



Course Summaries:

“Introduction to Faith” (9th grade)

Freshmen are invited to consider the Christian faith through three lenses: head (understanding), heart (feeling), and hands (service). Students learn about the role of the Bible, prayer, and Jesus and other foundational elements of the Christian faith.

“Jesus in the World” (10th grade)

Provides sophomores with personal, local, and global reflections about how Jesus is still alive and active in the world today. Topics like wealth and poverty, justice, and intercultural service work are explored.

“Tough Questions” (11th grade)

As students begin to develop abstract thinking in their junior year, they are given a safe and supportive place to consider some of the challenging questions surrounding Christianity such as suffering, faith and science, and doubt.

“Faith Beyond High School” (12th grade)

In the culminating Spiritual Life year, seniors are invited to consider what life-long faith might look like after they graduate. They are given practical tools to have faith-based responses to the upcoming issues and opportunities that come in college and beyond.

Purpose:

These Required, Pass/No Pass, Year-Long, Spiritual Life courses serve three main purposes:

1. **Create Community:** Spiritual life is the social hub of the school where students can have some fun, build lifelong friendships, complete 20 hours of community service, and receive encouragement and guidance from the Spiritual Life Director.
2. **Explore the Christian Faith:** These courses provide a safe space for all kinds of students to gather together to pursue Jesus Christ’s two greatest commandments: to love God and love our neighbor as ourselves.
3. **Pursue Identity Formation:** Each of the years of Spiritual Life offer research-based opportunities to journey through adolescence in healthy and character building ways in preparation for life after high school.

Methods:

1. Weekly Live Chapel Sessions: High School students each have a weekly gathering where they are able to hear guest speakers, experience the supportive relationship of the Spiritual Life Director, and explore worship, Bible study, and prayer.
2. In Course Work: Assignments offer students the chance to hear from dozens of Christian teachers, pastors, scientists, missionaries, leaders, and theologians about various faith topics so they can begin to build a collection of voices that can speak into their own faith journeys.
3. In Course Discussions: After each chapel, students connect with their own grade level in order to consider the chapel topics in a deeper way and relate the session to the larger theme for the year.
4. Outside Events: Local in-person and virtual community service opportunities, spiritual retreats, Christian leadership trainings and student to student Bible studies are presented as options for students.

Grading Policy:

Spiritual Life Courses are Pass/No Pass classes. To earn a "Pass," the student must achieve a 70% or higher in the course. Grades will be based on a point system with each assignment given a certain point value based on participation only.