

Academic Planning Guide 2020–2021



**LIBERTY
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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GUIDANCE COUNSELING

As students progress through the Middle and Upper School programs, they will make some important decisions. Students choose the rigor of their core courses, the electives and activities that enrich their academic and social lives, the degree plan to follow, and the tests to take for college entrance. Guidance counselors are trained to help students set their academic and career goals, build their academic record, and navigate through the college application process.

STUDENT SCHEDULES

Students are required to submit individual course requests prior to each academic year. Guidance counselors are available to help students review course offerings and make appropriate selections. Parents and students are encouraged to discuss scheduling options prior to submitting course requests, and are asked to carefully consider all course elections. Administration bases its decisions for teachers and number of classes offered from the initial course requests made in the spring of the previous school year. Liberty Christian School makes every effort possible to meet the scheduling requests of each student. Occasional administrative and staffing changes may result in the replacement of some course selections and can also result in a change in teacher assignment or class time.

PRE-ADVANCED PLACEMENT (PRE-AP) AND ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PROGRAMS

A **Pre-AP** course is one in which the curriculum is enriched and accelerated in keeping with College Board standards. An **AP** course is a college-level course that follows the College Board Advanced Placement curriculum. The student's knowledge of the course curriculum is tested through the AP Exam. **Any student enrolled in an AP class is required to register for and take the course's AP Exam.** Exam registration and fee payment will occur before November 1 for full year and first semester only courses, and before March 1 for second semester only courses. Details and a payment link will be emailed to students and parents prior to the appropriate registration deadline. Colleges and universities have the option of accepting AP results for college credit or placement in advanced standing. Completion of Pre-AP and AP courses with passing grades results in additional points for calculating GPA (refer to "GPA Calculation" on Page 5). If a student fails a semester, no additional points will be calculated into the GPA. Liberty recommends that parents and students refer to the document, "[AP Classes: To Take or Not to Take](#)" to determine if a student should enroll in a Pre-AP or AP course. ****It is a requirement to take the test if a student is enrolled in an AP course. If a student does not take the test, the AP designation will be removed from the transcript and no additional points will be added into the GPA.** For more detailed information on specific AP courses, visit www.collegeboard.org.

Eligibility for 6th–12th Grades

The following criteria apply for admission to all AP and Pre-AP courses:

- A minimum of 85 percent in a Pre-AP course or 90 percent in a regular course is required and must have been maintained in the subject for the entire previous year. German Pre-AP and Mandarin Pre-AP must obtain a minimum overall average of 80 percent. Computer Science courses are exempt from prior grade requirements.
- The student must be committed to considerably more work per course per night than the standard homework requirement.
- Students must not have incurred excessive absences, tardy notices, or recurring zeroes in the most recent school year.
- Guidance counselors recommend that 6th–9th grade students enroll in **no more than two** Pre-AP courses per year.
- Students must agree to remain in scheduled Pre-AP and AP courses **through the first semester.**
- **Students should obtain a minimum average of 75 percent at the end of the first semester to continue enrollment in a Pre-AP or AP course.**

Note: Transfer students must receive approval from the Academic Committee to enroll in Pre-AP and AP courses.

Departmental Requirements

Some departments have additional qualification requirements for students enrolling in Pre-AP and AP courses. Many Pre-AP and AP students must complete summer reading assignments and/or projects prior to the beginning of school. Please refer to the “Resources” page of each school level under “Academics” on the Liberty website for more information.

LIBERTY LEARNING CENTER REQUIREMENTS

Liberty Learning Center (LLC) is our program for grades 6–12 that provides students having diagnosed learning differences with accommodations in their classes, and extended time on tests and quizzes in the LLC Lab. The lab is designed to help students learn to organize their school responsibilities with effective time management skills, to problem solve with confidence, to self-advocate for their learning and growth with their teachers, and to provide one-on-one conferencing to discuss performance and strategies for success in their classes. The LLC staff will provide students with skill support for test taking, studying, and organizing, as well as a dedicated liaison between the classroom teacher and the student when appropriate. **There is an additional fee to be enrolled in the LLC program.**

Note: When submitting your course request, select the LLC Lab to receive the above services.

SUMMER SCHOOL INFORMATION

Liberty Christian School offers summer school courses through Liberty Christian Online for students who need to recover credits. Liberty partners with Sevenstar Academy, an online curriculum provider, that offers biblically integrated courses meeting Liberty’s college-preparatory graduation requirements. Although coursework is completed independently, instruction is facilitated by a remote teacher, and student progress is monitored by Liberty staff members. **Completion of online coursework is required for students who have not earned a passing grade for any semester of a required Liberty course. Students must earn a semester grade of 70 percent or above in the online course to receive semester credit, although Sevenstar Academy considers 60–69 percent a passing grade of “D.”** Semester grades earned for credit recovery through the online summer school will appear on the student’s transcript and be included in the GPA calculation. The online course grade will not replace the failing grade on the transcript or in the GPA. Courses taken for reasons other than credit recovery will not be counted in the GPA. Please visit the Guidance Counseling Office for more details about summer school, the online curriculum, and the associated fees.

Note: Summer school is limited to the courses offered through Liberty Christian Online, and **only those courses will appear on the Liberty transcript for credit.** Seniors who fail a required course will receive their diplomas upon completion of the equivalent summer school course.

Grade Point Average (GPA) and Class Ranking

GPA CALCULATION

The student's GPA calculates on both 4-point and 100-point scales and includes the following required 9th-12th grade courses taken at Liberty Christian School: Bible; English; Social Studies; Science; Math (beginning with Algebra I taken in 7th or 8th grade); World Languages; Speech; Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Communication (TEC); Business and Professional Communications (BPC), Technology or STEM courses required for graduation; and all Pre-AP/AP courses. Spanish I and Business & Professional Communications courses taken in the 8th grade prior to the 2017–2018 school year will continue to be counted in GPA calculations. **On a student transcript, semester grades are unweighted, but the GPA is weighted as follows: For the 100-point grading scale, 5 points are awarded for Pre-AP courses and 10 points for AP courses; For the 4-point grading scale, .5 point is awarded for Pre-AP courses and 1 point for AP courses. Weighted points are added to the GPA calculation each semester.**

Note: Only grades earned at Liberty Christian School on eligible courses will be included in the GPA calculations and transcribed onto transcripts. Transfer grades are not included in GPA or rank calculations. For students who transfer during the first semester of 9th grade, 8th grade courses are transcribed onto transcripts but are not included in GPA calculations.

The 4.0 Grading Scale

Grade	Grade Scale
90–100	4.0
87–89	3.75
84–86	3.5
82–83	3.25
80–81	3.0
77–79	2.75
74–76	2.5
72–73	2.25
70–71	2.0
0–69	0

CLASS RANKING CALCULATION

Liberty Christian School is a non-ranking school. However, Liberty ranks the top 10 percent of students for the purpose of automatic admissions to Texas public colleges and universities. **Class rank calculates using the 100-point weighted GPA.** Class rank is calculated at the end of every semester only for students in grades 10–12.

Important! Transfer students will be eligible for ranking after four consecutive semesters at Liberty Christian School.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

The chart below provides the number of credits needed for each subject area depending on the type of diploma a student plans to pursue.

Subject Area	College Prep (27 Credits) <i>See Page 7</i>	College Prep with Honors (28 Credits) <i>See Page 7</i>
English	4	4
Mathematics	4	4
Social Studies	4	4
Science	4	4
Bible	4	4
World Languages	2	3
Physical Education	1	1
Electives	2	2
Career and Technology Education (CTE)	.5	.5
Speech	.5	.5
Fine Arts	1	1
Six Pre-AP/AP courses	N/A	Yes

Mathematics: Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry must be completed to meet three of the four math requirements. Students are required to take a different math class every year in grades 9–12.

