

NDCL Brings College Courses to Campus

Notre Dame-Cathedral Latin School is blurring the line between high school and college by allowing its students to take two college courses on the high school campus. Through the Post-Secondary Educational Opportunities Program (PSEOP), NDCL seniors can take Introduction to Psychology and “Rebels With a Cause” humanity course and receive college credit, thereby reducing the cost of college tuition and improving their marketability for admission to their top college selections. At a minimum, these students will be better prepared to meet the rigorous demands of college-level courses while at the same time not missing out on activities at their beloved high school.

Nicholas Santilli, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and professor of Psychology at Notre Dame College, and Mrs. Beth Walsh-Moorman, English Department Chair at NDCL, are the instructors for these courses.



Dr. Nicholas Santilli, Ph.D., Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs and professor of Psychology at Notre Dame College

Dr. Santilli served as a tenured member of the faculty at John Carroll University prior to joining the administration and faculty at Notre Dame College (NDC). His field of expertise is adolescent and emerging adult development with a special interest in social and personality development.

Mrs. Walsh-Moorman is currently a doctoral student at Kent State University in Curriculum and Instruction with a literacy specialization. She earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Mass Communication with a minor in English from Kent State University, and a Master of Arts degree in Education with certification in English from the University of Michigan.

Unlike an AP (Accelerated Program) or Honors classes that require students to take an exam to qualify for college credit, these college classes simply require students to pass the course to receive college credit.

Joseph A. Waler, Principal of NDCL, sees this program as a real winner. “Since the State of Ohio first authorized

post-secondary enrollment options several years ago, we’ve only had a very small number of students participate. That’s partly because of our location and where our students live in relation to the colleges,” Waler explains. “The more significant reason students chose not to participate is that our students are not anxious to flee this campus. They don’t want to miss a minute of the NDCL experience or risk feeling disconnected from the community. That’s why we decided to bring the college to our campus. By having Dr. Santilli and Mrs. Walsh-Moorman teach college courses right here, our students really get the best of both worlds. They can earn college credit and enjoy the full NDCL experience.”



Waler continues, "I'm very grateful to Notre Dame College for helping to make this happen. Our partnership is loaded with possibilities for our students."

In the fall, 30 students enrolled in Dr. Santilli's Introduction to Psychology course, worth three college credits. This spring, 25 students enrolled in the psychology course. "It's been a real nice experience. The students ask a lot of questions, are very inquisitive, and come to class prepared. All of my students have passed the course," states Dr. Santilli. "It has been a real joy to work at Notre Dame College and NDCL, both educational institutions sponsored by the Sisters of Notre Dame."

Dr. Santilli continues. "I want Notre Dame College's faculty to realize we can take NDC off campus, and it's perfectly acceptable."

"I appreciate that it gave me real-time experience as to what college classes will be like. I would recommend next year's senior class take advantage of these college courses. Challenge yourself."

- Clayton DeWalt '14

He says he teaches Introduction to Psychology at the high school identical to how he teaches it on the Notre Dame College campus. "If you think about it, these students are just a few months away from starting fall classes on a college campus. And there are particular reasons why we chose certain college courses. Introduction to Psychology and Humanities courses are easily transferrable. Most state institutions, particularly in Ohio, encourage students to take as many college classes as they can in high school. State universities are far more receptive to secondary college credit, principally because it relieves the cost of college and time students attend."

Wesley Stanovsek, '14 plans to major in Business with a Political Science or Economics minor at either Miami University or Boston University in the fall. "The class is noticeably more challenging and demanding. There is less hand-holding on the part of the teacher and the reading is significantly heavier. I really enjoy the class and the faster pace. Dr. Santilli is very encouraging and understanding. His passion for teaching comes through to the students."

Jayla Burton '14 will be majoring in Health Science at University of Cincinnati and plans a career in Physical Therapy. Jayla notes, "You can tell it is a college course because it requires me to be more independent and take



more responsibility. I have to take the initiative to study and do the work, and the workload is more challenging. I feel more prepared for college haven taken this course."

"NDCL's college humanities course is a phenomenal course that allows students to work at issues from multiple perspectives. For instance, I assign short, impactful reading on a topic like economic policy through art, poetry, religious perspectives, political writings, etc. Students learn many pieces of the puzzle to bring into discussions," Walsh-Moorman describes. "Just today in class, my students brought up incredibly sensitive and thought-provoking ideas in discussion such as how one cannot separate economic policy from faith and come to a just perspective. In this course, I am challenging them to consider complicated issues, see connections, and think in a new way."

She reports that the response to offering these college courses on NDCL's campus is very positive. "The student enthusiasm and commitment to tackle the more rigorous academic requirements exemplify the collaboration we are achieving between our administration, families, students, and colleges. Many parents and students are already asking if we can expand this program and offer more college-credit courses."

Emma Tomsick '14 says, "I decided to take both college courses. The college-credit definitely interested me. In the humanities course, students look at how different media can bring about social change. For instance, we are currently studying how social movements can be portrayed through music." Tomsick plans to study Business and eventually attend law school.

Clayton DeWalt '14 plans on majoring in Engineering at West Virginia University. He admits that the college credit was the prime motivator for taking Introduction to Psychology this spring. "I appreciate that it gave me real-time experience as to what college classes will be like. I would recommend next year's senior class take advantage of these college courses. Challenge yourself."

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