



GRACE ACADEMY

QUALITY CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

High School Program of Studies 2017-18

Course Selection and Scheduling Guide

graceacademyonline.org

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Vision Statement

Grace Academy is a global innovator of exceptional Christian education and experiences.

Mission Statement

Grace Academy seeks to enhance the God-given potential in each student through quality Christian education so they may be servants of Jesus Christ in the world.

Philosophy of Education

The purpose of Grace Academy is to partner with Christian parents in the training of their children “in the nurture and admonition of the Lord” (Ephesians 6:4b). True and proper education is built on the foundation and principles of the Word of God. All subject matter is to be carried out from a Christian perspective.

Objectives of the Philosophy of Education

1. Provide a biblically-centered, quality education for all children.
2. Develop Bible-based moral and ethical values.
3. Guide young Christians in their spiritual growth by providing Bible classes and chapels, and by training the students in Biblical character traits, especially obedience, respect and responsibility.
4. Provide an excellent academic program to prepare young people for college, career or ministry after school.
5. Provide extracurricular activities such as sports programs and fine arts programs which assist in the social and physical training of our students.

Our vision is for our students to model the all-around development of Jesus Christ mentioned in Luke 2:52: *“And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.”*

Statement of Equality and Non-Discrimination

Grace Academy accepts students for enrollment without discrimination on the basis of race, nationality, ethnic background or gender.

Admission Policy

Grace Academy admits students on the basis of compatibility with the student's stated purpose and mission along with consideration of whether the students will fit into the existing program.

Statement of Excellence

Grace Academy strives for excellence in academics and leadership to God's glory as stated in 1 Corinthians 10:31.

"Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

Graduation Requirements

The below chart compares the graduation requirements of Grace Academy and of Washington County Public Schools. Though the State of Maryland requires only 21 credits (and 75 hours of community service) for graduation, each county can make their own specifications beyond that. Our graduation requirements have to at least meet Washington County's standard; which, being college-preparatory in orientation, Grace Academy does meet and then exceeds these requirements.

COURSES	Grace Academy Graduation Requirements	Wash. Co. Public School Graduation Requirements
Community Service Hours	75 hours	75 hours
Bible	4	-
English	5	4
Social Studies¹	3	3
Math²	4	4
Science³	3	3
World Languages	2	0
Wellness⁴	2	2
Technology Education	1	1
Humanities⁵	6	7
TOTAL REQUIRED	30	24

A Grace Academy diploma is earned with a minimum of 31 courses and 75 hours of community service (community service is tracked from 7th-12th grade).

¹ Social Studies credits have to include US History, World History, and Government.

² Math credits have to include Algebraic Concepts, Geometric Concepts and 2 additional Math credits.

³ Science credits have to include at least (1) lab-based Biology and 2 additional Science credits.

⁴ Wellness credits must include both Physical Education and Health/Life Skills.

⁵ At least (1) Humanities credit has to be considered a Fine Art (i.e. Art, Music, Music Appreciation, Band, Choir).

Grace Academy Accreditation

Grace Academy is accredited through ACSI, Middle States, the State of Maryland and meets or exceeds the requirements and standards established by public schools of the Maryland Department of Education.

Course Prerequisites/Recommended Course of Study

<u>Advanced Course</u>	<u>Prerequisites</u>
Spanish II	Spanish I
Spanish III	Spanish II
Geometry	Algebra I
Algebra II	Algebra I
Pre-Calculus	Algebra II & Geometry
College Algebra	Algebra II & Geometry
Physics	Algebra I & Biology
Chemistry	Algebra I & Biology
Anatomy & Physiology	Physical Science & Biology
Cybersecurity I	High School Technology
Cybersecurity II	Cybersecurity I

Recommended Course of Study by Grade				
Subject Areas	9th	10th	11th	12th
Bible	X	X	X	X
English	X	X	X	XX
Math	X	X	X	X
Science	X	X	X	
Social Sciences	X	X	X	
World Languages	X	X		
Wellness	X	X		
Technology	X			
Arts & Humanities	X	X	XXX	XX

Grading Policy

At Grace Academy, 60% is the passing grade, the final average a student needs in order to receive credit for a subject. Final grades for each semester are computed by averaging the marking period grades together. The grading scale is as follows:

A = 90-100 B = 80-89 C = 70-79 D = 60 – 69 F=59 & below

Community Service

Much can be derived from students participating in community service. Involvement in community needs provides the motivation needed to put forth effort in learning and gives students the opportunity to integrate their knowledge. They do this by applying their learning to real human needs. Service learning also provides students with social development and can give them a better perspective for making lifestyle decisions.