Science: Science credits must include Biology, Chemistry, and Physics. The fourth science option may be chosen from the courses provided.

World Languages: World Language requirements must be met with credits **from the same language** in grades 9–12.

Physical Education: Physical Education requirements may be met through Athletics, Cheer, Dance Team, Band, Office Aide (if taken prior to the 2017–2018 school year), or Encore (beginning with the 2017–2018 school year). Beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, the Office Aide course is no longer accepted as a Physical Education credit.

Electives: After the required course credits are satisfied, a student may choose from other subject areas to satisfy elective credit(s). Refer to the following pages to find the courses that may be used for elective credit: Career Development, Fine Arts, and World Languages. Electives can include one credit of Athletics or Cheer.

Career and Technology Education (CTE): Beginning with the class of 2024, the CTE credit requirement is met through a course offering in the CTE Department. See the CTE section for course offerings. For the Classes of 2020–2023, the technology requirement is met through the Technology, Entrepreneurship, and Communication (TEC) course, or the former Business and Professional Communications (BPC) or Business Computer Information Systems courses offered prior to the 2017–2018 school year. Beginning with the 2018–2019 school year, the technology requirement can also be met through the AP Computer Science Principles course.

Speech: Credit is met through the current Speech course or the former Business and Professional Communications (BPC) or Business Computer Information Systems courses offered prior to the 2017–2018 school year. Beginning with the 2017–2018 school year, Encore may be approved for the Speech credit through the Guidance Counseling Department.

Pre-AP/AP Courses: To graduate College Prep with Honors, students must pass six yearlong Pre-AP/AP courses for Upper School credit during grades 8–12. Beginning with the entering class of 2021, at least two of the six courses must equal **two yearlong AP courses**.

College Planning

This section provides basic, general guidelines for students planning to attend a post-secondary institution.

Important! Each college and university has very specific requirements for admission. Students should check with their guidance counselor, college catalog, or the institution's admissions office for specific admissions requirements and recommendations.

DEGREE PLANS

College Preparatory Degree Plan

The College Prep Degree Plan accommodates students who desire to complete coursework that will facilitate entrance into a four-year college or university.

Note: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II must be completed to meet three of the four math requirements. Biology, Chemistry, and Physics must be completed to meet three of the four science requirements. For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the chart on Page 6.

College Preparatory with Honors Degree Plan

The College Preparatory with Honors Degree Plan accommodates students demonstrating levels of aptitude and performance equivalent to college-level work and who are applying to highly selective colleges and universities. To graduate College Prep with Honors, students must pass **six yearlong Pre-AP/AP courses** for Upper School credit during grades 8–12. Beginning with the entering class of 2021, at least two of the six courses must equal **two yearlong AP courses**. Also, **three** World Language credits from the **same language** are required. Beginning with the Class of 2022, World Language requirements must be met with credits **from the same language** in grades 9–12.

Note: Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II must be completed to meet three of the four math requirements. Biology, Chemistry, and Physics must be completed to meet three of the four science requirements. For a complete list of requirements, please refer to the chart on Page 6.

Important! A student must not have failed more than a total of two semesters in courses counting toward graduation requirements to qualify for a College Prep with Honors diploma.

SENDING TRANSCRIPTS TO POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS

Students submitting an official transcript to a college or university, the NCAA, or a scholarship foundation should request a transcript from the Guidance Counseling Office through the transcript request page on the school website.

Every effort is made to complete requests as quickly as possible. However, please allow up to one week for processing requests. Liberty submits transcripts electronically when applicable. Otherwise, a paper transcript is sent through the U.S. Postal Service. Additionally, **transcripts submitted by Liberty Christian School do not include PSAT, SAT, or ACT scores. Colleges must receive test scores directly from the testing institution. Students must contact College Board (SAT) and/or ACT to request submission of their scores to specific colleges.**

Note: For more information about sending test scores, visit www.collegeboard.org and www.actstudent.org.

Upper School Course Catalog

Course Descriptions for Grades 9–12

NEW AND UPDATED UPPER SCHOOL OFFERINGS

The following courses have been added or updated to the Upper School Catalog for 2020–2021:

 **Accelerated Algebra II/Pre-Calculus Pre-AP** – See Page 26.

 **Creative Writing/Purposeful Reading** – See Page 19. (Course not offered 20-21)

 **Essentials of Engineering** – See Page 33.

 **Game Development and Design II** – See Page 14.

 **Intro to Electronic Circuits** – See Page 14. (Course not offered 20-21)

 **Liberty Learning Center** – See Page 4.

 **Medical Interventions** – See Page 34. (Course not offered 20-21)

 **Rhetoric** – See Page 20. (Course not offered 20-21)

 **TV Reporting and Production** (formerly Broadcast Journalism)–See Page 16.

 **A/V Fundamentals** (formerly Digital Media Productions) – See Page 12. **Intro**

 **to Business and Personal Finance** – See Page 14.

 **Creative Filmmaking** (formerly Digital Media Production Advanced) – See Page 12.



Broadcast Journalism and Production (formerly Advanced Broadcast Journalism) – See Page 13.



German II Pre-AP – See Page 41.



Mandarin III Pre-AP – See Page 42.



SAT/ACT Prep Class – See Page 15.

BIBLE

In keeping with Liberty's Christian emphasis, students in grades 9–12 are required to be enrolled in their grade-level Bible class each semester.

The Life of Christ

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Built on the PositiveAction Bible Curriculum series, "The Life of Christ" course focuses on the cornerstone of Christianity – Jesus Christ. It is designed to engender a deeper understanding of the person and purpose of Christ, the redemptive plan of God for mankind through Him, and to see how the narrative unfolds in Scripture by reviewing the events surrounding Jesus' life. The course provides an in-depth look at the character of Christ and the practical application of His teachings through a careful study of the Gospel of John.

Christian Discipleship

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Built on the PositiveAction Bible Curriculum series, "Christian Discipleship: The Inner Person in Christ" focuses on the foundation of Christianity. As followers of God, Christians must be "strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man" (Ephesians 3:16). This course focuses on inward development, not just outward conformity. It shows from Scripture how righteousness is the result of the Lord changing His people, making their actions the result of inward purity and strong character.

Systematic Theology

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Built on the PositiveAction Bible Curriculum series, the "Systematic Theology" course focuses on the framework for biblical Christianity. The unfolding portrait of God's nature (eternal, holy, triune, omniscient, omnipresent, immutable, loving, etc.), His hypostatic incarnation in Jesus Christ, and His unfolding plan for humanity will help students understand the purpose and character of God through Jesus Christ for the ultimate purpose of being known by God (Matthew 7:21–23 and Galatians 4:9).

Christian Humanities

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Applied through a number of dialogues/formal writings developed over the years by the instructor and daily exegetical studies in a variety of New Testament writings, this course focuses on the application of biblical Christianity. Accordingly, students will study a myriad of topics – from abortion to Zoroastrianism, politics to world religions, philosophy to homosexuality – to develop the ability to articulate and defend their beliefs. Every worldview, from cultural Christianity to atheism, will be challenged intellectually to cast off myths and establish biblical truth. Please know that the accomplishment of these objectives often requires in-class discussions about real-world topics, guided prudently by the instructor for the benefit of the students and to assist parents in insulating but not isolating students from the world.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)

Today's world of advanced technology and competitive lifestyles requires that schools expand opportunities for students to prepare them for college and the world of work. Career and Technology Education (CTE) empowers individuals to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society. Career and Technology Education courses are designed to provide students with the opportunity to make informed occupational choices, determine educational needs and options, develop employability traits, and acquire marketable skills.

