



Distinction Program — Secondary 1 to 5, 2025-2026

At Villa Maria, in addition to promoting students' academic, personal and social development, we encourage them to excel, which is why we have created the **Distinction Program**.

This program will enable students who wish to enrich their studies to earn **additional credits recognized by the Ministère de l'Éducation**. These additional credits will be noted on the report card. Students will also receive a certificate and a special mention on their diploma.

The Distinction Program's **extra-credit courses** are additional, non-mandatory courses offered at school after school hours, from 3:10 to 4:10 p.m. Each course consists of two one-hour classes per nine-day cycle for the duration of the school year.

Students will graduate with distinction if during the course of their academic journey they meet the following criteria:

- Complete three extra-credit courses
- Maintain a minimum of 70% for each extra-credit course
- Maintain a minimum overall average of 80% each year of Cycle 2 during which they took an extra-credit course.

The calculation is finalized at the end of Term 2 in Secondary 5.

Courses start the week of September 15, 2025, as per the cycle day on the student's schedule. Please note the following important points:

- Registration is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- **Only ONE (1) extra-credit course per school year.**
- Students **cannot take the same extra-credit course more than once**, with the exception of the Wind and Percussion Orchestra course.
- Course offerings are subject to the number of registrations. Each course requires a minimum of 24 students to register in order to be offered and there is a maximum number of 36 registrations per group. Once a class is full, it is no longer possible to register and pay for your child. You must add your child to the waiting list on the portal and we will contact you if a spot becomes available before the beginning of the school year.
- The fee per course is \$375 and is payable at the moment of registration via the portal. This amount covers human resources, the material required as well as administration fees. Prices are subject to change without notice.
- All of the school's existing rules and regulations apply to extra-credit courses, including those pertaining to late arrivals and absences. Students are not to miss any extra-credit course for a practice, tryout (sports) or activity. Only absences for sports games (not practices) are tolerated.
- The school reserves the right to refuse enrollment, or to remove a student from an extra-credit course, if it deems that the additional workload will interfere with the student's ability to succeed. If a student is removed from a course, the course fee will be refundable as per the Law on private education.
- **No new registrations will be accepted after Friday, September 26, 2025 4:00 p.m.**
- **No refund will be issued for a deregistration after Friday, October 10, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**
- **No deregistration will be authorized after Friday, November 14, 2025, 4:00 p.m.**

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses List

Secondary Level	Course Title	Teaching Language
Secondary 1		
	Math+ 1	English
	Spanish Beginner - Level I	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level II (Prerequisite: Spanish Level I)	Spanish
	Wind and Percussion Orchestra - Level 1 (OVPVM)	Bilingual
Secondary 2		
	Math+ 2	English
	Spanish Beginner - Level I	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level II (Prerequisite: Spanish Level I)	Spanish
	Wind and Percussion Orchestra - Level 1 (OVPVM)	Bilingual
Secondary 3		
	Business and Creative Thinking	Bilingual
	Law	Bilingual
	Model United Nations 1	English
	Quebec & Canadian Politics	Bilingual
	Spanish Beginner - Level I	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level II (Prerequisite: Spanish Level I)	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level III (Prerequisite: Spanish Level II)	Spanish
	Wind and Percussion Orchestra - Level 2 (OVPVM)	Bilingual

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses List

Secondary Level	Course Title	Teaching Language
Secondary 4		
	Business and Creative Thinking	Bilingual
	Law	Bilingual
	Model United Nations 1	English
	Psychology	Bilingual
	Quebec & Canadian Politics	Bilingual
	Spanish Beginner - Level I	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level II (Prerequisite: Spanish Level I)	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level III (Prerequisite: Spanish Level II)	Spanish
	Wind and Percussion Orchestra - Level 2 (OVPVM)	Bilingual
Secondary 5		
	Business and Creative Thinking	Bilingual
	Calculus (Prerequisite: Math SO5)	Bilingual
	Model United Nations 1	English
	Psychology	Bilingual
	Quebec & Canadian Politics	Bilingual
	Spanish Beginner - Level I	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level II (Prerequisite: Spanish Level I)	Spanish
	Spanish Beginner - Level III (Prerequisite: Spanish Level II)	Spanish
	Wind and Percussion Orchestra - Level 2 (OVPVM)	Bilingual