A total of 75 hours of community service is required. Hours can be earned during a student's 7th -12th grade years. Hours are turned into the school office for record keeping.

Senior Year Opportunities and Requirements

Senior Bible and two to three (early-to-college, dual-enrolled, discounted college) classes are typically offered within the first five periods at Grace. As of the 2017-2018 school year, we have a number of college classes that are being offered on Grace Academy's campus, with hopes to continuously increase these offerings. The schedule is arranged to accommodate seniors who choose to enroll in afternoon classes at Hagerstown Community College, do an internship, or begin their working experience. It is our goal to have the Seniors at Grace Academy for as many periods as are possible with their individual schedules so that they can contribute to the school environment and also receive from the school, in return, the intrinsic rewards found in being the school's leaders. Seniors **MUST** attend chapel each week and participate in Senior fundraisers which help fund their Senior trip. (See more in the following "College Opportunities" section for ways Seniors can build their transcript and prepare for college).

Seniors who are interested in playing a sport for Grace Academy must be enrolled through Grace Academy in no less than 3 courses. This requirement is consistent throughout the Mason Dixon Christian Conference.

Graduation

To participate in graduation ceremonies, Seniors must have earned a diploma or be no more than one credit short with a remediation plan in

place. Students who complete graduation requirements early may participate in the graduation ceremony with their class. Those who cannot participate in graduation may choose to do so the following year.

Computation of Grade Point Average (GPA)

GPA is calculated by giving a numeric value to the letter grade received in the course. Honors and college classes are factored with extra weight.

All students receive a report card with the current GPA for that quarter. A cumulative GPA is available in transcript format after the completion of each semester. To factor GPA, you must consider the following:

- 1.) Grade in the course
- 2.) Quality points represented by the grade (A=4, B=3, C=2, D=1, F=0)
- 3.) Extra quality points for weighted courses (Honors classes and college classes – A=5, B=4, C=3, D=2, F=0)
- 4.) Credit value of a course is dictated by course content whether they meet for one period or two periods (as a block), or one semester or two.

These GPA calculations are what will be reported to colleges upon request. Please remember that many colleges strip the extra quality points and recalculate your GPA with an A=4, etc.

Example of how GPA is calculated:

Example Student Transcript				
Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Quality Points	Grade Points (multiply the credit hours by the quality points)
Science	1	A	4	4
Health	1	B	3	3

English	1	C	2	2
History	1	D	1	1
Mathematics	1	F	0	0
5 Total Credit Hours Attempted		10 Total Grade Points		
Total Grade Points		10		
Total Credit Hours Attempted	<u>divided by</u>	5	= 2.0	GPA

Electives Courses

Any extra classes beyond core curriculum requirements are considered electives. So, for example, if you have all your math requirements, but are very interested in a math-heavy career and choose to take a couple extra math classes, these would count as electives. The following are some examples of offered classes (not part of our typical curriculum) that will satisfy humanities (electives) requirements:

Art	Spanish III
High School Choir	Personal Assessment
High School Drama	Nutrition 102
High School Guitar	Forensics
Book and Film Study	Psychology
American Sign Language I & II (If not taken as a foreign language credit)	Cybersecurity I & II
	Teacher's Aide

Expanded Education Opportunities

Blended Schools

Grace Academy offers education ANYWHERE at ANYTIME. The Blended Schools program was designed as an option for individualizing educational paths so that ... "Students become life-long learners and productive citizens." We believe that the education of a child is no small matter. Children learn in their own way and at their own pace.

