

***ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN***  
***MIDDLE & HIGH***  
***SCHOOL***

***COURSE OFFERING***  
***2019-20***

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## ENGLISH

Language is the foundation for all learning. God’s love for us is communicated through His Word encouraging us to communicate effectively and truthfully. Those who learn to articulate truth will become leaders, able to powerfully influence people for the glory of God.

*“May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing in your sight O Lord, my Rock and my Redeemer.” Psalm 19:14*

### Language Arts Grade 6

**CONTENT:** This course encompasses literature, writing, spelling, and grammar. Students are introduced to middle school grade level forms of literature, including the short story, poetry, drama, and the novel. Required novels include, but are not limited to, *The Bronze Bow* and *The Westing Game*. Writing exercises introduce the organization and composition of the five-paragraph essay. Students further develop the six traits of writing through a variety of writing forms. Students compose a brief introductory level research paper in conjunction with their history or science class. Grammar instruction includes parts of speech, punctuation, and the diagramming of simple sentences. Reading comprehension skills continue to be practiced through the Accelerated Reader program.

### Language Arts Grade 7

**CONTENT:** This course includes expository and creative writing, journaling, vocabulary, grammar, Daily Oral Language, speaking, and a study of literature. Students will read novels, short stories, poetry, and plays, as well as read and study classical mythology. Writing assignments, such as the “perfect school,” first line contest, review writing, and biographies give the opportunity for all students to develop their writing skills. Reading comprehension skills continue to be grown through the use of the Accelerated Reader program.

### Language Arts Grade 8

**CONTENT:** This course focuses on formal writing through the five-paragraph essay. Writing instruction includes introducing the full research and essay writing process: prewriting, outlining, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting. Research writing instruction includes an introduction to the Modern Language Association standards on various topics from biographies to countries. Students read, interpret, apply, and analyze various short stories and plays in class, which includes a Holocaust unit driven by *The Diary of Anne Frank*. Outside of class students are required to continue participation in the Accelerated Reader program. Vocabulary study, the mastery of parts of speech, and public speaking skills are developed continuously throughout the course.

### Intermediate Grammar & Composition

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course for English language learners focuses on developing the writing process: prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and presenting. Students read and write various



each individual student's choosing. Students also complete an additional honors project each quarter that focuses on research, literary analysis, and composition.

*Prerequisites - Honors Composition, Genre & Grammar and/or permission of instructor.*

**American Literature**

**Grade 11**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Honors American literature surveys various short stories, poems, essays, and novels from the Native American, colonial, enlightenment, romantic, realist, modernist, and contemporary genres including, but not limited to, *The Crucible*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Old Man & The Sea*. Class activities focus on improving writing and critical thinking skills in the form of small group work, performance poetry, and essay writing. The course culminates with a biographically based research paper on an American author and novel, demonstrating mastery of investigative writing skills.

**Honors American Literature**

**Grade 11**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Honors American literature surveys various short stories, poems, essays, plays and novels from the Native American, colonial, enlightenment, romantic, realist, modernist, and contemporary genres including, but not limited to, *The Crucible*, *The Scarlet Letter*, and *The Old Man & The Sea*. Class activities include Socratic seminars, essay writing, small group projects, and performance poetry; class work emphasizes higher-level critical thinking skills concerning the interpretation, application, and analysis of the text. The honors students are additionally required to independently read and analyze one contemporary American novel per quarter. The course culminates with an independent study of an American author and novel in the form of a biographical, archetypal, historical, and/or psychological research paper, demonstrating mastery of investigative writing skills.

*Prerequisites - Honors World Literature and/or permission of instructor.*

**AP English Language & Composition**

**Grade 11**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Students in the introductory college writing course will read and analyze a variety of challenging and stylistically different pieces of nonfiction prose. Additionally, select elements of American fiction will be incorporated to further illustrate author's purpose and the use of rhetoric and language, as seen in the nonfiction counterparts. Through a variety of writing activities, spanning from journaling to digital forum discussion, students will practice their analytical, expository, narrative and argumentative writing skills. Students will frequently edit, review, debate, and analyze writing samples from their own portfolios as well as their peer's work. Furthermore, students will be exposed to an assortment of rhetorical elements, language use, and stylistic choices originating from Ancient Greece (and still being practiced today). Featured authors include Malcolm Gladwell, Mark Twain, Benjamin Franklin, Henry David Thoreau, Marjane Satrapi, Niccolo Machiavelli, Steven D. Levitt, and Stephen J. Dunbar. Students will also have exposure to other periodical, editorial, and historical authors featured in the course's shorter texts.

*Prerequisites - Honors World Literature and/or permission of instructor.*

**College Composition & Critical Thinking****Grade 12****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course focuses on real-world reading and writing skills including, but not limited to, application and scholarship essay writing, nonfiction textual analysis (essays, books, speeches), research writing (outside of the realm of fiction), and evaluating the validity of information. Students will be introduced to American Psychological Association style. Students will also practice listening and note taking skills through various real-world mediums. Similarly, students will partake in mock interviews, presentations, and debates to improve speaking skills. Finally, students will complete this course with a senior capstone incorporating reflective writing and a creative presentation.

**Honors College Composition & Critical Thinking****Grade 12****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course focuses on real-world reading and writing skills including but not limited to application and scholarship essay writing, nonfiction textual analysis (essays, books, speeches), research writing (outside of the realm of fiction), and using a critical lens to evaluate the validity of information. Students will be exposed to MLA, APA, and Chicago Style citations, preparing them for collegiate writing in all content areas. Students will also develop critical listening and note taking skills through Ted Talks, formal lectures, Socratic Seminars, and podcasts. Similarly, students will partake in mock interviews, presentations, and debates to increase speaking skills. Finally, students will complete this course with a senior capstone, requiring synthesis of sources, reflective writing, and creative presentation.

*Prerequisites - Honors American Literature and/or permission of instructor.*

**AP English Literature & Composition****Grade 12****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** The AP English Literature & Composition course is designed to give students an educational experience equal to an introductory level college literature class, and it follows the curricular requirements described in the College Board course description. Through close reading of literary texts, students will come to understand how writers use language to communicate meaning. This class will view literature through various lenses of literary theory including the following: historical, biographical, archetypal, philosophical, and reader-response criticism. The study of literature will also require the interpretation, analysis, and appliance of literary terms and devices, such as style and structure, rhetorical strategies, diction, figurative language, imagery, detail and development, tone, and syntax. Vocabulary study and the mastery of literary terms are also important. Explicating literature and composition are key components of the class. Various novels, short stories, and poetry from American, British, and French literature are rotated from year to year.

*Prerequisites - AP Language and Composition and/or Honors American Literature and/or recommendation of English department head.*

**Speech & Debate****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course offers a complete program on basic communications including, oratory,

interpersonal communication, and debate. Students will be given a step-by-step skill building approach on preparing, delivering, and analyzing speeches. Students will give several speeches in class, including informative, persuasive, entertainment and impromptu speeches. Students will also be taught the fundamentals of team policy debate, including analysis and research, cross-examination, and logical reasoning.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required English credits for graduation.*

## **Creative Writing**

## **2 Credits**

### **CONTENT:**

This course involves writing in multiple formats. Students will write poems, screenplays, short stories, alternative endings, commercials, and songs. Multiple genres are explored including but not limited to Choose Your Own Adventure, science fiction, mystery, historical fiction, satire, and fable. This course will also include reading a variety of fiction texts and analyzing them for structure, style, tone, and other literary elements that will be emulated in writing. Students will also share their writings and peer review each other's work, working through the writing process from brainstorming to the final draft.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required English credits for graduation.*

## SOCIAL SCIENCES

It is the purpose of our social sciences courses to develop active and contributing American citizens who can make informed and reasoned choices that honor God in our culturally diverse, democratic society.