AP Computer Science Principles

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE credit)

AP Computer Science Principles offers a multidisciplinary approach to teaching the underlying principles of computation. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles also gives students the opportunity to use current technologies to create computational artifacts for both self-expression and problem solving. Together, these aspects of the course make up a rigorous and rich curriculum that aims to broaden participation in computer science. This class will prepare students for the end-of-year AP Exam, as well as for course assessments that explore the implications of computing innovations by creating a computer application. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Computer Science Principles Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.



A/V Fundamentals (formerly Digital Media Production)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE credit)

This introductory level media and broadcast course will feed into either creative filmmaking or a broadcast and production course. In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of operating a camera, lighting and audio equipment, and more, all the while practicing proper digital safety etiquette.



Broadcast Journalism and Production (formerly Advanced Broadcast Journalism)

Prerequisite: A/V Fundamentals

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE or Speech credit)

In this advanced audition-only course, students will choose a unique area of either broadcast or production and hold that role for the entirety of the year. Whether students are on camera or behind the camera/operating the switchboard, they will work together to produce a LIVE news show at least three times a week.

Students will hold one or more of the following roles:

- Anchor
- Reporter
- Mass Media Journalist
- Assignment Editor
- Floor Producer
- Control Room Producer
- Switchboard Operator
- Graphics/Media Operator
- A/V Engineer
- Camera Operator



Creative Filmmaking (formerly Digital Media Production Advanced)

Prerequisite: A/V Fundamentals (Broadcast Journalism/Digital Media Production 2019–2020 and previous)

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE credit)

Creative Filmmaking will enhance Level I skills by introducing more in-depth and specialized experiences in videography, editing, lighting, and computer programs/software. Projects for this class will focus on creating a portfolio and digital “brand” for student work including short film, commercial/promo, digital marketing, and event broadcasting. Students will also be involved in live productions and will be required to attend events throughout the school year.

Game Development and Design I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two Semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE credit)

Students will learn basic and intermediate game programming, including graphics, sound, input, artificial intelligence, and more. Curriculum will be project based, working individually and in groups. Students will create their own games for multiple platforms. Students will learn core elements of digital game design, including design processes, game logic, balancing and testing methods, and distribution methods. The course will trace the game development cycle from initial idea to completion multiple times, both in individual and group settings.



Game Development and Design II

Prerequisite: Game Development and Design I

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE credit)

Building on the development of 2D games in Game Development and Design I, students will develop games in 3D, create advanced artificial intelligence (AI), and produce multiplayer games for a variety of Apple platforms (including iPhone and iPad). The focus on 3D games will allow students to build games in new genres, simulating highly advanced and realistic physics and bringing to life the class's creative game ideas. The class will focus heavily on collaborative projects using industry standard tools, including several large-scale class projects with the entire class working together to build a game.



Intro to Business and Personal Finance

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11–12

Length: One semester

Credit: .5 (CTE credit)

This course includes a broad series of lessons and activities to provide students with basic financial tools and business acumen that will enable them to build the lives they envision. The course will cover economics and private enterprise, marketing and sales, financial responsibilities, planning for the future, budgeting, investing, and careers.



Intro to Electronic Circuits (Course not offered 2020–2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: One semester

Credit: .5 (CTE credit)

Students will gain hands-on experience with basic electronic circuits and programming techniques using Arduino controller boards. Students will design and build a variety of projects, such as LED counters and clocks, remote-controlled robots, and games. The course will cover basic electronic design theory using components, such as resistors, capacitors, transistors, logic controllers, motors, IR transmitters/receivers, and more. In addition to the hands-on experience with the electronic components, students will learn basic programming in C++ to create programs for the Arduino controller.

PSAT Prep Team

Prerequisites: Sophomores will be invited to attend this class based on their 10th grade PSAT index score. Students must have completed Algebra II by the end of 10th grade.

Grade: 11

Length: Fall semester only

Credit: .5

PSAT Prep Team is an intensive course that prepares students for the PSAT test, which is administered in October of their junior year. This course is by invitation only. The invitation is based on students' previous PSAT index score on the PSAT taken in 10th grade. This rigorous course is designed to improve both verbal and quantitative test scores. An integral component of this course is mandatory attendance at a summer seminar and several Saturday sessions preceding the October PSAT administration. After the PSAT, students will prepare for the SAT and ACT tests for the remainder of the semester.

Real World Entrepreneurship (Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5 (CTE credit)

Real World Entrepreneurship will challenge students to build a real business over the course of a semester. The fundamentals of starting and operating a business, developing a business plan, obtaining financing, marketing a product or service, and developing an effective accounting system will be covered using a wide variety of technology and business resources. Students will research successful entrepreneurs and ventures to critically think through the entrepreneurial mindset and overcome the top myths of entrepreneurship to build a framework to begin their own venture. Students will work in teams to create their own business by solving a real need in a differentiated way and stepping into the community to engage real customers. Students will conduct market research and communicate with current industry players and customers to identify their target market, product/service costs, and pricing strategies. They will learn to set SMART goals to create momentum as they launch into product/service development, test the market, and implement feedback into their business. Students will create a brand identity and marketing plan to support their goals. They will learn to communicate and craft a professional pitch for both potential “investors” and customers.



SAT/ACT Prep Class

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11

Length: Spring semester

Credit: None

This 11th grade preparatory class is designed to teach students test-taking strategies, provide practice in standardized testing skills, and help develop essay preparation and organization to maximize scoring on the PSAT, SAT, and ACT exams. Students will be required to purchase ACT and SAT workbooks. One month of test prep will be provided; the rest of the semester will be a study hall.

Speech

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5 (Speech credit)

Speech, like any other skill, improves with preparation and practice. This class helps develop students' speaking skills in a variety of forums. These forums include interpersonal and group communication, persuasive speaking, informative speaking, and extemporaneous speaking.



TV Reporting and Production

Prerequisite: A/V Fundamentals (Broadcast Journalism/Digital Media Production 2019–2020 and previous)

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (CTE or Speech credit)

In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of creating journalistic news packages and produce content for a daily news show. Students will create content related to investigative news, sports broadcasting, breaking news, and more. Students will alternate between on-camera and behind the camera, and will obtain public speaking, writing, editing, and production skills.

Wired

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5 (CTE credit)

This course is essential for everyone living in the “wired generation.” The course will cover practical, real-life skills needed in today’s digital age, such as how to use social media effectively through creating compelling content, building followers, monetizing different social media platforms, and using modern tools for kingdom purposes. Topics will also include subjects such as using the internet for effective research and determining authoritative and reliable sources. Additionally, the course will cover using technology in life skills such as budgeting, managing bank accounts, using credit cards, paying bills online, and more. Students will also take an in-depth look at the internet, such as internet security/privacy, the data that drives the modern world, and even the underlying structure of the internet, such as how it works, why it matters, and how that impacts their lives.

ENGLISH

The English Department utilizes a Christian-based curriculum to instill in students a love and appreciation for quality literature, while increasing their love for and knowledge of the Lord. Various aspects of literature, including solid grammatical instruction and an emphasis on vocabulary, all unite to form the components of this discipline. The program promotes effective and creative communication, while developing critical and abstract thinking skills. Students examine the values and beliefs in literature that provide opportunities to analyze and evaluate moral ethics, incorporating godly principles as lofty goals to embrace in life. The primary goal of the English Department is to equip students with sophisticated language skills, enabling them to be successful on any university campus and be effective, confident, and well-read Christian citizens.

English I

Prerequisite: English 8

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course teaches the fundamentals of literature and language skills through reading, writing, and oral communication. There is a strong emphasis on reading comprehension, including exercises with short stories and novels. Vocabulary and grammar units are utilized to improve writing in areas of structure and content, as well as numerous essays to develop writing techniques. One research paper in the APA format is required for this class. The novel for summer reading is also a vital part of the course.