Online courses are used in a variety of ways – to accommodate full schedules, to add accelerated or high-end classes, remediation, summer school, homebound instruction, independent studies, for student travelers, etc. Online courses may be combined with “in-school” courses to complete a student’s schedule and are at an extra cost to the student due to the need to contract with a teacher to teach the class. When requesting enrollment, each student’s academic history, attendance record and graduation requirements are considered. It must also be visible that the student is a self-motivated learner.

To take an online course, a student/parent/school contract must be completed and signed by all parties. The contract will include the course beginning and ending date (unless otherwise contracted, courses are one semester long, and must be completed by semester end date or date stated on contract) as well as the number of credits that will be earned upon course completion.

Remediation

When a high school student fails a course, in many cases there is the possibility of credit recovery by participating in online remediation through the Learning Lamp with Blended Schools. Successful completion of a Learning Lamp remediation course will raise the Grace Academy failing grade to a passing 60%. At a cost of \$155 per class, the Learning Lamp courses are 6 weeks in length, and are offered year-round. Only one remediation attempt may be made through the Learning Lamp. If a student does not pass the Learning Lamp course, the course must be retaken in its entirety through Grace Academy. For more information, contact the guidance department at Grace Academy.

Retaking a course

When a student retakes an entire course, both the original course grade and the new course grade appear on the high school transcript. Only the new course grade, however, will be calculated in the GPA (grade point average).

Testing Out of a Course

A policy is in place to serve those students who want to have the opportunity to test out of a course. The following planned process will be followed:

- The process will begin during scheduling time.
- The student must state his/her intent in writing in order to attempt to test out of a course the following school year.
- A family planning conference will be held with the student, his/her parents, the teacher of the course to be tested, a counselor, and an administrator, outlining the course requirements, setting a date for administration of the Mastery Evaluation, and planning for the following year's course work to provide for both the successful and unsuccessful completion of the Mastery Evaluation.
- A certified teacher will give the Mastery Evaluation.
- The Mastery Evaluation will include some type of evaluation for each course objective and could include projects, lab work, research papers, exam, etc. The scope of the evaluation will be broader than the course final examination.
- In order to pass the Mastery Evaluation, the student will be required to earn at least 85% on each objective.
- If the student fails to pass the Mastery Evaluation, it would not be computed in the GPA and he/she would need to take the course itself the following year.

High School Opportunities

For students wishing to participate in a more rigorous course of study, some Grace Academy courses offer an honors track. A grade point average weight of 5.0 will be assigned to successfully completed courses.

Grace Academy is a college-preparatory school which promotes a variety of pathways to earn both high school and college credit. These efforts have been supplemented by vigorous collaboration with local colleges to engage the students in early-to-college programming.

Students taking these early-to-college classes may earn dual credit (both high school and college credit) - thereby saving their parents money on college costs, “killing two birds with one stone,” and polishing their transcript for the college admissions process.

One part of this college-preparatory endeavor has involved bringing the college to our doorstep, wherein we have actual college classes on our campus.

The 2nd part has been to partner with the local community college in their on-campus efforts to create college programming aimed at high-achieving upperclassmen who are motivated to accomplish college work early.

Discover the specifics on these opportunities below.

Elevated Grade Point Average

There are college classes offered on-site at Grace Academy that require entrance exams, registration and fees paid to the college. These courses receive a GPA weight of 5.0.

Davis College

Davis College in New York collaborates with Grace Academy to teach their first-year Philosophy. The following must be met to take this class for college credit:

- Student GPA and age must meet Davis College’s requirements.
- A student must apply to the college and register for this specific class (through paperwork supplied by the teacher of the class).

- The class and registration fees must be paid by a stated deadline or else the student WILL NOT get college credit for this class. Students (Parents) are responsible for the cost of the college tuition and books.

Hagerstown Community College –Essence Program On-Campus at Grace Academy

Hagerstown Community College has an early-to-college program called “Essence Program”. Students who meet the following requirements may earn as many credits as they like towards their college transcripts (12 of these – or about 4 classes – would be offered at a reduced rate that is negotiated between the college and Grace Academy).

