



FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions)

Columbus Catholic High School

How many credits are required to graduate from Columbus?

Columbus requires a minimum of 49 credits to graduate. A 1 semester class equals 1 credit. Students do not earn credits in Study Halls.

Required credits include: 1. English: 8 2. Theology: 8 3. Math: 6 4. Science: 6 5. Speech: 1 (usually in 10th grade) 6. Technology: 1 7. PE: 4 8. Social Studies: 6 9. 21st Century Skills (taken in 9th grade) - Required Social Studies classes include: World History (9th grade), US History (11th grade), US Gov't (12th grade) and We the People (10th grade).

During each year of high school Columbus students have a variety of required classes and elective openings. Students may not take more than 1 Study Hall in a semester and students take a PE class 1 semester each year. PE meets daily.

For more information on the Columbus curricular offerings, contact the Guidance Office.

What Advanced Placement courses are offered at Columbus?

Columbus currently offers AP English Language and Composition for 11th graders and AP Calculus. AP Calculus is typically taken by 12th graders.

When an AP class is taken, a student chooses whether to take the AP test at the end of the year on the national testing dates. The student's performance on the test determines whether a student earns college credit. Tests are scored on a 1 - 5 scoring system (1 is the lowest and 5 is the highest) and students typically have to receive a score of 3 or higher to receive college credit. Columbus has reduced the number of AP classes that we teach on Campus because we are now offering more classes for College credit. Read more info below.

When can students start taking College classes at Columbus?

Columbus students can take a variety of College classes at Columbus. This year we offered 6 different classes taught at Columbus by our teachers. This is the first time we have done this. Students can also take College classes online through Hawkeye Community College and they could travel to the HCC campus to take classes as well. College credit is earned by achieving a Passing grade in the course.

In 2017/18, we will offer 7 courses: General Biology I and II, Intro to Lit, Composition 1 and 2, Intro to Statistics and Math for Liberal Arts. All are 1 semester courses. The courses that are taught at Columbus are for our 12th graders, because of where they fall in our curricular offerings. Online courses can be taken by Juniors or Seniors. There is a wide variety of classes available. Online classes are not for everyone though because you must be a very self-motivated learner.

Important items to remember:

1. Doing well in 9th and 10th grade classes help prepare you for success in college classes and the opportunities to take them. Build a solid foundation as an underclassman.
2. College classes need to be able to fit into your schedule. Columbus requirements and prerequisites still apply and take priority.
3. Prepare now in order to have the doors of opportunity open to you in the future.
4. College class grades do become part of your Columbus transcript.



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How often do students have PE at Columbus?

Columbus students either have PE 1st semester or 2nd semester during the school year. During the semester of PE, students have PE every day on their schedule. This differs from middle school where students have PE throughout the year, but they do not have it every day. Columbus does not grant 'athletic exemptions' from PE unlike the Waterloo public high schools.

Is Spanish the only foreign language taught at Columbus?

Spanish is the only foreign language taught by a Columbus teacher in the classroom. Columbus offers Spanish 1-4. Typically 3 sections of Spanish 1 are taught followed by 3 sections of Spanish 2 and 2 sections each of Spanish 3 and 4. At this time, there is not enough demand to be able to finance and staff a teacher of another language on the Columbus teaching staff.

There are several Columbus students taking a different foreign language through the Iowa Online Academy. These classes have an instructor that provides instruction online and there is an additional cost to taken one of these classes, because they are no longer free to Columbus. Students must be very self-motivated and disciplined in order to succeed in an online class. Online learning is not for everyone.

What is the Columbus Band like?

The Columbus Band has made amazing strides in the last 5+ years. This year over 50 students are enrolled in Band and they do an amazing job. We are very proud of their performances and sound quality. Columbus also offers Jazz Band and an audition-based Honors Jazz as well. Columbus Band students play in the Pep Band at Columbus games and attend a variety of contests during the year as well.

What trips are students able to go on while they are enrolled at Columbus and when do they occur?

Columbus students are able to participate in a variety of trips currently while they are enrolled Columbus. They include:

- NCYC (the National Catholic Youth Conference that occurs every other year in Indianapolis; this trip is sponsored by Waterloo Catholic Youth Ministry; it is open to all HS students) Close-up (this annual weeklong trip to DC is an option for 11th grade students)
- Columbus Fine Arts Trip (this trip takes place every other year and is open to students enrolled in our Fine Arts classes; Students will be traveling to Denver this year shortly after Spring Break),
- European History trip to Europe (this 10 day trip to Europe happens in the Spring after Spring Break and is open to 12th graders in Mr. Schnieders Advanced European History class; you must take the class in order to be eligible for the trip).

By participating in a variety of extracurricular options, students are also able to attend competitions throughout the State.



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Is there a P.T.O at Columbus?

Columbus does not have a P.T.O. (Parent Teacher Organization). Columbus does have a very strong Booster Club and we strongly encourage our parents to get involved in a variety of ways. The Columbus Booster Club supports our students and school in all areas: the Arts, Academics, and Athletics.

Anyone can join the Booster Club by purchasing a membership, but we really need all parents to volunteer. One of the main ways to volunteer is by helping in our Concession Stands. Columbus Concession Stands are one of the main sources of revenue for Booster Club expenditures and we need all parents in order to lighten the load for all parents. To learn more about the Columbus Booster Club, go to <http://www.cvcatholicschools.org/columbus-catholic-high-school/booster-club>

Is Driver's Education offered at Columbus during the School Day?

Driver's Education is not taught during the School Day at Columbus. It is not taught during the day at any of the Waterloo high schools. Columbus students choose one of the private Driver's Education companies that offer Driver's Education and take the class either in the evenings during the class session or during the summer. Multiple Driver's Education sessions are held (typically one in the fall and 1 in the spring) at Columbus on Tuesday and Thursday nights through Street Smarts. Columbus students are also able to take Driver's Education at West HS in the evenings during the school year or during the summer.

Are there Extracurricular opportunities for students other than Sports?

Yes, Columbus offers a variety of activities for students in addition to a full menu of Sports. Students can participate in Student Government, Large Group and Individual Competitive Speech, Fall Play, Jazz Band, After-school Choir, Spring Musical, 1st Robotics team, Service Club, Medley (our student diversity club), Liturgy planning. Students can get involved in a variety of ways, and we are always looking to expand the Columbus experience.

Are there Sports at Columbus that 8th graders can participate in? - Yes, 8th graders can participate on the Columbus Baseball and Softball teams. Students will participate on the level that is appropriate for their abilities. - Columbus teams play a variety of metro and local teams in addition to North Iowa Cedar League Conference opponents. - For more information, contact Columbus Activities Director Tom Ulses (tulses@cvcatholic.org)