English I Pre-AP

Prerequisite: English 8

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This accelerated course teaches the fundamentals of English I and increases the ability to independently express ideas through writing and oral discussion. Students demonstrate reading comprehension via novels and short stories. Students improve writing skills through paragraph development and grammar exercises. One research paper using the APA format and other numerous essays are incorporated into the writing activities. One novel for summer reading is a vital part of the course. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP/AP requirements.

English II

Prerequisite: English I

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This survey course of the great literature of the world incorporates the classic writings of the Greek and Roman period and extends into the Modern era. In addition to analyzing literature, the course also covers vocabulary and various aspects of grammar. Two research papers are required in the APA and Chicago formats for this class. To achieve optimal success, students are expected to read daily. These reading assignments may be novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or author biographies. Summer reading is also an essential component of the course.

English II Pre-AP

Prerequisite: English I

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course focuses on an accelerated survey of world literature with a major emphasis on reading and writing skills and increased vocabulary. Various novels are studied in addition to plays by famous playwrights such as Sophocles and Shakespeare. Grammatical skills and proficient writing techniques are also incorporated along with research papers utilizing the Chicago and APA formats. To achieve optimal success, students are expected to read daily. These reading assignments may be novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or author biographies. Two novels for summer reading are a vital part of the course. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP/AP requirements.

English III

Prerequisite: English II

Grade: 11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course focuses on representative authors of American literature from the early 1600s to the present. These works reflect the growth and changes that occurred during this time period and provide a sense of the cultural and historical differences that are present in American literature. The course reinforces grammar, spelling, and vocabulary skills. The course also focuses on composition in a variety of forums including, but not limited to, poetry, essays, oral presentations, and research papers in the APA and MLA formats. Summer reading is also a vital part of the course.

AP English Language and Composition

Prerequisite: English II

Grade: 11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This college-level course is designed to enable students to develop skills in language and composition equivalent to the freshman-level class in most universities. The course prepares students to successfully master the AP Exam in English Language and Composition and to enter upper-level college courses with a firm foundation in all aspects of language and mechanics. The class centers on American literature, fiction and nonfiction, and how the works relate to the author's time period as well as present day. The course also focuses on composition in a variety of forums including, but not limited to, poetry, essays, oral presentations, and research papers in the APA and MLA formats. To achieve optimal success, students are expected to read daily. These reading assignments may be novels, short stories, plays, poetry, or author biographies. Summer reading novels are an important part of the course as well. Students taking this course are required to take the AP English Language and Composition Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

English IV

Prerequisite: English III

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

British literature is the curriculum foundation of this senior-level course. Sophisticated and effective writing techniques are emphasized throughout this yearlong class, and the two major writing formats of Chicago and APA are utilized. Increasing the students' vocabulary and reviewing Greek and Latin roots and prefixes also contribute to the focus of the curriculum. Critical reading skills are a major focus in this class including novels, plays, short stories, and poetry that are read and analyzed throughout the year; therefore, students are expected to read the assigned materials daily. The course is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to be successful at the collegiate level of education, while drawing students closer to the Lord with a Christ-centered emphasis. Summer reading is an essential component of this class, helping students prepare for the self-discipline needed to excel at the collegiate level.

AP English Literature and Composition

Prerequisite: English III

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This college-level course is designed to develop skills in literature and composition beyond those customarily acquired in a senior-level class. The course prepares students to successfully master the English Literature and Composition AP Exam and to enter upper-level college courses with a firm foundation in all aspects of language and mechanics. The class focuses on British literature, with an emphasis on advanced, mechanically sound writing techniques and sophisticated critical thinking and analytical skills. In this class, critical reading skills are a major focus through novels, plays, short stories, and poetry, which are read and analyzed throughout the year; therefore, students are expected to read the assigned materials daily. The first semester involves an emphasis on expository and argumentative writing, while the second semester focuses on a variety of literature including prose and poetry. Various technical writing formats and novels are also incorporated into this curriculum. Summer reading is an essential component of the course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.



Creative Writing/Purposeful Reading

(Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9–12

Length: One Semester

Credit: 0.5 (Elective credit)

This class will have two main components: creative writing and reading. Students will fill a notebook with journaling, written sketches/notes, poetry, and short stories. An emphasis will be placed on getting output and reworking for improvement. Additionally, students will read contemporary and older works by authors who depict many different cultural perspectives. The course will focus on young adult literature. Most of the reading and writing will be completed in class.

**Rhetoric** (Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9–12

Length: One semester

Credit: 0.5 (Elective credit)

Introduction to Rhetoric – Principles of Persuasion: Human communication relies on the ability to persuade others through a variety of means. Beginning with Aristotle and Plato, this course examines persuasive appeals, types of speech, canons of rhetoric, and even common fallacies and how to spot them in arguments. Students will analyze and discuss a variety of works in speeches, letters, and books as they learn how human communication operates at a fundamental level. Students will learn and practice critical thinking and analysis skills. Successful *Intro to Rhetoric* students will actively participate in class discussions as they observe, analyze, and then work to formulate and present their own rhetorical arguments.

FINE ARTS

The goal of the Fine Arts Department is to encourage the creativity, talents, ideas, skills, and imagination of each student who is interested in the visual and performing arts. Each teacher is filled with a passion to guide students to explore their God-given talents in positive ways through self-expression and the beauty of creativity. The Fine Arts Department strives to walk out the words of Ephesians 2:10, “For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.”

Art I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course emphasizes basic elements of art (line, shape/form, value, space, and color) within the disciplines of drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery, and sculpture. A wide variety of media is explored including graphite, pastels, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, paper mache, clay, and mixed media. This course is designed to enhance students’ creative and technical abilities in art. Daily assignments and longer projects are assigned to enhance students’ proficiency of self-expression. Students will be introduced to art history through projects and presentations.

Art Photography

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course focuses on students’ technical development with photography while honing their aesthetic sensibilities. Students improve their skills with digital cameras and become familiar with aperture, shutter speed, depth of field, and other technical aspects of photography. Much of class time is spent developing and modifying images in Adobe Photoshop.

Band

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (Fine Arts or Physical Education credit)

The Upper School Band comprises the Pep Band and Marching Band in the fall, and the Concert Band and Jazz Band in the spring. The Pep Band and Marching Band, along with the Drum Line, focus on various styles of music (for example, pop, rock, and jazz) for performances at pep rallies and football games. The Concert and Jazz Bands perform at school concerts, competitions, and community concerts. The goal of this class is to provide students with a Christ-centered music education that includes music theory, improvisation, and the reading of sacred and secular literature. Students have the opportunity to participate in district and state competitions, community concerts, seasonal and holiday concerts, Artist’s Garden, and Fine Arts Department musical productions.

Chorale

Prerequisite: Voice placement

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Chorale is a mixed choir of different levels of singers. This group sings serious repertoire as well as pop and Broadway styles of music. Students will learn to read music, sing with proper vocal technique, and perform in various venues. Chorale participates in TAPPS Regional and State Competitions. This exciting group will be challenged to reach their full potential!

Dance Team

Prerequisite: Audition

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (Fine Arts or Physical Education credit)

The Dance Team is made up of young women dedicated to dancing as they cheer for the sports teams. Dance Team increases school spirit and performs at various halftime events. A dancer is dedicated to early morning practices, after-school sporting events, competitions, clinics, and community performances, as well as performing in Artist's Garden. The time commitment consists of daily practices, frequent weekend practices, and other after-school requirements. Above all, a dancer has a personal, growing relationship with Jesus Christ. Dance Team members are selected in the spring. Character, grades, conduct, recommendations, and talent are all considered.

Drawing and Painting I

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This intermediate course is designed to enhance students' abilities with two-dimensional art. Students will progress through advanced drawing concepts with a number of different media. They will then utilize their drawing skills within painting and mixed-media assignments. Each student will strive to create original artwork at a competition level.

Drawing and Painting II, III, and IV

Prerequisite: Drawing and Painting I, II, or III, respectively

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will further explore drawing and painting mediums. An emphasis will be placed on competition-level works and personal expression.