Grace currently offers 5 classes here on campus, which include a few general education requirements. When taken, these can earn the student both college and high school credit doubling the impact of their tuition. Course offerings fluctuate per semester.

The following must be met to take these classes for college credit:

- Student GPA (2.5) and age (16) must meet Hagerstown Community College’s requirements. Additionally, there are certain classes which require a student to test-in with the HCC testing center OR they could become qualified by having an SAT or ACT score that meets expectations (500 or 21 or greater on verbal and math, respectively).
- A student must apply to the college and register for this specific class (through paperwork supplied by HCC at the beginning of the class).
- The class and registration fees must be paid by a stated deadline or else the student WILL NOT get college credit for this class. Students (Parents) are responsible for the cost of the college tuition and books.

On-Campus, Dual-Enrolled, College Course Descriptions (subject to change)**Speech Communications (Public Speaking)**

Course Description: This beginning course studies the theory of public address and gives students practice in speaking to a classroom audience. Mechanics of speech preparation and organization, and the delivery of short original speeches are included. Emphasis is on informative presentations and the implementation of visual aids.

English 101: Composition

Course Description: This course examines paragraph and theme development with emphasis on syntax, organization, logical thinking, and diction as a basis for writing. Students are given extensive practice in creating and revising their own compositions. Documentation and plagiarism are discussed. Selected readings may be used.

English 102: Composition and Literature

Course Description: This course refines the writing process through the reading and interpretation of literature. Students learn manuscript presentation, inquiry, and research skills by writing a clearly documented research paper. Prerequisite: ENG 101

Personal Assessment

Course Description: This is a physical education activity class that will help the student develop an appreciation for healthy lifestyle and the benefits from physical activity which one can enjoy. The student will gain an improvement of physical skills over the course of a semester by repetition and correction by the instructor. An activity journal and/or log will allow for analysis, adjustment, and improvement of physical skill as the student continues to engage in the activity into the future.

Nutrition 102

Course Description: This comprehensive, introductory course gives students practical information about nutrition. Emphasis is on the application of nutritional principles to personal eating habits and the lifelong process of nutrition management as it relates to disease prevention and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle. Total of 45 hours of lecture.

College Algebra

Course Description: This course is a problem solving approach to the nature of mathematics as a logical system. The structure of the number system is developed axiomatically and extended by logical reasoning to cover essential algebraic topics: algebraic expression, functions (including polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric), and theory of equations.

Cybersecurity I

Course Description: Introduction to Cybersecurity is a beginning guide for anyone interested in computer security. Core security topics such as vulnerability assessment, virus attacks, hacking, spyware, network defense, passwords, firewalls, VPNs and intrusion detection are covered. Crucial issues from industrial espionage to cyberbullying are discussed. Additionally, students are expected to learn the latest computer attacks and counter measures

Cybersecurity II

Course Description: Cybersecurity II dives deeper on the concepts introduced in Cybersecurity I. You must complete Cybersecurity I before enrolling in Cybersecurity II.

Please note: Any classes at HCC can be considered by the student, but it is wise to try to get as many general education requirements out of the way. Some examples of suggestions that meet those general requirements are Introduction to Visual Arts (ART 101), Music Appreciation (MUS 101), Introduction to Cybersecurity (CYB 101), College Algebra (MAT 101), Introduction to Biotechnology (BTC 101).

Hagerstown Community College –Essence Program On-Campus at HCC

Besides the aforementioned classes that are offered on Grace Academy's campus for dual credit, Hagerstown Community College has two different ways that a student can earn Essence credits *on HCC* campus.

These opportunities are:

On-Campus Classes

Students can take any classes from the catalogue on the HCC campus, earning dual credit along the way. The HCC world “is their oyster”, so to speak. And just as in the case with the classes offered at Grace, they will get a discount until they’ve reached their 12 credits, after which they will pay full price contingent on their residency (in-county/out-of-county in state/out-of-state). The requirements are as stated in the above section “Hagerstown Community College –Essence Program On-Campus at Grace Academy.”