*“Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. Give everyone what you owe him: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.”* Romans 13:1, 6-7 (NIV)

*“Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, ...For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men. Live as free men, but do not use your freedom as a coverup for evil; live as servants of God. Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”* I Peter 2:13-17 (NIV)

### Ancient Civilizations 6

**CONTENT:** The primary purpose of this two semester course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the geographical, social, and political development of ancient world cultures and how they impacted other cultures and people today around the world. The course includes civilizations of Africa, Greece, Rome, China, the Americas and Western Asia as well as the beginnings and influences of Christianity, Judaism, Islam and eastern philosophies.

### Geography 7

**CONTENT:** This two semester course in geography is designed to familiarize students with the seven continents of our planet. Students will learn fundamental geographic skills and be able to identify many prominent landforms, countries, and cities on Earth. This course also includes discussion of basic economic, political, historical, and cultural concepts as they relate to the various regions of the world.

### U.S. History 8

**CONTENT:** This two semester course of American History starts with a look at English colonization of the North American continent and how the impact of this colonization was fundamental in developing the United States today. 8th graders then move into an in depth look at our country's Constitution and government. 8th Grade American History ends with the Civil War and Reconstruction of the United States. Unit studies are based on cause and effect with emphasis on relationships between historical topics and more recent events in the areas of society, economics, politics, and the military. Continued year long emphasis on primary source documents allow students to see a first hand look of the United States throughout our history.

### World History

#### 2 Credits

**CONTENT:** The primary purpose of this two semester course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the economic, political, and social developments that created the western civilization of which they are a part. The course includes the Ancient Middle East and Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages and the Rise

of Nation States, The Renaissance and the Reformation, Industrialization, Imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, and a look at the challenges facing our world today.

### **Honors World History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** The primary purpose of this two semester sophomore course is to give students an opportunity to learn about the economic, political, and social developments that created the western civilization of which they are a part. The course includes the Ancient Middle East and Egypt, Ancient Greece and Rome, the Middle Ages and the Rise of Nation States, The Renaissance and the Reformation, Industrialization, Imperialism, the World Wars, the Cold War, and a look at the challenges facing our world today.. This course has a focus on critical thinking and primary sources are integrated into the narrative and are supported by document-based question to help students develop and improve their critical thinking skills.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in Grammar and Composition, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

### **AP European History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** AP European History is a year-long course that studies European History from 1450 to the present with specific emphasis on the intellectual and cultural, political and diplomatic, and social and economic developments that have shaped modern Europe. Students will then have the contextual awareness necessary for understanding the development of contemporary institutions, the role of continuity and change in present day society and politics, and the evolution of current forms of intellectual discourse and artistic expression. In forming such an understanding, students will acquire and use skills indicative of historical scholarship including critical inquiry, analysis, synthesis, interpretation, and argumentation in both verbal and written mediums.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in Honors Grammar and Composition, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

### **U. S. History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This two semester survey course uses textbook information plus primary sources, period movies and music to study American History from the end of the Civil War to the present.

### **Honors U.S. History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** A two semester college preparatory survey course of American History since the Civil War using textbook, information, primary sources, classic novels, and music. Emphasis is on practicing writing and critical thinking skills.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in World History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

### **AP U.S. History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** An Advanced Placement two-semester class designed to provide qualified high school students with a learning experience equivalent to a college level introductory United States history survey course. The class will provide committed, and focused students opportunities to read and analyze historical writing, reflect upon historical evidence, participate in discussion and write about central themes in America's past. The course of study centers on the political, economic, religious, social, and intellectual history of the United States from 1490 to the present.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP World History, Grade of an A in Honors World History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

**American Government 1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** A one semester study of the U.S. and Illinois constitutions and our American political system. This course is designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies.

**Honors American Government 1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** A one semester college preparatory study of the U.S. and Illinois constitutions and our American political system. This course is designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

**AP American Government and Politics 1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This Advanced Placement one-semester class in U.S. Government and Politics is designed for qualified students who wish to complete a college level introductory course while still in high school. This course is also designed to encourage students to be active citizens of the United States and to live by the biblical command to exert godly influence on our nation's policies. There are five main topics of study in this course: constitutional structure and principles, political beliefs and behaviors; the institutions of our national government; political parties, interest groups and mass media; and public policy making.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP U.S. History, Grade of an A in Honors U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

**Economics 1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This one semester course is an introductory study of economics in relation to people, business, and government. Emphasis is placed on contemporary American and world problems, their causes and solutions.

**Honors Economics 1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This one semester college preparatory survey course covers an introduction to the study of micro and macroeconomic principles and practices in our American economy.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Grade of an A in U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

### **AP Microeconomics**

**1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This Advanced Placement one-semester class in Microeconomics is designed for qualified students who wish to complete a college level introductory course while still in high school. This course will provide the student with a understanding of the principles of economics as they apply to individual decision-making units, including individual households and firms. The course is designed to examine the theory of consumer behavior, the theory of the firm, and the behavior of profit maximizing firms under various market structures. Basic economic concepts, the nature and functions of product markets, factor markets, and market failure / the role of government will be discussed.

*Prerequisites - (Must meet 2): Teacher recommendation, Completion of AP U.S. History, Grade of an A in Honors U.S. History, 85% or higher on standardized test.*

### **AP Psychology**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. They also learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice.

*Prerequisites - Honors Composition, Genre, & Grammar or World Literature*

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation.*

### **Sociology**

**1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** The study of groups of people from a Christian point of view is the subject of this college prep on semester elective. It is an introductory course investigating America's social structures. Topics covered include community, civil rights, AIDS/HIV, and other social problems.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation*

### **Psychology**

**1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This college prep elective is a one semester introductory course in the study of the human mind and personality from a biblical perspective. Topics covered include school, child & adolescent psychology, educational development and testing, psychology and religion, and Christian counseling.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation.*

## **BUSINESS**

### **Business 101** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course provides an introduction to the business world, and helps students prepare for the economic roles of consumer, worker and citizen. Topics include: our economic environment, business operations, business and government in our global economy, small-business management, careers, and business communications. (offered every other year)

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science or math credits for graduation. This course is offered every other year opposite Introduction to Law.*

### **Introduction to Law** **2 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This course introduces students to a basic understanding of law and the study of legal issues. Topics include: ethics and the law, the court system, criminal law, torts and family law. Students will take part in an in-class mock trial at the end of the course. (offered every other year)

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science credits for graduation. This course is offered every other year opposite Business 101.*

### **Personal Finance** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is designed to provide students with sound financial principles that will guide them into adulthood. They will be taught how to avoid debt and build wealth. Topics include: gross and net pay, banking services, loans and credit cards, owning a home and a car, insurance, investments, giving, and budgeting. In addition to learning the math behind these concepts, Dave Ramsey's curriculum, *Foundations of Personal Finance*, is used to learn how to apply these concepts.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required social science or math credits for graduation.*

# MATHEMATICS

Mathematical truths reflect many attributes of God such as His sovereignty, universality, orderliness, precision, dependability and infinitude. As we study mathematics, we add to our understanding and expressions in other areas of life as well as our understanding of God. God has given us mathematics as a tool to create as well as explore His magnificent world.

