



Class of 2027 Freshman Course Placement Process

St. Francis High School uses an eight (8) block academic schedule. Most freshmen take seven classes per semester, allowing for one free block. Placement into freshman classes is organized as follows:

- ENGLISH** All freshmen take **English 9**.
- THEOLOGY** All freshmen take **Introduction to Scripture** and **Christology**.
- MATH** Freshmen are placed into **Integrated Math 1** with no test required. Challenge tests (held February 25th and March 1st) are required to be placed into **Geometry**, **Integrated Math 2**, **Integrated Math 3**, **Honors Integrated Math 3**, **Pre-Calculus** and **Honors Pre-Calculus**.
- SCIENCE** Students are placed into their freshman Science course after careful review of their admissions file. HSPT scores have proven to be a reliable predictor of success in our freshman Science courses, so each applicant's HSPT composite score and reading, math and language grade equivalents are examined. Freshmen are generally placed into science courses as follows:
Integrated Science: Students scoring a 25% or lower HSPT composite score are automatically placed in Integrated Science. Students with higher HSPT composite scores may also be placed into Integrated Science if 2 or more HSPT grade equivalents in reading, math or language fall at 7.8 or below.
Biology: Students with a composite score above 25% but below 80% are placed in Biology. At least 2 of the HSPT reading, math, and language grade level equivalents must be greater than 7.8 to be Placed in Biology.
Honors Biology: Students will be placed in Honors Biology if their HSPT composite score is 80% or higher and 2 or more grade equivalent scores are 9.6 or higher. While students in Honors Biology do receive a one-point bump in their grade, it only counts toward their overall St. Francis GPA; the University of California system and CSU system do not award the extra point.
- LANGUAGE** Freshmen choose their placement into **French 1**, **Italian 1**, **Latin 1**, or **Spanish 1**. Freshmen may take a challenge test to place into an advanced language class of Level 2 or higher. Challenge tests take place February 25th and March 1st.
- SOCIAL STUDIES** All freshmen take a one semester **Early World History & Geography** course.
- PE/HEALTH** Freshmen may choose a PE elective; athletes on St. Francis sports teams can waive the PE requirement. Apprentice Dance, Dance Company, Hula, and Show Choir are PE electives that require an audition. Health is required and may be taken in the freshman year.
- ELECTIVES** Freshmen can choose from courses in Fine Arts, Technology, and Leadership. Some Performing Arts courses require an audition; please see the Performing Arts Auditions & Opportunities document for dates and times.