STEMM Middle College

(Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics, Medical)

Students who meet the high-achieving expectations of the STEMM Middle College Program, will attend the college every day. They are effectively replacing their high school experience at their native school with a daily schedule at HCC for their last two years. All the while, they will be achieving credits towards their high school diploma (decided through an articulation agreement with their home-school) while attributing the college credits earned toward their future college career.

Students select an educational pathway that will put them on the right course for a career and further higher education if desired in one of the following example areas: Alternative Energy Technology, Biology, Biotechnology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Cybersecurity, Engineering, Mathematics, Pre-Pharmacy, Simulation and Digital Entertainment. (There is a full brochure explaining this rigorous program along with its various demands and entrance requirements at www.hagerstowncc.edu/middlecollege).

Hagerstown Community College Hybrid Program

Grace Academy has an exciting program that was drafted and developed originally as a way to meet the rigor-demanding needs of our international population. Because many of our domestic students also want to challenge themselves with a collegiate experience but, for a variety of reasons, would not like to be away from Grace completely as the Middle College option would dictate, we offer a hybrid program. In this program, both international and domestic students are able to systematically take Grace Academy classes for half of the day, and college classes on HCC’s campus for the other half of the day. This allows students to procure the rigor of

college classes while still maintaining time at Grace Academy, so as to keep a school identity while accumulating dual credits.

This Hybrid College/High School Program is overseen by the school counselor to ensure that all classes the student registers for at HCC meet Grace Academy graduation requirements.

The following must be met to be considered for acceptance into the Hybrid Program:

- Students are strongly recommended to have taken and scored a 65 on the computer-based version of the TOEFL (for international students) or have a combined SAT score of 1600 (for domestic students).
- Students must have (and maintain throughout their inclusion in the program) a cumulative GPA of 3.2.

As a point of interest, just a few of the many colleges HCC students transfer to are as follows:

Bowie State University	University of Maryland – Baltimore County
Coppin State University	University of Maryland – Eastern Shore
Frostburg State University	University of Maryland – University College
Hood College	Wilson College
Messiah College	
Morgan State	
Mount St. Mary’s University	
Penn State - Harrisburg	
Penn State - Mont Alto	
Salisbury	
Shenandoah Conservatory	
Shepherd University	
Shippensburg University	
Towson University	
University of Maryland	

Grace Academy Course Descriptions

Bible Department

Intro to Bible

Course Description: This course provides an introduction to Christianity and God's Word. Course moves at a slower pace to accommodate students without a Biblical background or those new to the study of Christianity.

Bible Basics

Course Description: A doctrinal survey of the foundational beliefs of Christianity. Topics covered include the existence of God, the inspiration of the Bible, the Trinity, the deity of Christ, sin and salvation, the church, the end times.

Bible Study and Devotions

Course Description: Allows each student hands-on practice to discover for themselves the riches of God's Word. Emphasis will be on learning to spot various parts of speech to help uncover the meaning and application of a Biblical passage. Students will learn how to develop a meaningful prayer life.

Character Studies

Course Description: Students will take an in-depth look at the personality traits such as leadership, faithfulness, servanthood in the lives of both Old and New Testament people.

Contemporary Issues

Course Description: Students will learn how to have something vital to say about the issues that appear in today's news. A biblical worldview will serve as the foundation.

Witnessing

Course Description: This course will provide instruction in the basics of personal evangelism and missions. Students will be given opportunities to share their faith outside of the classroom and be involved in local service projects in the community. Students will hear reports and interact with missionaries that share the gospel in various contexts overseas.

Comparative Worldviews in Today's Culture(1st and 2nd Semester)

Life, Ethics and Worldview (Davis College credit)
(1st and 2nd Semester)

Course Description: This class will help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview and how it compares with the views of other leading worldviews of our day: Islam, Secularism, Marxism, New Spirituality and Postmodernism. Each of the worldviews will be examined under the following topics: Theology, Philosophy, Ethics, Biology, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics and History. Students will also complete the Senior Worldview Project.