*“When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him...O Lord how majestic is Your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:3, 4, 9*

## Math 6

**CONTENT:** This course reviews the four basic arithmetic operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students extend their understanding of the number system to include positive and negative rational numbers. Also, in this course students will begin the formal study of algebraic expressions. Ratios, statistical variability, inequalities, and quantities that change will be explored in this course. Students build on their geometric concepts as they determine area, surface area, and volume.

## Honors Pre-Algebra 6

**CONTENT:** This course is designed for middle school students who grasp math concepts quickly and can apply those concepts in different situations. Operations involving integer and rational numbers are reviewed. Students are introduced to simplifying expressions and solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, including work with slope and y-intercept. Also, there is an introduction into geometric principles including work with angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, similar and congruent figures, polygons, perimeter, area and volume.

## Academic Pre-Algebra 7

**CONTENT:** This course provides a review of number theory including exponents, factors, multiples, organizing data, ratios and proportions. There is work with operations for integers and rational numbers. The course provides an introduction to equations. There is also an introduction to some geometric principles including angles, similar figures, area and perimeter.

## Pre-Algebra 7

**CONTENT:** This course includes operations involving integer and rational numbers. Students are introduced to simplifying expressions and solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, including work with slope and y-intercept. Also, there is an introduction into geometric principles including work with angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, similar and congruent figures, polygons, perimeter and area.

## Honors Pre-Algebra 7

**CONTENT:** This course is designed for the middle school student for whom math concepts are grasped quickly and retained. Students are introduced to basic algebraic skills and

terminology including solving multi-step equations and inequalities. Study is given to factors, fractions, exponents, and rational numbers and their use within equations. Students also study ratios, proportions, probability and percent. Linear functions are introduced as well as systems and graphing of functions. There is an introduction to the use and application of irrational numbers, and basic trig ratios. Geometric concepts of measurements, areas, and volumes are reinforced. Students are exposed to various types of data analysis and probability. In preparation for Algebra 1, students are introduced to adding, subtracting, and multiplying polynomials as well as factoring polynomials.

*Placement is by teacher recommendation.*

### **Academic Algebra 8**

**CONTENT:** This course starts with a review of exponents, factors, order of operations, and operations involving integers and rational numbers. It has an introduction to Geometry including angles, polygons, area, the Pythagorean Theorem, surface area, and volume. It provides an introduction to Algebra, including simplifying expressions, combining like terms, and solving one and two step equations and inequalities. The course also includes graphing linear and quadratic functions.

### **Algebra 8**

**CONTENT:** This course starts with a review of order of operations, inequalities, combining like terms, and properties of real numbers. It includes solving one step and multi-step linear equations and inequalities. It includes graphing linear functions and inequalities, solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, powers and roots, factoring polynomials and evaluating rational expressions.

### **Honors Algebra I**

**CONTENT:** This course is designed for the middle school student for whom math skills are learned quickly. It is a study of solving linear equations through various methods including factoring, completing the square, and use of the quadratic formula. Students study polynomials, factoring, and the use and application of algebraic fractions. Functions are introduced as well as systems of linear equations, inequalities, and work with rational and irrational numbers.

*Prerequisite - Honors Pre-Algebra 7*

### **Algebra Essentials**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course includes solving linear equations and inequalities, powers and roots, polynomials, factoring polynomials, and evaluating rational expressions. It also includes graphing linear functions and inequalities, and solving systems of linear equations and inequalities.

*Prerequisite - Academic Algebra 8*

### **Algebra I**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is a continuation of the study of Algebra by solving, graphing and writing

linear equations and inequalities. Students study systems of equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, polynomials and factoring, quadratic equations and functions (including using the quadratic formula), and rational equations and functions. The course also includes a brief overview of probability and data analysis.

*Prerequisite - Algebra 8*

### **Honors Geometry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is a formal study of Geometry with an emphasis on two-column proofs. Students study the relationship of points, lines, and planes, deductive and inductive reasoning, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, inequalities, similar polygons, right triangles, circles, construction and loci, areas and volumes, and coordinate geometry. Algebra concepts and skills are interwoven with the geometry.

*Prerequisite - Honors Algebra 1*

### **Informal Geometry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** A course covering geometric vocabulary, properties, and relationships as well as thinking skills and applications of geometric principles to the physical world. This course places an emphasis on inductive and numerical reasoning. This is intended as a more informal study of geometry with not as much emphasis on proofs. Algebra concepts and skills are interwoven with the geometry.

*Prerequisite - Academic Algebra.*

### **Geometry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** In this course students study congruence and similarity, apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. Problem solving skills using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume are developed. Algebra, data analysis, and probability are interwoven with the geometry.

*Prerequisite - Algebra 1*

### **Honors College Algebra**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is designed for the high achieving student who has a strong background in Algebra. First semester presents a review of Algebra 1 including basic terminology, notations, concepts, and skills. The first semester continues with a study of equations and inequalities, including complex numbers and the application and modeling of quadratic equations. Also included in the first semester is the study of linear functions, circles, parabolas, function operation and composition, and graphing techniques. Second semester includes the study of polynomial and rational functions, inverse, exponential, and log functions, systems and matrices, analytic geometry, sequences, and series.

*Prerequisite - Honors Geometry*

**Algebra II****2 Credits**

CONTENT: This course is designed for the student who needs additional time and practice in order to comprehend basic algebraic concepts. First semester reviews algebraic terminology, solving and graphing of linear equations as well as systems. During the second semester, inequalities, absolute value, quadratic functions, and factoring are presented. Students continue work with data analysis and probability.

*Prerequisite - Informal Geometry*

**College Algebra****2 Credits**

CONTENT: Review of basic concepts of algebra, inequalities, linear equations and functions, products and factors of polynomials, rational expressions, irrational and complex numbers, quadratic equations and functions, variation and polynomial equations, and an introduction to exponential and logarithmic functions as well as a brief presentation of matrices and determinants.

*Prerequisite - Geometry*

**Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus****2 Credits**

CONTENT: Trigonometry meets 1<sup>st</sup> semester. This course covers right and oblique triangles, trigonometric identities and equations, and radian measure. Analytic Geometry meets 2<sup>nd</sup> semester and covers analytic proof, conic sections, transformations, polar coordinates, parametric equations, and vectors.

*Prerequisite - Honors College Algebra*

**Advanced Math Topics****2 Credits**

CONTENT: This course is highly recommended for students planning to attend college but need additional time and practice in order to comprehend mathematical concepts. This course includes a study of trigonometry including right triangle trig, graphing of trig functions, the Laws of Sines and Cosines. Students also study polynomials and polynomial equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational equations and functions, discrete math, and conic sections.

*Prerequisite - Algebra 2*

**Pre-Calculus****2 Credits**

CONTENT: Extension of topics of algebra for the solving of linear, quadratic and polynomial functions. Stress is given to real world applications from business as well as science. Solving inequalities of one and two variables, and a study of exponential and logarithmic functions are among the included topics. An introduction to trigonometry, probability, and statistics is also included in this course.

*Prerequisite - College Algebra*

**AP Statistics****2 Credits****CONTENT:**

This college level statistics course introduces qualified students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns by exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and statistical inference. The student that successfully completes this course and the AP exam may receive credit for a one-semester introductory college statistics course. Preparation for the AP exam given in early May is part of this course. To access a course outline and more information, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) > for students > college board tests > AP subjects > Statistics > topic outline.

*Prerequisite - Honors College Algebra or College Algebra*

**AP Calculus AB****2 Credits****CONTENT:**

This course covers the four main concepts of calculus: limits, derivatives, indefinite integrals and definite integrals of any function. Students are expected to evaluate each numerically, graphically and analytically and give a verbal explanation of each process. Concepts are emphasized first semester and applications during the second semester. Time is allowed for preparation for the Advanced Placement Exam (Calculus AB form) given during the first two weeks of May. To access course outline and more information, go to [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) >for students>college board tests>AP subjects>Calculus AB>topic outline.