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses Description

Business and Creative Thinking (Secondary 3 to 5 - Bilingual)

Business and Creative Thinking is a course for cycle 2 students of both languages of instruction who are not enrolled in the entrepreneurship profile but rather in another profile and who wish to pursue this area of study. Students learn the basics of entrepreneurship, investment and business creation. For those who are in the entrepreneurship profile, this course is for you if you want an enrichment course that will allow you to broaden your academic background. [Course given in French and English.](#)

Calculus (Secondary 5 - Bilingual)

Prerequisite: enrolled in Math SO5 (Science or STEAM profile). The purpose of this course is to prepare students for the calculus courses required in college science and business programs. Special attention will be given to concepts that students have difficulty with, such as problem solving and limits. Students will be provided with a host of material resources including detailed notes, information sheets and examples of fully solved problems. [Course given in French and English.](#)

Law Course (Secondary 3, & 4 - Bilingual)

Students will be introduced to Quebec and Canadian law through a variety of projects. They will have the opportunity to take on different roles—lawyer, judge, legislator, journalist, and analyst—while familiarizing themselves with civil, constitutional, and criminal law. By the end of this course, students will have developed critical thinking and legal reasoning skills, enabling them to understand major societal issues and form their own positions on them. [Course given in French and English.](#)

This course includes:

- A visit to the Montreal Courthouse
- The opportunity to participate in the Juripop Moot Court competition for students who excel in the course.

Math+ 1 (Secondary 1 - Given in English)

Math+ 1 is a mathematics [enrichment course](#) for Secondary 1 students. It offers activities that are more complex than the regular program, while being complementary to it. The challenges offered call for creativity and the development of fundamental mathematical reasoning skills. Students are invited to prepare for and participate in local and national mathematics competitions. The course is designed for students who enjoy mathematics and are comfortable with a fast pace of learning in this discipline. Open to students of both languages of instruction. [Course given in English.](#)

Math+ 2 (Secondary 2, Given in English)

Math+ 2 is a mathematics [enrichment course](#) for Secondary 2 students. Following the same philosophy as Math+ 1, the course offers complex activities that draw on creativity and the full range of mathematical reasoning skills. Students are encouraged to prepare for and participate in math competitions. The course is designed for students who enjoy mathematics and are comfortable with a fast pace of learning in this discipline. Open to students of both languages of instruction. [Course given in English.](#)

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses Description

Model United Nations 1 - Introduction Course (Secondary 3 to 5, English)

Model United Nations is an academic simulation of the United Nations (UN) organization undertaken by students worldwide. Through the study of the history and legacy of the United Nations, students become familiar with international issues and how the United Nations works to address them. This course provides students with the tools to understand the rules of procedure, while giving them the opportunity to engage in diplomacy, international relations, and foreign policy. Students will participate both at an in-house level, and through participation in various externally held Model UN conferences. They will develop fundamental skills in research, writing, public speaking, leadership, organization, and interpersonal communication. Open to all cycle 2 students of both language of instruction who wish to explore this type of activity. Course given in English.

Psychology Course (Secondary 4 & 5 - Bilingual)

The goal of this course is to inspire students to express and assert themselves authentically with others. They will deepen their self-awareness by exploring theories from sociology and psychology. Through various projects, students will be encouraged to analyze their values and beliefs in relation to societal issues. They will also be encouraged to cultivate curiosity about the perspectives and experiences of others. This course focuses on the development of emotional intelligence, empathy, and active listening skills. Course given in French and English.

Quebec and Canadian Politics (Secondary 3, 4 & 5 - Bilingual)

The Quebec and Canadian Politics course is designed for students who wish to acquire or deepen their understanding of Quebec and Canadian political systems. The topics covered aim to spark students' interest in democratic institutions, political actors, and contemporary issues in Quebec and Canada. A variety of teaching experiences will foster the development of critical thinking and civic engagement among students.

Students will participate in several activities, including debates, lectures, and political simulations, and will use various resources to enhance their understanding of political mechanisms and the functioning of different levels of government. They will also explore significant events and figures in the political history of Quebec and Canada. The completion of various projects will encourage students to develop critical thinking and independence in learning.

Finally, students will use information and communication technologies to carry out research and complete assignments. Course given in French and English. By the end of this course, and depending on their personal investment, students will be able to:

- Explain the foundations of the Quebec and Canadian political systems;
- Identify the main political parties and their ideologies;
- Understand the role and functioning of democratic institutions;
- Analyze current political issues and express their opinions in a well-reasoned manner.