English Department

English I – 9th grade

Course Description: Students read and experiment with novels and poetry, focusing on elements of analysis such as plot, conflict, and theme. Students engage in expository, narrative, and descriptive writing assignments. Students practice good writing skills such as creating grammatically correct sentences.

English II – 10th grade

Course Description: Students read and experiment with novels, poetry, and drama, focusing on elements of analysis such as romanticism, parable, and symbolism. Students engage in expository and research-based writing assignments. Students practice good writing skills such as maintaining proper sentence structure.

English III – 11th grade

Course Description: Students read and experiment with novels, poetry, and drama, focusing on elements of analysis such as realism, irony, and characterization. Students engage in expository, narrative, and research-based writing assignments. Students practice good writing skills such as maintaining proper pronoun reference.

English IV – 12th grade

Course Description: Students read and experiment with novels, poetry, and drama, focusing on elements of analysis such as satire, allegory, and imagery. Students engage in persuasive, analytical, and research-based writing assignments. Students practice good writing skills such as maintaining proper pronoun use.

Public Speaking/Speech

Course Description: Students will be exposed to the basics of good public speaking and required to practice these techniques and principles by preparing and delivering their own speeches. Ultimately, students will learn how to share their faith in Christ with others.

World Languages Department

Spanish I

Course Description: Using the HOLT Spanish I book, we will be working through basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar, as well as culturally and historically significant information in the Spanish-speaking world. Students will complete various hands-on, peer-learning activities. Assessments include homework, in class activities, projects, skits, and exams. No pre-requirements.

Spanish II

Course Description: Using the HOLT Spanish II book, we will be working through intermediate Spanish vocabulary and grammar, as well as culturally and historically significant information in the Spanish-speaking world. In this class there is a greater stress of reading comprehension. Students will complete various hands-on, peer-learning activities. Assessments include homework, in class activities, projects, skits, and exams. Prerequisites: C or better in Spanish I.

Spanish III

Course Description: Using the HOLT Spanish III book, we will be working through the second half of intermediate level Spanish vocabulary and grammar, as well as culturally and historically significant information in the Spanish-speaking world. Students will complete various hands-on and peer-learning activities. A greater sense of independent Spanish-language-learning is stressed in this class. Students will read and write at an above-basic proficiency level. Students will be expected to have dictionary-translation skills, and to be able to communicate in Spanish. Assessments include homework, in class activities, projects, skits, and exams. Prerequisites: C or better in Spanish II.

American Sign Language I

Course Description: Presents the basic skills used in American Sign Language. Includes vocabulary and grammar related to the exchange of personal

information, introductions and negotiating the environment of sign conversation. Uses textbook, workbooks, videotapes and participate in class.

American Sign Language II

Course Description: Presents the basic skills used in American Sign Language. Includes vocabulary and grammar related to the exchange of personal information, introductions and negotiating the environment of sign conversation. Uses workbooks and videotapes. (First of four courses in ASL. Credit by examination is available.)

ESL

Course Description: In this course, students will improve their reading, writing, listening and speaking skills in English to help them succeed in their core classes at Grace Academy. Course is offered through traditional classroom setting as well as the push-in model.

Social Studies Department

American History

Course Description: This is the completion of the study of American History from following Reconstruction after the Civil War to present day. Students will examine politics, economics, society and religion during each of the decades. We will look to Biblical references to evaluate decisions made and how this has affected the country today. You will participate in class discussions, readings, essay writing and projects.

The goal is for students to not only learn the facts about history, but to put yourself into the time period we are talking about and discover how and why decisions were made, the cultural view of God in those decisions, the ramifications of the choices made and what you would have done. I want you to live our rich history in a way that will guide you through your future using knowledge of the past.

Civics and Government

Course Description: This course will provide an introduction to the major ideas, institutions, and issues in American government and politics. The focus is on how the structure of our political system influences the practice of politics and the ongoing influence over government activities and public policy. We will see what the Bible has to say about the necessity of government and our participation in it.