*Prerequisite - Honors Trig/Pre-Calc*

**AP Calculus BC****2 Credits****CONTENT:**

AP Calculus BC extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. This course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. Students will learn how to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students will also learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions.

*Prerequisite - AP Calculus AB or recommendation of Honors Trig/Pre-Calculus teacher*

## SCIENCE

God controls every part of creation. He created it and sustains it for His own purpose and pleasure. By observing the natural world we learn about God. Though we can never know everything about the universe, we are drawn to praise God and bring glory to Him.

*“The heavens declare the glory of God, the skies proclaim the work of His hands. Day after day they pour forth speech, night after night they display knowledge. There is no speech or language where their voice is not heard. Their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world...The law of the lord is perfect, reviving the soul. The statues of the Lord are trustworthy, making wise the simple.” Psalm 19:1-4, 7*

### Science 6

**CONTENT:** Inquiry, an open-ended approach to the study of science, has a large role in Grade 6 Science. This course concentrates heavily on problem solving with current, relative themes for the study of Earth Science. How do earth features influence where people live? What policies should guide our use of earth’s resources? How should we dispose of nuclear wastes? What kind of space exploration should we undertake in the future? Process skills are demonstrated in both field and laboratory by creating models, conducting experiments and analyzing data. The topics include topography, erosion and deposition, plate tectonics, astronomy, space exploration, remote sensing, ecosystems, meteorology, forensics and careers in Science. Most importantly, This course assists students in becoming lifelong learners who grow in their understanding of the universe God created.

### Science 7

**CONTENT:** This lab-based course integrates the basics of physics and chemistry. Students are challenged to relate God’s work in His “physical world” to their own world of technology and engineering. Instruction is hands-on and inquiry based. Lab safety is emphasized as the students manipulate lab equipment to measure, calculate, and analyze data. The focus of first semester is on physics and the basic laws of the cosmos. Instruction includes introduction to matter, motion, forces and energy while the second semester focuses on chemistry and the processes that occur in the world around us. Students gain a deeper understanding of atomic structure, ionic covalent and metallic bonding, the periodic table, chemical reactions, solutions, acids, bases, electricity, and magnetism.

### Science 8

**CONTENT:** This course takes a hands-on, thematic approach to the study of life. Students compare and contrast the life God has created as they study the tiniest bacterium to the largest tree. Students engage in experiments which investigate biology through inquiry and real-life application. Major biological themes include cell division and growth, genetics, bacterium, plant processes, animals and behavior, cycles in nature, and environmental problems.

### Earth Science

### 2 Credits

**CONTENT:** This course is designed to interpret and understand the world and universe around us. Students will investigate and study the interactions between the four major Earth’s

sphere's, the geosphere, atmosphere, hydrosphere and biosphere in order to explain Earth's formation, processes, history, landscapes --the "how" and "why" the Earth changes over time. It also covers the earth's place in the universe. Topics include, but are not limited to, the scientific method, metric system, meteorology, geology, earthquakes, volcanoes, the earth's freshwater and saltwater oceans, and astronomy. Students will participate in laboratory exercises, small group activities, web-based investigations, class discussions, projects, and research.

*This class does not count as a "Lab Science" for college entrance purposes.*

## **Biology**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Biology is the study of living organisms, their life processes and biochemistry. It covers organic macromolecules, cell structure and reproduction, the human genome, heredity, classifying using the five kingdoms, the biotic relationships of ecology, and the human body systems—all within the framework of God's design. Students will be introduced to common biological terms, theories, the experimental method and the metric system. Standard labs are carried out to reinforce these science concepts.

*Corequisite - Algebra I*

## **Honors Biology**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Honors biology is a detailed study meant for the serious life science student. It covers the same wide array of topics as the regular biology course, but they are covered in greater depth with more emphasis on photosynthesis, cellular respiration and the DNA human genome. It includes a more serious emphasis on laboratory skills. This course is designed for college bound students with an active interest in biology or those who wish to pursue a career in agriculture or a medical field.

*Prerequisites - recommendation of Grade 8 science teacher, maintenance of an A average in Grade 8 science, score of 85<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher in science section on Aspire Test and/or permission of Science Department Head.*

## **AP Biology**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** AP biology is a college level course which studies all areas of Biology in great detail using an AP college textbook. It is intended to prepare students to pass the College Board AP Biology Exam. It stresses the scientific terminology, principles, concepts and methodologies needed to understand the interactions between living organisms, their complex structure and their function. All twelve required laboratory experiments are covered in detail with lab book write-ups to teach both content and standard lab procedures and skills.

*Prerequisites - Honors Biology, Honors Chemistry and/or permission of Science Department Head.*

## **Chemistry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** A college preparatory laboratory science course designed to give students a greater

understanding of the composition and changes matter undergoes. The topics included in this course are atomic theory, periodic trends, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical formulas and equations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, and states of matter.

*Prerequisite - Biology*

## **Honors Chemistry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** A college preparatory laboratory science course designed for students who aspire to major in science or a science related field. The topics included in this course are atomic theory, periodic trends, ionic and covalent bonding, chemical formulas and equations, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gas laws, states of matter, acids, bases, and energy involved in chemical reactions. As an honors offering, this course moves at an accelerated pace and expects students to have a strong foundation in algebraic mathematics.

*Prerequisites - Honors Biology and Algebra I and/or permission of Science Department Head.*

## **AP Chemistry**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Advanced Placement Chemistry is the equivalent of an introductory college-level chemistry course, including the laboratory component of typical college level courses. It is intended to prepare students to pass the College Board AP Chemistry Exam. Students are required to have completed one year of Honors Chemistry, before enrolling in AP Chemistry and should have very strong math skills. AP Chemistry builds on the skills and knowledge attained in a standard high school course and provides the student with an opportunity to develop a deeper understanding of chemistry and the ability to think critically and to solve problems. The course topics include atomic theory, stoichiometry, chemical bonding, property of gases, liquids, solids, and solutions; chemical equilibrium, chemical thermodynamics, chemical kinetics, periodic properties, and electrochemistry.

*Prerequisite - Honors Chemistry and/or permission of Science Department Head.*

## **Physics**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** A laboratory course with a non-mathematical emphasis, which studies many topics of physics. Topics that are included in this course of study are: linear motion, momentum, circular motion, gravity, heat, light, electricity, and sound. Several student designed projects allow students to apply the topics discussed.

*Prerequisites - Algebra I*

## **Honors Physics**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Physics is the brand of science that describes motion, electricity, sound, light, and other topics. Students will learn about the pursuit of science and scientific data, velocity, acceleration, gravity, Newton's Law of Motion, vectors, momentum, energy heat, sound

light and electricity. Students can expect to apply content to laboratory procedures and safety, scientific thinking and reasoning, problem solving, and hands-on application projects. This course will take an algebraic and conceptual approach to explaining the fundamentals of classical physics. The concepts will then be extended and applied to problems of varying complexity. Students will be challenged to complete multiple application-based projects. This course utilizes more math than standard physics, but has more concept foundations than AP Physics 1 & 2. This course prepares students for introductory college-level physics courses such as those regularly required for degrees in engineering, science or some pre-med fields.