Encore

Prerequisite: Theatre I plus audition

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1 (Fine Arts, Physical Education, or Speech credit)

This advanced theatre course is designed for students who wish to continue studying acting as part of a theatrical troupe. Students will perform, direct, and compete in various scenes, plays, and school-wide productions. Students also explore stagecraft and technical theatre, as well as directing and producing. Students must be willing to participate in productions, competitions, and many other projects. Throughout the preparation of each project, students explore acting styles, acting methods, and various areas of theatre. This class requires outside rehearsals (after school and on weekends), performances, and travelling.

Graphic Design/Digital Art

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will use Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, and other programs to create graphic design images, digital sketches, and paintings. Technical aspects of digital brushes, painting tools, and layering images will be explored. Elements of art and principles of design will be stressed as students learn to navigate within computer programs to create original artwork.

Sculpture and Ceramics I

Prerequisite: Art I

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This intermediate course is designed to enhance students' abilities with three-dimensional art. Functional pieces, relief sculpture, and sculpture will be explored with a variety of media. While wheel-throwing and hand-building with clay, students will create work that is structurally sound and visually elegant. Clay principles and firing techniques will be explored in-depth. Additionally, students will explore other areas of 3D art using a variety of materials such as cardboard, wire, papier-mâché, and wood. Each student will be encouraged to create original competition-level artwork.

Sculpture and Ceramics II, III, and IV

Prerequisite: Sculpture and Ceramics I, II, or III, respectively

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will further explore other sculpture and ceramic ideas. An emphasis will be placed on competition-level works and personal techniques.

AP Studio Art 2D Design

Prerequisites: Drawing and Painting I, Art Photography, Graphic Design, or Digital Art, and instructor approval

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course is designed to help students create and develop a portfolio of artwork. Students create artwork for the sustained investigation and quality sections of their portfolio. While creating their portfolio, students develop competition-level artwork. This course will result in the student completing a 2D design portfolio using the guidelines set by the AP College Board. Students taking this course are required to submit a portfolio of completed work in lieu of a written AP exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Studio Art 3D Design

Prerequisites: Sculpture and Ceramics I, and instructor approval

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will explore three-dimensional forms with a variety of materials, such as clay, wood, plaster, papier-mâché, found objects, and fabric. These raw materials will be used in creating expressive sculptural designs that incorporate form and space, and relate the three-dimensional form to its environment. Students will produce several projects of high quality, college-level artwork. These projects will begin with exploring the elements and principles of design, and will involve each student developing an individual line of enquiry, experimentation, and risk-taking. Summer work is highly recommended. This course will result in the student completing a 3D design portfolio using the guidelines set by the AP College Board. Students taking this course are required to submit a portfolio of completed work in lieu of a written AP exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Studio Art Drawing

Prerequisites: Drawing and Painting I, and instructor approval

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

In this course, students will address a very broad interpretation of drawing issues and media. Line quality, light and shade, rendering of form, composition, surface manipulation, and the illusion of depth and mark-making are drawing topics that can be addressed through a variety of means, which could include painting, printmaking, mixed media, etc. This course will result in the student completing a drawing portfolio using the guidelines set by the AP College Board. Students taking this course are required to submit a portfolio of completed work in lieu of a written AP exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

Theatre I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course introduces students to the principles of acting through studying various acting styles and notable teachers. Students participate in workshops that explore improvisation, competitive drama, and various scene work including monologues, theatre history, duet acting, and more.

Worship Culture

Prerequisites: Audition and interview, plus one year of band or choir

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course introduces students to leading the body of Christ in worship through the art of music. Students will worship together and learn more about instruments, singing, harmonizing, and song writing. Students will also participate in the Christmas Concert and TAPPS.

Yearbook

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This class introduces first-time yearbook students to journalism, graphic design, and photography. Students who have taken the class before will be expected to delve deeper into each of these areas and have a higher level of productivity. The class will use Jostens Yearbook Avenue software and Canon Rebel T7i and 70D cameras. It requires time management and self-motivation. Photoshop and/or art photography experience is a tremendous benefit but not required.

MATHEMATICS

The Mathematics Department bases its vision of mathematical proficiency on the school's role as a college preparatory school. The department strives to promote mathematical literacy and equip students with the mathematical skills needed to succeed at the university level, meet the challenge of tomorrow's technology, and compete in the workforce.

Algebra I

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course is the first of a two-year study of algebra. Algebra I emphasizes rules, symbols, and laws of arithmetic within the algebraic structure. Students will develop a deep understanding of how to solve, graph, and find patterns of linear and quadratic functions. Students will obtain analytical and critical thinking skills that will be the basis for future math classes.



Accelerated Algebra II/Pre-Calculus Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, and Prerequisite Skills (See note below)

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students are expected to use their mathematical knowledge and skills to solve problems. Students will build fluency with the graphical and algebraic representation of functions and their inverses, transformations of functions, analytic geometry (conic sections), and trigonometry. Students are expected to divide polynomials with remainders by restructuring rational expressions. Students will see structure in expressions and use this structure to rewrite expressions in grouping with advanced factory, summing a series, rewriting of rational expressions, and examining the end behavior of corresponding rational functions. Students are expected to build fluency in translating between recursive definitions and closed forms involving sequences and series with numerous applications. Students are expected to learn to choose and use appropriate mathematics and statistics to analyze empirical situations, grow in their understanding, and improve decisions. Graphing calculators are required. Students who successfully complete this course will be qualified to take AP AB Calculus the following year.

Prerequisite Skills: Students are expected to have a high level of conceptual understanding and procedural fluency in the prerequisite courses, as well as proficiency with the mathematical practice standards. Students are expected to have a strong foundation in Algebra 1 and the ability to learn mathematical concepts at an accelerated pace. Placement testing and teacher recommendations are part of the selection process for this course. Curriculum for this course will cover all of the topics of Algebra II and Pre-Calculus in one year.

Algebra II

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Grades: 10–11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Algebra II begins by developing a deeper understanding of the linear and quadratic functions learned in Algebra I. The remainder of the year is spent introducing and making connections between rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions including conics.

Algebra II Pre-AP

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Grades: 10–11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Algebra II begins by developing a deeper understanding of the linear and quadratic functions learned in Algebra I. The remainder of the year is spent introducing and making connections between rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions including conics.

Pre-AP courses will take the same concepts to a deeper level, and students will be expected to combine concepts in more rigorous problem-solving experiences and use their knowledge of concepts in new situations. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Calculus

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course covers all essential topics for a first-semester college calculus course. Topics include the study of limits, derivatives and their applications, and integrals and their applications. This course includes a review unit of pre-calculus at the beginning of the year.

AP Calculus AB

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus Pre-AP

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course includes the topics of an entry-level college calculus course: limits, concavity, functions, derivatives and their applications, Riemann sums, integrals and their applications, Euler's method, l'Hopital's rule, and slope fields. This course is valuable for any student planning to pursue college studies in the sciences, mathematics, or business. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Calculus AB Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Calculus BC

Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB or a grade of 90 or above in Pre-Calculus Pre-AP and teacher recommendation

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

While AB Calculus covers the first semester of college-level calculus, BC Calculus covers an entire year of college-level calculus. BC Calculus will cover the AB Calculus topics of Limits, Derivatives, Applications of Derivatives, Integrals, Transcendental Functions, Differential Equations, and Applications of Integrals during the first semester. The second semester will cover Advanced Integration Techniques, Convergence and Divergence of Series, Parametric Equations, and Polar Coordinates. Expect this course to be fast paced and include a number of hands-on projects throughout the year. Students will be expected to be organized, diligent with their practice, and engage in group discussions in class. Students will be given practice problems to complete over the summer that will be tested during the first week of the new school year.