We will examine the principles underlying the constitutional framework of American government and will analyze the three branches (Legislative, Executive, and Judicial) while trying to understand the advantages and problems inherent in a system of "checks and balances."

We will consider important extra-governmental actors, such as political parties, interest groups, and the media. We will also look into important issues of public policy and study the major debates and divisions over where America is headed.

Beyond introducing you to the structure and functions of American government my goals in this class are: 1) to ignite in you an appreciation of government and politics 2) to give you the tools and skills required to make sense of political issues and debates to become a more informed participant and 3) to help you compare and contrast biblical and governmental principles.

World History

Course Description: Students will examine the rise of civilization from a biblical, Creationist viewpoint. The students will study the Greco-Roman Empires, the dominance of the Roman Catholic and Muslim religions during the Middle Ages, and the Reformation and the Renaissance. Attention will be given to the rise and conflict of the modern European nations. The course will conclude with a study of mistakes that led to WWII and since the end of WWII that have led to the present stalemate with Communism.

Psychology

Course Description: Psychology is one of the most controversial academic subjects among Christians today. Some Christians accept psychology as a science to be studied alongside biology and chemistry, others reject it entirely and some contemplate which ideas to accept and which to reject.

This class will study the history of psychology and the various methods utilized in conducting research and analyzing results, the structure of the brain and its relationship with the environment and on behavior. The goal is for students to critically look at this social science with a biblical understanding, contrasting common worldview assumptions with a Christian worldview.

Math Department

Algebra I

Course Description: Algebra I is intended to build a foundation for all higher math classes. This course will review algebraic expressions, integers, and mathematical properties that will lead into working with variables and linear equations. There will be an in-depth study of graphing, polynomials, quadratic equations, data analysis and systems of equations. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra.

Algebra II

Course Description: Algebra II extends the study of concepts mastered in Algebra I. Topics include functions, equations and graphs, linear and quadratic systems, matrices, and polynomial, exponential, trigonometry, and rational functions. Students use graphing calculator technology as they apply the skills to real world situations and communicate their understanding orally and in writing. Algebra 1 and 2 together prepare the student for success in Pre-calculus connecting Geometry and Algebra.

Geometry (Prerequisite: Algebra I)

Course Description: A thorough understanding of the principles of geometry is important to a wide range of scientific and technological fields of study such as engineering, physics, and cartography. In addition, the study of geometry sharpens thinking skills by teaching the process of deductive reasoning. Students will study the tools of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, properties and relationships in triangles and quadrilaterals, and apply these concepts and prior algebraic learning to geometric problem solving

Pre-Calculus

Course Description: Advanced mathematical concepts expand on topics from intermediate algebra and develop concepts thoroughly to ensure understanding. Plentiful examples develop concepts within a clear concise format. The contents include linear relations and functions, theory of equations, matrices and vectors, the circular functions, the trigonometric functions, sequences and series, polar coordinated and complex numbers, conics, probability, and descriptive statistics.

Applied Math

Course Description: This course is designed to cover topics in mathematics such as Set Theory, Number Theory and Calculations, Reasoning and Logic, as well as continuing the students understanding of linear and quadratic equations and functions.

All students will show growth and progress in their ability to demonstrate the following math objectives:

- Expand on knowledge of reasoning and logic
- Learn the basics of set theory
- Expand on knowledge of number systems and calculations
- Learn the basics of number theory and expand knowledge of the real number system
- Expand on knowledge of algebra and graphs
- Expand on knowledge of geometry and measurements
- Expand on knowledge of basic Statistics

Physical Education Department

Health

Course Description: Taught from a Christian perspective, this course is designed to provide students with an understanding of basic needs of the human body. It revolves around four different aspects of health: social, mental, physical and spiritual. Students are challenged to engage in group discussions and written assignments.

Physical Education

Course Description: This course is designed to improve the student's cardio-respiratory development through vigorous practice and competitive participation. The student will develop and appreciation for rules, knowledge, and strategies of several team and individual sports. An effort will be made to help the student develop Christian sportsmanship through self-control, fair play, group interaction, and cooperation.