*Corequisite - Enrolled in College Algebra*

### **AP Physics 1**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

This course is an algebra based, introductory college level physics class. It will focus on the big ideas typically included in the first semester of a college physics sequence and provide students with enduring understandings to support future advanced course work in the sciences. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop critical thinking and reasoning skills. Topics include kinematics, dynamics (Newton's Laws), circular motion simple harmonic motion, work energy & conservation of energy, electrostatic charge, mechanical waves & sound and similar topics.

*Prerequisites - College Algebra and Honors Science class or permission of Science Department Head.*

### **AP Physics 2**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

This course is an algebra based, college level physics class. It covers a typical second college semester of physics and prepares students for calculus based physics. Students cultivate their understanding of physics through inquiry-based investigations as they explore topics such as fluid statics and dynamics; thermodynamics with kinetic theory; PV diagrams and probability; electrostatics; electrical circuits with capacitors; magnetic fields; electromagnetism; physical and geometric optics; and quantum, atomic, and nuclear physics.

*Prerequisites - AP Physics 1 or permission of Science Department Head and College Algebra. This course is not offered every year.*

### **Honors Anatomy and Physiology**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

This is an intensive laboratory course designed for students interested in medicine and medically related careers. It involves an in-depth study of both the detailed structure and the function of all human body systems, organs, glands, tissue types, cell organelles and the biochemistry of metabolism of the human body. Labs stress the microscope slide study of different tissue types and the dissection of animal organs for a hands-on understanding of anatomy. It is patterned after the Rock Valley College Bio 185 Course worth 1 semester of 5 college credits.

*Prerequisite - Honors Biology and/or permission of Science Department Head.*

**Environmental Science****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This is a college preparatory laboratory science course designed to help students develop the scientific principles, lab skills, concepts, and methodologies necessary to understand the complex interrelationship between living organisms and their nonliving environment. It stresses man's interaction with nature including both our positive and negative effects on nature. Topics include depletion of natural resources, air, water, and land pollution, living unsustainably, endangered species, the effects of loss of biodiversity, depletion of the ozone layer, and global warming. An emphasis is on having students evaluate their environmental footprint and make wise life-choices that show they, as stewards of God's creation, are taking personal responsibility for their environmental impact.

*No prerequisites*

**AP Environmental Science****2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This is an advanced course taught at the college level with an AP Textbook. It is intended to prepare students to take the College Board AP Environmental Science Exam. It will provide students with the scientific principles, lab skills, concepts and methodologies necessary to understand the complex interrelationships between living organisms and their nonliving environment. Man's interaction with nature is stressed. Emphasis is placed on evaluating environmental problems and challenging the students to take personal responsibility for their environmental impact.

*Prerequisite - Biology*

**Introduction to Engineering****1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This one semester class focuses on the engineering process of problem solving with hands-on learning. Projects will include Civil Engineering (structures), Computer Engineering (Raspberry Pi), and a self-determined project following the steps of the engineering process: research, planning, prototyping, testing, and iteration.

*Prerequisite - Algebra I*

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation. It is offered every other year.*

**CAD (Computer Aided Drafting)****1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This one semester class introduces CAD using AutoCAD software. Students will be guided through tutorials to learn 2-D drafting including building plans. 3-D drafting will culminate in the 3-D printing of several projects.

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation. It is offered every other year.*

**Engineering Basics****2 Credits**

CONTENT:

An introduction to the field of engineering with an emphasis on hands-on learning. Projects will be completed in robotics, bridge building, aeronautics, nanotechnology, alternative energy, etc. in order to develop thinking and analytical skills. Computer programming will be introduced. Career exploration in various types of engineering will also be featured.

*Prerequisite - Algebra I*

*This is an elective course, and does not count toward the required science credits for graduation. It is offered every other year.*

## **BIBLE**

Godliness is a lifelong pursuit for those of us who have surrendered our lives to Christ and have been transformed by the Holy Spirit. Because of God's grace, we can experience the dynamic and stimulating life that emanates from Scripture and flourishes in faithful obedience to Christ.

*"If you hold to My teaching, you are really My disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." John 8:31, 32*

### **Bible 6**

CONTENT: This course will include studies from characters in the Old and New Testaments, the life of Christ, and the book of Revelation. The students will work through the objectives of Preparing for Adolescence, which will challenge the students to live a life devoted to Christ.

### **Bible 7 & 8**

CONTENT: The Book of Genesis: Who is God? How do I know God cares? Will God still love me even though I keep messing up? Will God ever fix this broken world? The word Genesis means "beginnings" and story of God begins in the very first book- Genesis. In Genesis, students will learn how God's created order has been cursed due to humanity's rebellion, but how in spite of our sinfulness, God has always been faithful to His creation. We will learn that the creator God made a covenant promise with Abraham to bless the whole world through his future family, and how this God is faithful to humanity no matter what.

*Taught on a two year rotation with the Gospel of John.*

### **Bible 7 & 8**

CONTENT: Gospel of John: Who is Jesus, and why is He so important? By reading and studying the Gospel of John, students will connect the story of Genesis to God's plan for the whole world through Jesus. In the book of John, we will learn that the promise God made to Abraham is fulfilled in Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. Jesus is seen as the "new creation," through whom God begins a new humanity. Students will be challenged to figure out who Jesus is in their own lives and to become the "new creations" God wants them to be by accepting Jesus as their own Savior and living for Him.

*Taught on a two year rotation with The Book of Genesis.*

### **Becoming A Godly Leader:**

#### **1 Credit**

CONTENT: How can I be used by God to do great things? Many people long to be used greatly by God, just like the heroes of the faith in the Bible. All the heroes of the faith who God used greatly were first strengthened in their personal walk with God. This class helps students focus on inward development, not just outward conformity. It shows from Scripture how righteousness is the result of the Lord changing us and making our actions the result of our strong character. We will

look into some heroes of the faith and their personal walk with God throughout the Scriptures. We will study leadership development in Scripture as students discover what it means to become a Godly leader.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**Believing God:**

**1 Credit**

**Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith**

CONTENT:

This Beth Moore based study provides a personal study experience plus group video sessions of this in-depth Bible study based on Isaiah 43:10 that explores what it means not only "to believe in God" but "to believe Him." Many followers of Jesus Christ in our generation are nearly paralyzed by unbelief. God is calling His children to a fresh and lavish anointing of faith. Through studying the lives of Abraham, Moses, and others as examples of persons who believed God, Beth encourages women to deepen their own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him. This class will focus on encouraging faith as we study those who have gone before us in the walk of faith.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**Christian History:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

This class will present the history of Christianity, beginning with the first disciples of Jesus up through modern day. We will find out why the first Christians were viewed as insurrectionists and social outcasts, who started different types of churches, how the books of the Bible were chosen and compiled, why people chose to become monks and nuns, and how church practices like baptism and communion were interpreted differently. We will look at how Christians throughout history interpreted the Bible and study what they taught about angels and demons, war, evolution, racial equality, separation of Church and State, and the origin of evil. Students will be challenged to think about their own place in history and what type of an impact their generation will make upon the church in America.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**Intro to the Bible:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

This class is geared toward a basic understanding of the Bible and Christianity. We will learn how to read the Bible, what it means to be a Christian, and why Christians pray and worship. We will read the Bible to learn about Jesus and what it means that he is our Savior. Students will be equipped to understand and explain the message of the gospel.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**The Gospel of Matthew:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

We don't really think about Kings and Kingdoms these days here in America. Most of the time when we hear about a King or Queen, people are talking about England. In fact, America started with the rejection of the monarchy in England. Yet in the Gospel of Matthew we learn that there has been a King who has been reigning over America and all the other democracies and kingdoms for the past 2000 years and the path this King took to his throne was really unusual. In this class, we are going to study Matthew's story about how Jesus became King of 1st century Israel and fulfilled God's covenant promises from the Old Testament. We will also think about what it means that Jesus is King today over the whole world and how we live as citizens of His Kingdom in 21st century America.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**Reflections of Christ:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

Calling all artists, music lovers, and movie buffs! In this class, we will be exploring portrayals of Jesus Christ in music, movies, art, and literature from various periods of history. We will examine the concept of the Christ figure, the overarching theme of the gospel, and personal stories of God's grace through the arts. We will also discuss how the way we picture Jesus affects how we view others and even ourselves.

