

The Daily Schedule

Another distinguishing feature of Freshman Foundations is its flexible schedule which allows for class meeting times of variable length. The first three periods of every day are reserved for Freshman Foundations classes. Art

meets for two hours every other week, otherwise there is no "regular" schedule.

Students may meet as a large group or may be divided into two or more smaller groups; they may meet with one teacher for a typical "subject" class or with two or more

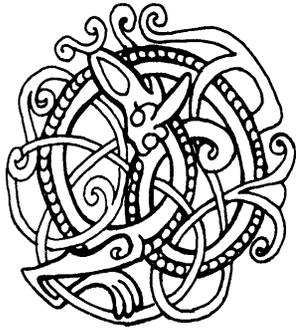
teachers at the same time for a group activity. This flexibility allows teachers and students to explore subjects more effectively.

Each week begins with a focus session on the quarter's theme and concludes with a discussion and debate of current events in light of the concerns of the theme being studied. Students select the current event item for the week and lead the session.

Credits & Grading

The following courses appear on the students' transcripts with credits as indicated and separate grades for each.

Literature	10
Writing	5
World History	10
World Religions	10
Art I	3
Introduction to Computers	5



The Faculty

Sean Burns

World Religions

B.A., Interdisciplinary Studies,
Georgetown University

Tara Finco

Writing

M.Ed., English Education, North Carolina State
State
B.S., English Education, University of Georgia

Ute Goggins

Art

B.A., Languages & Art,
Paedagogische Hochschule,
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Tracey Kelp

Computers

B.A., History,
University of Rochester

Carolyn McNulty

History

M.A. History, California State University,
San Francisco
B.A., History, University of California,
Berkeley

Laurence Starn

Literature

M.A., English, University of California,
Berkeley
B.A., English, Stanislaus State College

Freshman

Foundations

*Developing Essential
Academic Skills
Through
a Program of
Integrated Study*



Foundational Knowledge

Freshman Foundations, the brainchild of a group of San Domenico Upper School teachers, is a program for 9th grade students integrating literature, history, religion, writing, computer skills, and art. It provides students with foundational knowledge for further study in each of these subjects and the skills necessary for academic success. The program inspires scholarship by inviting students to discover meaningful connections as they explore the past, the present, and themselves.

Subjects

The unifying assumption of the Foundations Program is that literature, history, religion, writing, technology, and art are creative responses to a universal desire of people to understand their experience and determine their lives. Students investigate how others from different times and cultures have made sense of the world, organized themselves for the sake of meeting needs, and invented ways of preserving experience.

The Four Units

The program is divided into four thematic units:

- Problems & Solutions
- Order & Anarchy
- Temporal & Divine
- Tradition & Innovation

Each unit explores a particular tension which individuals and societies must resolve.

Skills

The Foundations Program trains students in research, analysis, synthesis, evaluation, and communication. Students apply these skills as they examine personal experience, art, literature, language, or the past, and learn how to communicate effectively using the spoken word, the written word, and the visual image.

The Writing Component

Though there is the opportunity for personal writing, the focus of writing assignments in the three "core" disciplines--literature, history, and religion--is on argument and exposition.

Writing is approached as a creative process of organizing, drafting, and revising, and of finding the most effective form to suit the content, situation, purpose, and audience. Grammar skills are taught with the purpose of technically improving all forms of writing as well as providing an analytical framework for the study of foreign language.

Computer Skills

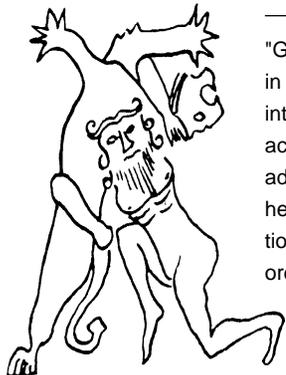
Through various exercises and projects, many in conjunction with other Foundations classes, students learn keyboarding skills and how to use the Macintosh platform for word-processing, database construction, spreadsheets, graphics, creating home pages, and using the Internet.

Art

Students learn to combine the concepts of color, line, form, and design with the basic techniques of various media. As with computer instruction, most projects are done in conjunction with other Foundations classes. By the end of the year, students are prepared for further work in art.

The Final Project

The Foundations Program culminates in a multimedia group presentation. Students are challenged to integrate the research, thinking, writing, artistic, and computer skills they have acquired and to work both independently and as a member of a group.



"Gilgamesh is an unusual hero in that his major quest has an intellectual purpose: the acquisition of knowledge. In addition to possessing courage, he must have great determination, patience, and fortitude in order to reach his destination."

World Mythology - Donna Rosenberg



Principal Gods

INDRA: king of the gods; god of rain

VISHNU: preserver of life on earth

SHIVA: Vishnu in the form of destroyer of life on earth