basic expectations and operations for each class—but until then, below is a brief introduction to the core classes most of you will be taking this year, as well as supply lists that will help set each student up for success right out of the gate.

American History (Teacher Amy McMinn)

Our American History course examines America's mission to create a more perfect union. During the first semester, we examine the struggle to form a more perfect union through the actions and accomplishments of civil rights movements; including Native Americans, African Americans, Women, Immigrants, Impoverished Americans and LGBT movements. During the second semester, we examine the struggle to create a more perfect world; including America's involvement in the Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, The Cold War, The War on Terror and beyond. Throughout the year, we ask and answer three major questions: What is the changing role of the United States government in citizens' lives? How have specific individuals and groups worked to form a more perfect union? What is the changing role of the United States in world affairs?

Math III & AP Calculus (Teacher: Teshale Byan)

My name is Teshale Byan. I am very excited about the opportunity to have your child in my class this year. I am looking forward to an enjoyable, educational, and positive learning experience for all my students. Everything students need to succeed in my class can be accessed through Canvas under my weekly Modules. You can also find more information about my class in the course syllabus on Canvas. I believe everyone has different learning styles and I will do my very best to get to know my students' learning

preferences to serve them best. I want to let you know that I am open to any suggestions that will help your child excel in math class. I would also appreciate any kind of support you can give your child at home. I am available to answer any questions that you may have. I have found that email has certainly made communication with parents much easier; however if there is an urgent matter, I would like to contact you via phone. My email address and phone number are listed below. Again, I am thrilled to have your child in my class, and I am looking forward to a productive and exciting school year.

tbyan@thefsi.us

Math IV (Teacher: Caleb Melton)

This course is designed to prepare students to take college-level Algebra, PreCalculus, or Statistics. The primary focus of this course is on functions and statistical thinking, continuing the study of algebraic functions, trigonometry and statistical concepts previously experienced in NC Math 1, 2, and 3. The first half of the year focuses on algebra and trigonometry, and the second half of the year focuses on data science/statistics.

AP PreCalculus (Teacher: Caleb Melton)

This course is intended to prepare students for AP Calculus AB and other higher level mathematics. In this course students will use and expand their knowledge and understanding of topics learned in Math 3, such as real and complex numbers, functions, equations and expressions, modeling polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and analytic geometry. A large portion of the classes focuses on trigonometric functions and their applications. In addition, students will study vector theory, matrices, polar coordinates, and parametric equations.

Chemistry and Honors Chemistry with Mary Smith

We will do many experiments and investigations and the class will be fun and collaborative. Students will learn chemistry topics in the order that scientists unveiled them including atomic kinetic theory, gas laws, ionic and covalent bonding, bond energy, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. In addition to learning these topics, students will also practice asking questions, designing experiments, technical writing, and technical presentation skills. Students in honors chemistry should expect to have weekly homework that includes pre-lab reading, practice problems, and finishing up lab reports and projects started in class. Honors chemistry students will be expected to reach a higher level of mastery of each topic in order to prepare them for further study in the basic sciences or engineering in college. I'm excited to teach your students and enjoy teaching diverse learners! Please make note of the required supplies below and reach out if you have questions or concerns. I've asked

that each student purchase a lab notebook (see list below). Please let me know if you need help with this. Msmith@thefsi.us

English III (Teacher: Colin Isaacs)

In English III, students will engage in a thematic study of literature centered on the search for meaning. The course begins with Transcendentalist thought and gradually moves toward Existentialist perspectives, tracing how writers across time have explored questions of identity, purpose, and human experience. Throughout the course, students will read a variety of literary and philosophical texts that reflect these evolving ideas. Rather than focusing on a single literary tradition, the course emphasizes thematic connections across time periods and genres. A central goal of English III is to help students become more purposeful and effective communicators. Students will develop greater awareness and control of their writing style, voice, and mechanics while learning to adapt those skills to a variety of writing tasks, including analytical, argumentative, and reflective writing. Through close reading, discussion, and writing, students will strengthen their ability to think critically, communicate clearly, and engage thoughtfully with complex ideas. This course is designed to support students with a wide range of reading and writing experiences, encouraging thoughtful discussion, personal engagement with texts, and growth as writers and critical thinkers. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me cisaacs@thefsi.us.

AP English Language and Composition (Teacher: Colin Isaacs)

AP English Language and Composition is a college-level English course designed to develop students' skills in critical reading, analytical writing, and rhetorical thinking. From the first day of class, students are expected to meet college-level expectations and engage consistently with rigorous academic work. The course primarily draws from nonfiction texts, as its primary focus is on rhetorical analysis, argumentation, and synthesis. Students will learn to closely examine how writers construct meaning, develop and defend their own arguments, and synthesize ideas from multiple sources into cohesive written responses. Writing is central to AP Language. Students should expect frequent writing assignments, ongoing revision, and steady growth in clarity, complexity, and sophistication of expression throughout the year. Despite its rigor, AP Lang is designed to support a wide range of learners. With consistent effort and engagement, students at all skill levels can be successful in the course. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at cisaacs@thefsi.us.

Supply Lists

American History

Three Ring Binder

Loose Leaf Paper

Pens, Pencils, Highlighters

AP Lang

Three Ring Binder

Loose Leaf Paper

Pens, Pencils, Highlighters

English III

Three Ring Binder

Loose Leaf Paper

Pens, Pencils, Highlighters

Math III & AP Calculus -AB

Composition notebook (graph paper)

Graphing Calculator (TI-83 and plus if available - *optional*)

Pens, Pencils, colored pens for notes and graphs

Ruler (Compass set - *optional*)

Chemistry

Lab notebook like this: [Option 1](#), [Option 2](#), [Option 3](#)

Folder or 1.5 inch three ring binder for handouts

Pens, Pencils, colored pens for notes and models

Optional for classroom donation: sticky notes, small plastic cups

AP Seminar

Three Ring Binder

Loose Leaf Paper

Pens, Pencils, Highlighters

Math IV, PreCalculus,

- 3-ring binder (1.5-2 inches)
- For AP PreCalculus a graphing calculator (e.g. TI-84) will be essential, but some will be available for your use in class if buying one is a financial hardship.

Visual Arts	8.5 x 11 (or larger) sketchbook (3D, Art 1 - 4, AP) 2 fine tip sharpies (Art 1 - 3) 2 ultra fine tip sharpies (Art 1 -3) Set of micron pens - variety of sizes (required: Art 2 - 3, optional: Art 1, 4, AP) Kneaded Eraser (Art 1 - 4, AP)
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Please reach out with any questions or concerns you have. We look forward to meeting you and your students.

Warm Regards,

Mary Smith, 11th Grade Team Lead, (msmith@thefsi.us), and the 11th Grade Team: Teshale Byan, Kati Robbins, Paul Szumski, Chad Gerber, Colin Isaacs, Amy McMinn