*Open to Grades 9, 10, & 11*

**Ethics**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

What should I do as a Christian when my friend tells me they're doing drugs, or when a homeless person asks me for money, or when my parents won't let me see a movie all of my friends are seeing? What should I do when I see someone steal money at lunch, or when I hate the way I look, or when I'm feeling pressured to have sex? Should Christians support the death penalty, or gay marriage, or gun control? If you've ever wondered if you could ask these questions in Bible class, this is the class for you. In Ethics class, we will debate current ethical issues related to social justice, human rights, sexual ethics, technology, and more. We will examine Bible passages for the timeless wisdom and truth that can apply to our daily lives. We will also look at examples of the various ways Christians today are loving their enemies, caring for the vulnerable, and interacting in the public sphere of politics.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## Growing in Your Faith

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

This class is developed for the Christian who wants to grow deeper in their walk with God. We will spend the semester focusing on discipleship and growing in your faith. We will also learn about evangelism and sharing your faith with those around you. This class will help Christians develop their spiritual gifts and grow through mentorship and community. We will learn the importance of prayer and how to do it. We will also learn how to have a personal quiet time with God and develop a deeper understanding of the role of scripture in our continued growth as Christians.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## New Testament Greek

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

When you watch TV these days, you probably are viewing it through some new high definition screen. It is amazing how much better you can see the details. Learning the language the New Testament was written in (Koine Greek) does that same thing. Once you dive into learning how to translate the Greek language into English, so many details stand out in high definition. This course will be an introduction into the ancient Greek language that was used to make the New Testament. By the end of your **two year study**, you will be able to translate from the book of 1 John.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## The Revelation

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

Wait a minute, isn't it supposed to be 'Revelations'? Nope. The very beginning of the Book of the Revelation says that it is a 'revelation of Jesus', not a revelation of just a bunch a random weird visions. In this class, we will explore what John was trying to say in his letter to seven churches 2000 years ago. During our study, we will look into what kind of literature the Revelation is and the various ways people today interpret it. We try to understand why Jesus has a sword coming out of his mouth, has seven eyes and is depicted as a lion but then also a lamb. Most importantly, this study will emphasize that the Revelation has far more to say about our present than most people know. The Revelation does not have some secret code to discover but rather wisdom for the Christian in the present who is trying to stay faithful to Jesus in a world that pulls us in the opposite direction.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## Understanding God & Jesus

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

It's hard to build a relationship with someone you don't understand! Have you ever felt like God is hard to understand? This class is dedicated to understanding who God is and how he works. We will spend the class studying the character of God and how that affects our relationship with Him. Does God really love me even when I don't feel like it? Does God really have power over all of the evil in this world? Is God truly in control of everything? Is God's character really trustworthy? Is Jesus Christ really God? Do Jesus and God feel and act the same way towards me? This class will provide a foundation for a deeper understanding of who God really is so you can view God's actions in light of His true character and learn to enjoy a deeper relationship with God through Jesus Christ. The more you understand someone's character, the easier it is to trust them.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## World Religions

**1 Credit**

CONTENT:

In our world today, there are many different beliefs about the existence and nature of God. Who's right? How do we know? What kind of role does culture play in religious beliefs and traditions? Both ancient and modern religions will be studied to see how shared beliefs affected different communities and how world religions continue affect communities today. We will also look at similarities and differences between Christianity and other world religions- past and present. Lastly, we will learn how to have good conversations with people that believe differently than us, and hopefully learn how to better explain and defend our own beliefs.

*Open to Grades 10 & 11*

## **Bible IV**

**2 Credits**

CONTENT:

How do YOU answer the big questions of life: *Where did I come from? Why do I exist? Does God exist? What will happen when I die?* In this course we will focus on what the Christian response to these questions is as well as how to interact with others with differing worldviews. Logical arguments will be presented for why believing in Christianity makes more sense than any other worldview regarding our beliefs about ourselves and the world around us. Many questions people often have when sorting through their beliefs, especially pertaining to Christianity, often involve how to read passages in the Bible. Therefore, we will learn how to read the different types of genres in the Bible in order to better understand those difficult passages.

*Grade 12*

# COMPUTER SCIENCE

## Mass Media I

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will learn how to plan, produce, edit and share videos. They will use school equipment and iMovie to create original content. They will know how to create storyboards and basic cinematography concepts. Students will learn the history of mass media and how current media affects us today. They will create a YouTube channel and learn how to post and analyze content with an emphasis on the business of YouTube. Students will be introduced to the artistic elements of film and how to create content with meaning and storylines.

## Mass Media II

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will work with clients to develop real-world content. This group plans, films and edits content for the school Advisor videos and live events and then uploads it and manages the school-run YouTube channel. They analyze the school channel to plan future content and predict patterns in an effort to increase channel participation. Students will also work with third-party nonprofits to create original content.

*Prerequisite - Mass Media I and invitation of the teacher*

## Introduction to Computer Science

2 Credits

CONTENT: This is an introduction to computer science with no experience required. Students will learn computational thinking and programming logic using M.I.T's *Scratch* software. They will be introduced to coding through C# and applying it through the interactive Unity 3D Software. This class can be taken as an isolated elective or as preparation for the AP Computer Science Principles Class.

## AP Computer Science Principles

2 Credits

CONTENT: Students will learn in-depth computing concepts including: how computers are built, communicate, read programs and learn how technology impacts our society. They will learn how to create algorithms, abstraction, work with data and information, troubleshoot and analyze problems, and create computational artifacts. Students will learn web and programming languages using a text editor and the Unity game engine as a tools. Students will complete two computational artifacts and take a multiple choice test for their AP score. The College Board recommends Algebra I as a prerequisite for this course. Students will develop an online portfolio to display their work.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

God expects us to develop physically as well as mentally. Our physical strength and stamina directly impact our mental and spiritual effectiveness. In addition, we are to be self-disciplined, not being controlled by our physical craving. One of the goals of the Physical Education Department is to show students the essential nature of self-discipline as it relates to physical and spiritual fitness.

*“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.” Mark 12:30*

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PE**

**CONTENT:** Physical Education courses allows students to explore their physical abilities through a variety of sports and activities. Fitness is also a component of these courses to encourage the development of physical fitness.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**1 Credit per semester**

**CONTENT:** Physical Education courses are designed to get students actively involved by participating in a number of sports and activities. This course focuses on team sports as well as individual sports. Students are taught the rules and regulations of sports and activities and are expected to abide by the rules and guidelines set forth for that activity. Students are also taught the origin of sports and are quizzed on the knowledge that they have learned.

### **HEALTH**

**1 Credit**

**CONTENT:** This one semester class is designed to challenge you to think about your overall health and the many things that influence your health. We will explore many areas of health such as: self-esteem, stress, exercise, disease, nutrition, etc. Class assignments and projects will help you apply important principles to your personal health. Other topics discussed this semester will be social issues like drugs and alcohol, sleep, and relationships. Major points of emphasis in the class are the impacts of personal choices and behavior on your health now and in the future.