Science Department

Physical/Environmental Science

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to give students a beginning knowledge of physical science and scientific methods. In this course a student may develop laboratory skills which will be useful to students taking biology, chemistry, and physics.

Biology

Course Description: This is a survey course studying the major divisions of biology beginning with basic cell morphology and biochemistry common to all living things. Major groups of organism will be surveyed covering topics of taxonomic classification, genetics, bioenergetics, developmental relationships and ecological niches. The class will include general laboratory exercises and simulations, which may include completion of online classwork, topical blogging and scientific investigations, including dissection.

Forensics

Course Description: This course surveys key topics in forensic science, including the application of the scientific process to forensic analysis, procedures and principles of crime scene investigation, physical and trace evidence, and the law and courtroom procedures from the perspective of the forensic scientist. Analysis of fictional crime scenarios, learning about forensic tools, technical resources, forming and testing hypotheses, proper data collection, and responsible conclusions.

Chemistry

Course Description: Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties and the changes it undergoes. Major topics of study include: macro- and microscopic study of matter, structure of matter, periodic table and properties of elements, properties of gases, chemical compounds, chemical nomenclature, chemical reactions, acids/bases, chemical calculations and equations, processes involved in chemical reactions. This is a laboratory course and the labs performed are designed to enhance student learning of course concepts. Lab safety is emphasized and essential laboratory techniques and lab reporting are introduced to students. Prerequisite: Algebra I & Biology.

Physics

Course Description: Physics is the study of objects in motion. The course will cover topics such as circular motion, friction and frictionless planes, inertia, gravitational pull with different reference points, centripetal and centrifugal motion, and vectors.

Technology Department

High School Technology

Course Description: Ninth grade technology is comprehensive project-based educational course concerned with technology. It enhances the potential of

students to become successful and contributing participants with their technological environment so they can make rational decisions about their own lives on a day-to-day basis. This technology class is a secondary school introduction to hands-on technology activities with emphasis placed on planning, design and problem solving. Students will develop critical thinking and problem solving skills as they assess the technology that influences their daily lives and their future careers.

Humanities Department

High School Art

Course Description: This one-year course introduces students to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design while developing drawing skills and painting techniques. Studio experiences in the classroom will give students opportunities to experience a variety of media (pencil, pen, ink, charcoal, pastel, watercolor, and tempera paint) while developing student's individual style and creative problem solving skills. Students will demonstrate their ability to respond, to analyze and to visually interpret their own artwork and the work of others through discussions and critiques.

High School Choir

Course Description: Choir students will learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. Chorus also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a participation and performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

High School Beginner's Guitar & Theory

Course Description: This semester long course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Students will receive guidance and direction in solving problems related to playing the guitar at a beginning level and will learn many of the different styles, skills and techniques required to become a successful guitarist. Areas of concentration for guitar include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, picking, rhythmic patterns, chord study, and strumming. Areas of concentration for theory include: the grand staff, counting rhythms, measures, bar lines, time signatures, first and second endings, ties, slurs, and repeat signs.

High School Drama

Course Description: This semester long course introduces the student to beginning acting techniques and theatre appreciation. Students participating in HS Drama will strive to develop skill in oral language and all expressive mechanisms (voice and bodily expression), develop understanding in psychological, moral, physical and socio-economic analysis of a character (analytic skills) and lastly, students will learn the elements of stagecraft and production (craft skills).

Teacher's Assistant

Course Description: Students are assigned to a teacher assisting them with various needs such as checking papers, working with students, making copies and helping with bulletin boards.

Book and Film Study

Course Description: This course designed as an introductory level of film and literature appreciation. Students will analyze and explore a variety of quintessential films that have made a lasting impression on America's society. Students will explore history of film, filmmaking, genres, film critique and analysis and current film trends. This course will be useful to anyone who has an interest in learning more about films and literature in general, screenwriting, how the written word is translated to the screen as well as cultural and historical aspects of adaptation. No background in film studies is needed for this course. Students will be asked to look at and think about films and literature more reflectively preparing students to be active, critical thinkers in our modern American society.