Students taking this course are required to take the AP Calculus BC Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

College Algebra

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus (Pre-AP Pre-Calculus students are not eligible)

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This fundamental course includes solutions of equations and inequalities, systems of equations, algebraic functions, polynomial functions, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, matrices, and conic sections. Additional topics such as sequences, series, and probability are included.

Foundations of College Algebra

Prerequisite: Algebra II ATS or Advisor Approval

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will extend their mathematical understanding beyond the Algebra II level through further study of functions, inverses, transformations, and compositions. Applications using data, regression models, sequences and series, probability, and matrices will also be studied. This course is designed to be a bridge for students between Algebra II and college level math.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Grades: 9–10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course begins with logical reasoning and proof, utilizing both throughout the course. This course investigates properties of 2- and 3-dimensional figures. Some of the main ideas include proportions, congruence, transformations, coordinate geometry, special right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebra will be integrated throughout the course to serve as a bridge from Algebra I to Algebra II.

Geometry Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Grades: 9–10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course begins with logical reasoning and proof, utilizing both throughout the course. This course investigates properties of 2- and 3-dimensional figures. Some of the main ideas include proportions, congruence, transformations, coordinate geometry, special right triangles, and trigonometry. Algebra will be integrated throughout the course to serve as a bridge from Algebra I to Algebra II.

Pre-AP courses will take the same concepts to a deeper level, and students will be expected to combine concepts in more rigorous problem-solving experiences and use their knowledge of concepts in new situations. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Pre-Calculus

Prerequisites: Geometry and Algebra II

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

The scope of the course includes trigonometry, identities, functions, graphing, conic sections, and matrices. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing university studies in the sciences, mathematics, or business.

Pre-Calculus Pre-AP

Prerequisites: Geometry and Algebra II

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

The scope of the course includes trigonometry, identities, functions, graphing, sequences, series, conic sections, matrices, and an introduction to calculus. This course is recommended for students interested in pursuing university studies in the sciences, mathematics, or business. Pre-AP courses will take the same concepts to a deeper level, and students will be expected to combine concepts in more rigorous problem-solving experiences and use their knowledge of concepts in new situations. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

AP Statistics

Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course will introduce students to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will be exposed to data exploration, samples and experimentation, anticipation of patterns, and statistical inference. This course regularly utilizes hands-on activities for data collection to investigate statistical concepts. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Statistics Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Enhancing the education of students through physical activity is an important step to attain positive health and mental fitness. Striving for excellence and creating strenuous adverse situations help prepare the whole student for the challenges and obstacles ahead and gives them the confidence to meet adversity with success. 1 Timothy 4:9 says, “For physical training is of some value, but godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.”

Athletics

Prerequisite: Completed medical physical

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Athletics is held during 8th period. This course is designed for students who wish to participate in at least one of the sports in the athletic program. Sports available for boys include football, basketball, baseball, soccer, wrestling, swimming, tennis, golf, track and field, and cross-country. Sports available for girls include volleyball, basketball, softball, soccer, swimming, tennis, golf, track and field, and cross-country. (Cheerleading is also included for girls, but it is listed as a separate course.) Students enrolled in athletics are required to stay in athletics all year. *(Please refer to the Student/Parent Handbook for specific Physical Education Department Guidelines.)*

Cheerleading – Varsity Game Day and Competition Team

Prerequisites for Varsity Game Day: Try out – no tumble requirement but must be able to perform certain stunts

Prerequisites for Competition Team: Try out – various tumble and stunt requirements

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

The Varsity Cheerleading Squad comprises young women dedicated to cheering for varsity sports teams and increasing school spirit. Commitments include attending tumble classes, afternoon practices, and occasional weekend practices. Varsity Cheerleaders are also responsible for organizing locker decorations, participating in pep rallies, and managing youth camps and fundraisers. Above all, a cheerleader has a personal growing relationship with Jesus Christ. The competition squad will also participate in three competitions a year, Regionals, State, and Nationals, which is held in Orlando, Fla. Cheer tryouts are held each year in the spring.

Personal Fitness

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course is designed for students who wish to fulfill their athletic credit for the requirements to graduate. These students will be required to change into athletic clothing and will be issued a locker and lock. Students in Personal Fitness cannot participate in a sport through the athletic program.

SCIENCE

The mission of the Science Department is to educate and challenge students to think creatively, logically, and analytically and to stimulate interest in the sciences that provide a solid foundation for the next level of education. Students examine God's creation and learn from teachers who provide a safe environment, hands-on experiences, and emphasize a working understanding between science and theology that leads toward practical growth in the students' relationship with God.

Anatomy and Physiology

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This fast-paced course is designed to prepare students for continued studies in the medical and health professions. Using a college text, students will study all major body systems. Weekly labs will involve dissections and physiological activities.

Biology

Prerequisite: Algebra I or concurrent

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Biology is the study of the many different aspects of living organisms. Topics of study include, but are not limited to, molecular and cellular biology, genetics, genetic engineering, evolution and creation, invertebrate and vertebrate anatomy and physiology, plants, microorganisms, ecology, and taxonomy. Emphasis is placed on comprehension and application of biological principles. Lab exercises are conducted every other week.

Biology Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Algebra I or concurrent

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course is for those students desiring a more comprehensive and detailed study of the topics listed under the Biology course. This course also prepares students for the Biology AP course. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

AP Biology

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a freshman college biology course. The following topics are examined in detail: biochemistry, cellular processes, energy, photosynthesis, cellular respiration, heredity, modern genetics, creation and evolution, zoology and botany, and ecology. Lab exercises are included with each topic. A summer review assignment will be required. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Biology Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

Chemistry

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Chemistry is an introductory study of the composition of and changes in matter. Topics include, but are not limited to, atomic theory, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, molecular structure, solutions, quantum theory, acids and bases, and introductory organic chemistry. Emphasis is placed on problem solving, application, and laboratory technique, as well as deriving and testing established chemical laws. Lab exercises are conducted every other week.

Chemistry Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Chemistry Pre-AP will follow the College Board model to prepare students for AP Chemistry in the future. The class will focus on a deep understanding of matter and energy, and students will be expected to explain their observations using their reasoning skills. Students will begin the course by observing and measuring properties of everyday materials and will progress throughout the course to explore deeper and more detailed perspectives of the nature of matter. Chemistry Pre-AP will motivate students to be active participants in applying critical thinking and mathematical skills as they engage in context-driven mathematics, data analysis, modeling, and productive collaborating with peers. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

AP Chemistry

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra I

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Chemistry is designed by the College Board to be the equivalent of a second semester college chemistry course. The course includes an expanded study of the topics covered in first-year chemistry as well as several advanced topics, such as molecular orbital theory, chemical equilibria, kinetics, electrochemistry, thermodynamics, and spectroscopy. Emphasis is on a deeper understanding of the major ideas of chemistry through qualitative and quantitative analysis of concepts and data. On average, a lab will be held once a week. A summer review assignment is a vital part of the course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Chemistry Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.



Essentials of Engineering (Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will understand the various disciplines within the engineering field and how they apply to today's world and future career opportunities. Students apply systems thinking and consider various aspects of engineering design including material selection, human-centered design, manufacturability, and sustainability as they create mechanical solutions to problems. Student will approach and solve problems in different ways including process solutions, mechanical solutions, electronic solutions, and infrastructure solutions, with a final project in urban development. They will use a variety of industry tools such as the geographical information system, computer-aided design, and electrical circuit simulation. Students will also develop an engineering mindset and a proficiency in key STEM-related career competencies including technical communication, collaboration, computational thinking, systems thinking, project management, and ethical reasoning.

Forensic Science

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Forensic Science is an interdisciplinary science derived from all areas of science including psychology, law, and sociology. This laboratory course is designed to introduce students to some of the basic fields of study that play roles in forensic science. Students study the history of forensic science and major forensic disciplines such as fingerprinting, entomology, anthropology, DNA analysis, serology, trace evidence, and pathology. The course further develops the students' communication and critical thinking skills through the use of scientific method and evidence interpretation.