### **WEIGHT TRAINING**

**1 Credit per semester**

**CONTENT:** This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn weight training concepts and techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness. Students will benefit from comprehensive weight training and individual weight training program development. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of weight training, strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning.

# ART

Our creations are the expressions of our inner thoughts and feelings, reflecting God and His beauty. God created us with the ability to produce and appreciate beauty. We are to know what pleases Him and create works with meaning and beauty, drawing people to Him.

## Middle School Art

**CONTENT:** This course introduces students to the visual arts. Focus will begin on the fundamentals of design and will progress to the development of creativity and craftsmanship. Students will have the opportunity to work in several mediums including graphite, colored pencil, tempera paint, printing, and ceramics. Students will grow in art appreciation through exposure to art history, the masters, and creation.

### **Art I - Foundations** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is open to all high school students. Students will have experiences in producing two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art. Emphasis will be on the study of the elements of art, principles of design, composition, color theory, vocabulary, art criticism, and art history. Students will experiment with a variety of materials and techniques. Projects include drawing, painting, collage, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

### **Art II** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course continues to build upon skills and knowledge obtained in Art 1. The study of the elements & principles, color theory, vocabulary, and art history will continue to be integrated and applied. The approach to art experiences is less experimental and based more on informed choices. Emphasis will be on high quality craftsmanship, originality, and personal expression. There is a broader focus on mixing media and exploring new materials. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

*Prerequisite - Art I*

### **Art III** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is for juniors and seniors who have completed Art 1 and 2 and are serious and dedicated to pursue their art. This course is a continued development of skills with a more in-depth approach to the study of art processes and techniques. Students will work on creating a personal style and philosophy of art, as they begin to broaden their portfolio. Work outside of class time may be necessary to complete projects. A digital camera is highly recommended for this course, as students will be using their own photo references for projects. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment.

*Prerequisite - Art II*

### **Senior Portfolio** **2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is for senior students who have excelled in previous art courses and will be pursuing art in college. Students will develop a concentration and a thematic body of

work, while expanding their knowledge of materials, techniques, and process. Students will develop professional work habits by working independently and relying on critical thinking, problem solving, and exploration to create their own expressive works. A portfolio of 12 or more pieces reflecting quality, concentration, and breadth will be completed. Access to a digital camera is necessary. Students will have a weekly sketchbook assignment. This course will have some summer preparation.

*Teacher Approval required*

## **Ceramics I**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course explores the three basic hand-building methods of clay; pinch, coil, and slab as well as use of the pottery wheel. Early projects will build skills to prepare for more challenging projects later in class. A variety of both utilitarian and non-utilitarian projects will be constructed. Students will be able to demonstrate their own creativity as well as follow specific guidelines. Projects will include exposure to various tools, techniques, glazing, and vocabulary. We will examine the history and use of clay in various cultures and in the contemporary art world.

*Prerequisite - Art I*

## **Ceramics II**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** This course is a continuation from Ceramics I engaging students in more advanced ceramic techniques and projects. Students will further develop and enhance skills learned in Ceramics I and refine and experiment with new materials and techniques. Students will continue to work toward mastering hand-building and wheel thrown techniques and further their ability in construction and design principles. Advanced methods of ceramic decoration in slip trailing, sgraffito, water etching, wax resist, stenciling, printing, and underglaze brushwork decoration will be studied and practiced.

*Prerequisite - Ceramics I*

## **AP Art History**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Throughout our walk on the earth, artists have visually responded to events and emotions during their journey to find meaning and purpose in life. In this course, students examine major forms of artistic expression from the ancient eras to the present in a variety of cultures. They will learn how to assess, interpret and analyze works of art within their historical context, as well as express their responses in an articulate way. We will cover works in painting, drawing, architecture, sculpture, as well as other media based on the AP exam expectations. Some summer reading is required.

## **Graphic Design I**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Students will use Adobe Illustrator and Adobe Photoshop to create digital images. They will learn the necessary tools to generate vector and bitmap graphics. They will understand the different file types and formats, and how to save and navigate through a file system. Students will have an online portfolio to display their art and will be encouraged to enter multiple art competitions.

*Prerequisite - Art I*

**Graphic Design II**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

Students will use Adobe Illustrator, Adobe Photoshop, and third-party software to create real-world applications. This class collaborates with clients and printers to develop school marketing collateral including the yearbook. Students are introduced to basic photography techniques, composition theory, working with fonts, and the history of graphic design. Students will have an online portfolio to display their art and will be encouraged to enter multiple art competitions.

*Prerequisite - Graphic Design I*

## MUSIC

The goal of the Music Department is to develop each young musician to their full potential so that they may glorify God with their music and minister to others.

“The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing else but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit.” Johann Sebastian Bach 1685-1750

*“It is to praise the Lord and make music to Your name, O Most High, to proclaim Your love in the morning and Your faithfulness at night...” Psalm 92:1,2*

### **Band 6**

**CONTENT:** Sixth grade band is a beginning to intermediate level class for students with one year of previous band experience or who are new to RCS. Students will play one of the following band instruments: Flute, Oboe, Clarinet, Bass Clarinet, Alto, Tenor, and Baritone Saxophone, Bassoon, Trumpet, F Horn, Trombone, Baritone, Tuba, or Percussion. Within full band rehearsals and weekly small group lessons, students will learn to perform music from a variety of genres (folk, classical, jazz, rock, etc.). This class also reinforces the fundamental aspects of excellent music making such as proper breathing, tone control, technical facility, music reading skills, improvisation, and development of the embouchure-all in a fun-filled environment.

### **Band 7/8**

**CONTENT:** Middle School Band is an intermediate level class for students with previous band experience on their chosen band instrument. Both in full-band rehearsals and weekly small group lessons, band students will further develop their abilities and reinforce fundamental aspects of music making learned in beginning and intermediate level band. In learning and performing music from a variety of genres, students will research and experience God’s diverse world. As students mature musically, they may be given the opportunity to audition to join the High School level activities such as Pep Band, Jazz Lab Band, graduation performances, various field trips, and IMEA Honors Festival.

*Prerequisite- Teacher Approval*

### **Jazz Band 7/8**

**CONTENT:** Middle School Jazz band is a zero hour course for students interested in performing Jazz, Latin, and Rock music. The middle school jazz band performs 4 concerts a year including the Rock Valley College Jazz Festival. The jazz band curriculum focuses on music literacy, performance and improvisation.

*Prerequisite- Teacher Approval*

### **Concert Band**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** High School Band is an advance level class for students with previous band experience

on their chosen band instrument. Within full band rehearsals and small ensemble sessions, band students will further develop their playing abilities. In learning and performing music from a variety of genres (folk, classical, jazz, rock, etc), students will research and experience God's diverse world. This class also reinforces the fundamental aspects of excellent music making learned in beginning and intermediate level band such as proper breathing, tone control, technical facility, music reading skills, improvisation, and development of the embouchure. All students in the Concert Band are also members of the Pep band.

*Prerequisite- Teacher Approval*

### **Jazz Band**

**1 Credits**

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is an advanced, hands-on, performance ensemble class and is open by audition to current participants in the RCS Band program. It is a one year course with specific instrumentation, and because it is based on a continuous curriculum and ensemble balance, students must remain in the class for both fall and spring semesters. Learning music through music-making is the principal mode of instruction, so along with classroom work, the ensemble will perform publicly during the school year outside of the classroom. This course meets during zero hour.