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses Description

SEQUENCE OF SPANISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE COURSES

The 3-year course sequence meets the European and internationally recognized basic qualification requirements for Spanish as a second language.

Spanish Beginner Level I (Secondary 1 to 5)

The beginners Spanish level I course **is intended for students who have no prior knowledge of Spanish** and who wish to acquire basic knowledge of the Spanish language. The topics covered seek primarily to generate students' interest in Spanish and hispanic culture and enabling students to develop the essential skills and knowledge required for effective communication. The materials are varied and engaging. The student will participate in several activities and use resources that will allow them to apply the language in different everyday situations. The student will continue exploring certain aspects of the culture of Spanish-speaking countries. Completing hands-on projects will help the student develop critical thinking and autonomous learning. The student will use information and communication technologies to carry out research and complete assignments. [Click here for the course outline.](#)

By the end of this course, and depending on personal commitment, students will be able to:

- Introduce themselves or someone else;
- Ask someone about their well-being and respond;
- Understand conversations about themselves and their family;
- Understand, accept or refuse and carry out very simple instructions.

Spanish Beginner Level II (Secondary 1 to 5)

Spanish beginner level II is a continuation of Spanish beginner level I. Students will have an understanding of the basics of Spanish, participate in a number of activities, and use resources that will enable them to use the language in a variety of everyday situations. Students will continue to explore aspects of the culture of countries where the Spanish language is spoken. Students will develop critical thinking skills and autonomous learning through the completion of a step-by-step project. They will use information and communication technologies to carry out their research and assignments. [Click here for the course outline.](#)

By the end of this course, and depending on personal investment, students will be able to:

- Communicate simple information about family, work, outings, projects, vacations, housing projects, vacations
- Ask a person questions about him or herself and answer the same type of questions
- Talk about his/her daily activities and hobbies
- Communicate simply in everyday life: shopping, restaurants, cafes.

2025-2026 Extra-Credit Courses Description

Spanish Beginner Level III (Secondary 3 to 5)

Spanish beginner level III is a continuation of Spanish beginner level II. Students gain a basic understanding of Spanish. The activities are both stimulating and diversified, reinforcing the knowledge acquired in levels I and II, and encouraging the student to participate with ease and confidence in Spanish in various forms of communication and everyday projects. [Click here for the course outline.](#)

By the end of this course, and depending on personal investment, students will be able to:

- Give advice or express positive and/or negative appreciation in a simple manner on subjects such as health, professions, food, travel, sporting activities, etc.;
- Use vocabulary related to clothes, accessories, materials and colors when shopping;
- Discuss their home, understand the description of a dwelling and explain changes made to a dwelling;
- Share a life experience and express an opinion on the situation.

Wind and Percussion Orchestra (OVPVM)

- **Level 1 (Secondary 1 and 2 beginner, Bilingual)**
- **Level 2 (Secondary 3, 4 and 5, Bilingual)**

The course is designed to bring together students who enjoy playing a wind instrument and wish to develop their instrumental skills in the wind band. All students who play a musical instrument and are ready for a stimulating and enriching musical experience are welcome. Year-end performance and special events. The musical repertoire will cover various styles, with more advanced pieces at Level 2. Level 2 students must have completed the Level 1 course, have a minimum of 1 to 2 years experience on the instrument, or be recommended by the teacher. [Course given in French and English.](#)

Mandatory Prerequisite: Ability to play one of the following instruments: flute, oboe, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, tuba, French horn, euphonium, electric bass or percussion. This course is popular, so please register early. Maximum of 36 spots per level.

MANDATORY PORTAL REGISTRATION + INSTRUMENT FORM: A selection of students will be made based on the balance of instruments in the band. No fees will be charged during pre-registration on the portal. Once the selection is made by the teacher, parents of selected students will receive a communication to confirm their child's spot and the steps to follow to proceed with the payment through the portal.

MANDATORY: Specify the instrument you wish to apply for by completing this form: [click here](#)

Here are the chairs that need to be filled for each level:

10 Flutes	10 Clarinets	2 Alto saxophones	1 tenor saxophone	4 trumpets
2 trombones	1 tuba	2 electric basses	4 percussionists	