**Medical Interventions** (Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisites: AP Biology or Anatomy and Physiology or Corequisite

Grade: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Students will follow the life of a fictitious family as they investigate how to prevent, diagnose, and treat disease. Students will explore how to detect and fight infection; screen and evaluate the code in human DNA; evaluate cancer treatment options; and prevail when the organs of the body begin to fail. Through real-world cases, students will be exposed to a range of interventions related to immunology, surgery, genetics, pharmacology, medical devices, and diagnostics. This course is designed for students interested in possible careers in a medical field.

Physics

Prerequisites: Chemistry and Algebra II

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Physics covers the basics of mechanics, light, sound, magnetism, and electricity, yet does not rely as heavily on the mathematical equations as does AP Physics I. Lab work is included in the course. Hands-on learning and projects are incorporated as students learn how things work and discover the creativity and order present in the world God created.

AP Physics I

Prerequisites: Algebra II Pre-AP, Biology, and Chemistry

Corequisite: Pre-Calculus or higher math

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Physics I is an algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as the following: Newtonian mechanics; work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory simple circuits. The course includes inquiry-based learning that helps students develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Physics I Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Physics C: Mechanics

Prerequisites: AP Physics I and instructor approval

Corequisites: Calculus or AP Calculus

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Physics C: Mechanics is equivalent to a one-semester, calculus-based, college-level physics course, especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in physical science, engineering, architecture, or mathematics. Students will gain a working knowledge of calculus by applying this mathematical tool in real-world applications of physics. This course provides instruction in the following six content areas of mechanics: kinematics; Newton's laws of motion; work, energy and power; systems of particles and linear momentum; circular motion and rotation; and oscillations and gravitation. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong conceptual understanding of physics and well-developed skills for critical thinking and problem solving. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Physics C: Mechanics Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism

Prerequisites: AP Physics I and instructor approval

Corequisite: Calculus or AP Calculus

Grade: 12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism is equivalent to a one-semester, calculus-based, college-level physics course, especially appropriate for students planning to specialize or major in physical science, engineering, architecture, or mathematics. Students will gain a working knowledge of calculus by applying this mathematical tool in real-world applications of physics. This course provides instruction in the following five content areas: electrostatics; conductors, capacitors, and dielectrics; electric circuits; magnetic fields; and electromagnetism. Upon completion of this course, students should have a strong conceptual understanding of the physics of electricity and magnetism and well-developed skills for critical thinking and problem solving. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Social Studies Department is dedicated to helping students become well-informed, intelligent citizens who see a culturally diverse world through the lens of Christianity. Courses offered are designed to help students develop reasoning and critical thinking skills, to understand God's plan as it is revealed in history, and to respect the United States and the value of democracy. Coursework required in Upper School is built in four stages: how mankind uses the earth that was created for him, the history of man from Adam to the present, the history of the United States, and the government and economic system as it exists today. More advanced coursework is offered for students who wish to further their studies in this field in preparation for college and beyond.

AP European History (Course not offered 2020-2021)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11–12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5

This course will study European history since 1450. It will introduce students to cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping the world. In addition to providing a basic narrative of events and movements, this course will develop the students' understanding of some of the principal themes in modern European history, enhance their ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and expand on their ability to express historical understanding in writing. Summer assignments are vital to this course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP European History Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

Human Geography Pre-AP

Prerequisite: History 8

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Pre-AP Human Geography models AP Human Geography. It is an advanced course that prepares students for AP Social Studies courses in the future. It will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the earth's surface. Students will learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research. A summer assignment is required as part of this course. Students taking this course will have the option to take the AP Human Geography Exam per teacher invitation. If a student takes the AP Exam, the exam fee is payable by credit card using the AP Exam payment link. A summer reading assignment is required. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

AP Human Geography

Prerequisites: **Students in 9th grade** must have maintained a minimum average of 90 percent in the previous year's history course or 85 percent in the previous year's history Pre-AP course **and** a minimum average of 90 percent in the previous year's English course or 85 percent in the previous year's English Pre-AP course. **Students in 10th–12th grades** must have maintained a minimum average of 90 percent in the previous year's history course or a minimum average of 85 percent in the previous year's history Pre-AP/AP course.

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP Human Geography is an advanced, college-level course that will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement Human Geography Exam. It will introduce students to the systematic study of patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of the earth's surface. Students will learn to employ spatial concepts and landscape analysis to examine human socioeconomic organization and its environmental consequences. They will also learn about the methods and tools geographers use in their research. A summer assignment is required as part of this course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Human Geography Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

Macroeconomics

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5

Macroeconomics is an intermediate level Macroeconomics course that aims to give students a thorough understanding of economics as it applies to the economy as a whole. Lessons include analysis of national income and its components, price determination, economic performance measures, inflation and unemployment, money and banking, stabilization policies, and the United States and world trade. The course examines economic aspects of fiscal and monetary policy making from a Christian perspective. The Macroeconomics course culminates with a group project.

AP Macroeconomics

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5

AP Macroeconomics is an advanced, college-level course that prepares students to take the Advanced Placement Macroeconomics Exam. This course is intended to give students a thorough understanding of economics as it applies to the economy as a whole. Lessons include analysis of national income and its components, price determination, economic performance measures, inflation and unemployment, money and banking, stabilization policies, and the United States and world trade. The course examines economic aspects of fiscal and monetary policy making from a Christian perspective. The AP Macroeconomics course culminates with a group project. AP format testing is administered throughout the semester to prepare students to earn college credit through the AP Exam in Macroeconomics. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Macroeconomics Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

AP Microeconomics

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11–12

Length: Spring semester only

Credit: .5 (Elective credit only)

This course will give students a thorough understanding of the principles of economics that apply to the functions of individual decision makers, both consumers and producers, within an economic system. It places primary emphasis on the nature and functions of product markets and includes the study of factor markets and the role of government in promoting greater efficiency and equity in the economy. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Microeconomics Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

United States Government

Prerequisite: U.S. History

Grade: 12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5

This course includes the detailed study of the foundations of U.S. government, the Constitution, the three branches of government, and the political party system. The objective of this course is to prepare students for their role as active and knowledgeable participants in the democratic process. Because the U.S. has been blessed with economic, political, and religious freedom, Christians have the responsibility of protecting and preserving these freedoms. A thorough knowledge of how the U.S. government works is vital to fulfilling this responsibility.

AP United States Government and Politics

Prerequisite: U.S. History

Grade: 12

Length: Fall or Spring semester

Credit: .5

AP United States Government and Politics is an advanced, college-level course that will prepare students to take the Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics Exam. This course follows the curriculum requirements for the “AP United States Government and Politics Course Description” published by the College Board, along with Liberty Christian School guidelines for a United States government survey course. This course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. It includes the study of American government institutions, political beliefs and behaviors, political parties, interest groups, mass media, public policy, and civil rights and liberties. It is a challenging course requiring extensive reading, critical analysis, and a knowledge of national and international events. Developing a Christian worldview that will enable students to be citizens who are knowledgeable, informed, and involved is the ultimate goal for the AP U.S. Government course. Summer reading is required. Students taking this course are required to take the AP United States Government and Politics Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

United States History

Prerequisite: World History

Grade: 11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course includes the study of people, events, and issues from the Reconstruction Period after the Civil War to the present. This survey includes the growth and development of the distinct and unique American culture as the U.S. grew into a world power. The chronicle of successes and failures of previous generations will serve as a guide for students in their own generational setting. This course also focuses on the religious topics of the Great Awakenings and the missionary and evangelistic expressions in U.S. history. Students will apply a biblical stance, aligned with God's will, to United States history and their own lives.

