



Pope John XXIII High School is pleased to announce that it is partnering with Seton Hall University to offer college credit to Pope John students through a dual enrollment program called “Project Acceleration.” To qualify for Project Acceleration, the Seton Hall faculty must approve both the proposed course and the intended teacher. The first two Pope John classes that have been approved for college credit are the freshman and Sophomore Cum Laude Seminars (Great Books I and Great Books II) taught by Dr. Jeffrey Bond who earned his doctorate in political philosophy at the University of Chicago. The Cum Laude Seminars offer students an interdisciplinary introduction to the liberal arts based upon the works of the greatest minds of the Western tradition. In a seminar setting that focuses on the daily discussion of the Great Books, students have the unique opportunity to integrate their study of the conventional academic disciplines of mathematics, science, politics, history, language, and literature.

The third class approved for college credit is our Environmental Class taught by Christine Dunbar. This lab course presents a comprehensive overview of critical environmental issues, both current and future. Given the broad scope of environmental problems, the course’s interdisciplinary approach addresses ecology, geology, atmospheric science, biology, chemistry, law, economics and ethics. Ultimately, the student will recognize the vital role humans play in determining our environment’s destiny.

The final class that has been approved is our creative writing class taught by Catherine Porter. Students will participate in a multi-genre introduction to the craft of creative writing and examine literary conventions as well as the techniques and tools essential to effective writing and editing. Students will also lay out, market and distribute a yearly literary magazine spotlighting Pope John’s talented writers.

Project Acceleration, which began in 1978, offers credits at \$100 each. A three-credit course, then, costs \$300, compared to \$3,900 at Seton Hall University. Unlike Advanced Placement classes, Project Acceleration is not contingent upon an exam to determine the number of credits earned at the end of the course. If a student signs up for Project Acceleration and passes with a C or better, then that student receives credit. If a student chooses to attend Seton Hall University, the grade earned in the course translates when the credits transfer. A student who decides to attend college elsewhere can transfer the credits earned to their respective institutions during the summer before their collegiate freshman year. Credit is dependent on the attending college’s approval. Pope John XXIII High School plans to offer additional courses for college credit in the future.