*Prerequisite- Audition only*

### **Grade 6 Choir:**

**2 semester class**

#### **CONTENT:**

This ensemble will give students an introduction to vocal technique and music literacy. Students will learn basics of proper breathing, vocal production, sight-singing, and singing in harmony. Students in Grade 6 choir also present a special presentation each year at the Matthew 25 party.

### **Grades 7 & 8 Choir:**

**2 semester class**

#### **CONTENT:**

This performance-based ensemble will prepare middle school students for success in high school choral ensembles. Students will perform in diverse vocal genres and develop musical skills such as music literacy, sight-singing, strong vocal technique, and beginning music theory.

### **AP Music Theory**

**2 Credits**

#### **CONTENT:**

This course is designed as a college freshman level course music theory. While the course climaxes with the AP test, it is intended to make each of us more intelligent musicians. A wide variety of tonal music will be used for illustrations and analysis. Curriculum will work toward success on the AP Music Theory Exam written by the College Board. Students will be expected to take the AP Music Theory Exam in May.

*Prerequisite- Teacher Approval*

**Concert Choir**

**2 Credits**

CONTENT: This performance-based choir will be open to all high school students with varying backgrounds in music. This ensemble is a touring ensemble, and focuses on vocal development, expression, music literacy, sight-singing, basic theory and performance technique. Students in the ensemble should expect to sing advanced repertoire in all genres of music.

**Chamber Singers**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT: Women's choral group by audition only. This class meets 2 mornings a week during zero hour.

*Prerequisite- Audition only*

**Lion A Cappella Choir**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT: This elite choir meets during zero hour. Students are expected to have a strong music literacy skills and vocal technique. This group has many performances both on and off campus. Students are accepted by audition only

*Prerequisite- Audition only*

**Basic Music Theory:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT: This course is designed as a basic music theory that will prepare students for AP Music Theory. We will be exploring how music is constructed and, using those tools, be able to write music. The goal is to build musicianship skills and become more intelligent musicians.

**Class Piano:**

**1 Credit**

CONTENT: This course is designed for the older beginning piano student. It will cover basic piano technique and basic music theory. The goal is to gain comfort and confidence with basic skills at the keyboard.

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Learning a second language not only opens doors of communication, but also gives students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding and compassion for people, all made in the image of our Creator. As followers of Christ we are called to go and make disciples of all nations (Matt. 28:19). As students become more proficient in a world language, they are better equipped to engage in a global society and to communicate God's Truth to a world in need.

"Each new form of human speech introduces one into a new world of thought and life." Roger Ascham 1515-1568.

*"...with your blood you purchased men for God from every tribe and language and people and nation."*  
*Revelation 5:9*

### **Spanish 1**

**2 Credits** *(if taken during high school only)*

**CONTENT:** Spanish 1 is a year-long course designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and to build foundational skills in listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will explore culture, customs, and geography of a variety of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will enhance their learning through a variety of individual and small group activities and assessments.

### **Honors Chinese 1**

**2 Credits** *(if taken during high school only)*

**CONTENT:** Chinese 1 is a year-long honors course designed to introduce students to the Chinese language. Students will learn how to communicate in Chinese and build their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills throughout the year. Students will also explore the culture, customs and history of China. Students will demonstrate their knowledge of learning through games, assessment and projects.

### **Spanish 2**

**2 Credits** *(if taken during high school only)*

**CONTENT:** Spanish 2 is a year-long course designed to improve the student's listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while placing even greater emphasis on the mastery of key grammatical concepts and effective communication. Students will explore the culture, customs, and geography of a variety of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will engage in a variety of individual and small group activities and assessments that may be oral or written in nature. Several times during the year, students will be asked to make a formal presentation of a project to the class.

### **Honors Chinese 2**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:** Chinese 3 is year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the Chinese language while further developing their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while advancing their abilities in speaking, listening, and writing. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied.

### **Honors Spanish 3**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

Spanish 3 is a year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the language while further developing their listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Students will continue to broaden their understanding of the Spanish-speaking world as they discuss its culture, history, art, music, and literature. Students will engage in cooperative learning activities on a regular basis to improve their interpersonal and presentational skills. Each quarter, students will be expected to make a formal, oral presentation to the class as an assessment of their presentational speaking skills.

*Prerequisite of an 80% minimum in both semesters of Spanish II for enrollment in Honors Spanish 3.*

### **Honors Chinese 3**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

Chinese 3 is year-long honors course designed to give students the opportunity for self-expression in the Chinese language while further developing their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while advancing their abilities in speaking, listening, and writing. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied.

### **Honors Spanish 4**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

Spanish IV is a year-long Honors course designed to further students' aural and written communication skills. Students will have the opportunity to strengthen their reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as they broaden their understanding of Hispanic cultures, history, art, music, and literature. Individual and small group activities are incorporated for the continued development of their interpersonal and presentational skills.

*Prerequisite of an 80% minimum in both semesters of Spanish II for enrollment in Honors Spanish III.*

### **Honors Chinese 4**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

Chinese 4 is a year-long honors course dedicated to the practical application of the language skills over the preceding years. Students will continue accumulating their vocabulary, while enhancing their abilities in speaking, listening, reading and writing around themes. Cultural enrichment is presented in the areas of history, geography, art, music and literature. A variety of means including media, technology and daily interactive conversations will be applied to prepare students for the AP Chinese class.

### **AP Chinese**

**2 Credits**

**CONTENT:**

In the AP Chinese course, students will intensively practice and develop Chinese language skills in the five goal areas: communication, cultures, connections, comparisons

and communities. Students will learn how to engage in conversations, provide and obtain information, express feelings and emotions, exchange opinions, and make presentations, in appropriate cultural setting. Students will also learn to understand, write, and discuss a variety of topics. Students should understand significant components of Chinese culture, such as traditions, history, literature, art, etc., to compare and contrast with his or her native language, and to apply the Chinese language in communities both within and beyond the school setting.

## **AP Spanish Language Culture**

**2 Credits**

### **CONTENT:**

This course follows the guidelines of the College Board® AP Spanish Language and Culture course and provides opportunities for students to demonstrate their proficiency in the modes of communication from the Intermediate to the Pre-Advanced range. The AP Spanish Language and Culture course is conducted exclusively in Spanish and regularly incorporates authentic auditory and written sources similar to those used to produce the AP Exam. Students will engage in a variety of oral and written activities that center around the six themes chosen by the College Board® as essential to the exploration of the language in context and to the understanding of the target culture. Students will be challenged to use the language in real-life settings both within and outside of the classroom.

*Students need to have a "B" every quarter of Spanish IV or a "B" every quarter of Spanish III PLUS teacher recommendation to take AP Spanish*

## **GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

### **ROCKFORD CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS**

Bible	8 credits (4 years)
English	8 credits (4 years)
Social Studies	6 credits (3 years)
Mathematics	6 credits (3 years)
Science	6 credits (3 years)
Physical Education	3 credits
Health	1 credit
Electives	12 credits
Jan Term	2 credits

This is a total of 52 credits. One credit is given for each full time semester class. Please note the following college requirements. Colleges/Universities are increasing their admission requirements, and leaders of business and industry are concerned about the academic preparation of those entering the workforce. The faculty and administration of RCHS expect all students to enroll in a minimum of six or more courses during each year of high school. Institutions of higher learning report a direct correlation between academic success at the university and the maintenance of a rigorous course of study during the senior year of study.

### **COLLEGE PREPARATORY RECOMMENDATIONS**

English	8 credits (4 years)
Mathematics	6 credits (3 years) – a fourth year is recommended
Science	6 credits (3 years)
Social Studies	6 credits (3 years)
Foreign Language/Fine arts	4 credits (2 years)
Computer	2 credits (1 year)