AP United States History

Prerequisite: World History

Grade: 11

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP World History: Modern is an advanced, college-level course that prepares students for taking the World History: Modern Advanced Placement Exam. Though the majority of class time will focus on 1200 AD to the present, this course has a chronological framework beginning with the foundations of history and continuing to the present. Truly global in nature, the course includes studies of major political, social, economic, and artistic movements found in societies in Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Extensive reading and composition prepare students for the rigor of the Advanced Placement Exam. A summer assignment is required as part of this course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP World History: Modern Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

World Geography

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

World Geography is the study of all the countries of the world. Major geographical features, people groups, religions, and current events for each country will be covered. Map studies involving not only the nations of the world but the geographical, historical, and political situations that caused present boundaries will also be emphasized.

World History

Prerequisite: World Geography

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course is a survey of history from creation to modern day, demonstrating that God is a constant force throughout history. Students will develop higher-level thinking skills to analyze historical and geographical contexts, and to think critically about the way forces and events in history have influenced the modern world. There will be one book read each semester to supplement the textbook and one major project each semester.

AP World History

Prerequisite: World Geography, World Geography Pre-AP, or AP Human Geography

Grade: 10

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

AP World History is an advanced, college-level course that prepares students for taking the World History Advanced Placement Exam. This course has a chronological framework beginning with the foundations of history and continuing to the present. Truly global in nature, the course includes studies of major political, social, economic, and artistic movements found in societies in Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America. Extensive reading and composition prepare students for the rigor of the Advanced Placement Exam. A summer assignment is required as part of this course. Students taking this course are required to take the AP World History Exam. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The vision and mission of Liberty Christian School's World Languages program is to empower students to develop an appreciation for God's people around the world and the ability to share His love in another language. The program provides students the opportunity to reach the highest level of proficiency possible by offering a sequential, spiraling World Languages curriculum based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) proficiency standards.

German I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

German I is a fun, interactive course designed to introduce students to the German language and culture. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and basic writing. The primary goal is to give students the ability to carry on a simple conversation in German, including asking and answering questions. Students will also learn how to say a basic prayer in German, share basic information, and learn German songs as a fun way to acquire the language. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



German II Pre-AP

Prerequisite: German I

Grade: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

German II Pre-AP continues the study of German language and culture. Through the study of relevant, real-world, theme-based units, this class continues to refine the four elements of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this course, students will expand their conversational vocabulary. They will listen to and study traditional and pop German music, watch commercials, and read short novels in German. Students will also learn to write and recite their own prayers in German. More advanced grammar concepts will be emphasized in each unit of study. This class will be conducted primarily in German, and students are expected to increase in their oral and written proficiency. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Mandarin I

Prerequisite: Approval from Guidance Counselor

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Throughout this course, students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, with an emphasis on oral communication. Students will learn to say a basic prayer in Chinese, share basic information, and learn Chinese songs as a fun way to acquire the Chinese language. Each unit in the course covers a specific theme that includes new vocabulary and language notes, with a guided practice in communicative context.

Students are encouraged to take this course, as it could have a huge impact on their future. "Tomorrow's leaders must be able to compete, work and thrive in a globalized world with diverse, multilingual consumers and economies in which China and the U.S. will continue to be major players" (U.S. News – October 25, 2016).

Mandarin II Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Mandarin I

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Mandarin II is a continuation of the study of the Chinese language and Chinese-speaking cultures, with emphasis on developing oral proficiency. Students will be able to express their views about simple and common daily life topics and develop their own prayers in Chinese. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



Mandarin III Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Mandarin II

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

This course includes the review and application of high frequency Chinese words and advanced grammar concepts. Students will read an intermediate level novel in Chinese. Cultural connections and biblical truths are interwoven throughout the course. This class will be conducted primarily in Chinese, and students are expected to increase their oral and written proficiency because of the rigor of this class. Students will also develop their own prayers, share prayer requests, and pray in Chinese. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Spanish I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish I is a fun, interactive course designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and basic writing. The primary goal is to give students the ability to carry on a simple conversation in Spanish, including asking and answering questions. Students will also learn how to say a basic prayer in Spanish, share basic information about Latino songs and singers, and read and discuss simple novels in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish II is a continuation of the study of the Spanish language and culture. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and basic writing. The primary goal is to expand students' ability to carry on a conversation in Spanish, including asking and answering questions. Students will also learn how to expand a basic prayer in Spanish, share information about Latino songs and singers, and read and discuss simple novels in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Spanish II Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Grades: 9–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish II Pre-AP continues the study of Spanish language and culture. Through the study of relevant, real-world, theme-based units, the aim of this class is to continue the refinement of four elements of language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. In this course, students will expand their conversational vocabulary. They will listen to and study traditional and pop Latino music, watch commercials, and read short novels in Spanish. Students will also learn to write and recite their own prayers in Spanish. More advanced grammar concepts will be emphasized in each unit of study. This class will be conducted primarily in Spanish, and students are expected to increase in their oral and written proficiency at a faster pace than the regular Spanish II class. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Spanish III

Prerequisite: Spanish II

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish III includes the review and expansion of significant vocabulary and grammatical structures. Students will listen to and study traditional and pop Latino music, watch commercials, and read two intermediate level novels in Spanish. More advanced grammar concepts will be emphasized in each unit of study. This class will be conducted primarily in Spanish, and students are expected to increase in their oral and written proficiency because of the rigor of this upper level class. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Spanish III Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Spanish III

Grades: 10–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish III Pre-AP builds on skills acquired in Spanish II Pre-AP. Students will develop more advanced skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on the ability to communicate in the past, present, and future tenses. The content of this course will be accelerated and expanded to include more vocabulary and grammar than regular Spanish III. Students will study the culture, history, geography, and literature of Spanish-speaking countries. The class will be conducted in Spanish, and students are expected to respond in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL). See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Spanish IV Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Spanish III Pre-AP

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

The majority of this course is taught in Spanish, as students explore the cultures of Spanish-speaking people in a way that connects meaningfully to their lives. Units focus on health issues, food and culture, mission field work, novels, and Spanish film. The focus is on interpersonal and listening skills for communication, although students will continue to develop writing and reading skills as well. Students wishing to take the Spanish AP Exam at the end of the course will be provided with AP resources to study independently. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

AP Spanish Language and Culture

Prerequisites: Spanish III plus instructor approval

Grades: 11–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

The AP Spanish course requires a higher degree of proficiency in speaking, writing, reading, and listening. Students will receive proper preparation to take the College Board Exam in May. Grammar is reviewed through reading and discussing literary works. Students will develop language skills and insight that applies to various real-world scenarios and disciplines. Students taking this course are required to take the AP Spanish Language and Culture Exam. See Page 3 for more information about AP requirements, as well as registration and payment.

Middle School Course Catalog

Course Descriptions for Grades 6–8

NEW AND UPDATED MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFERINGS

The following courses have been added or updated to the Middle School (MS) Catalog for 2020–2021:

New!

Liberty Learning Center – See Page 4.

Updated!

German I (offered in 8th grade for Upper School credit) – See Page 60.

Updated!

Mandarin I (offered in 8th grade for for Upper School credit) – See Page 60.

Updated!

Broadcast Video, Production, and Journalism – See Page 47.

BIBLE

In keeping with Liberty's Christian emphasis, students in grades 6–8 are required to be enrolled in a Bible class each semester.

Bible 6

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

Through stories of the creation and the fall, students will come to understand why Christ came – to redeem and restore them to their Heavenly Father. Students will travel from Genesis to Revelation, gaining personal insight about their Savior redeeming them for all eternity.

Bible 7

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 7

This course will enable students to understand the background, history, content, and application of the New Testament, as well as grasp the aspects of God's character and power through the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

Bible 8

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 8

In this course, students will navigate through the Old Testament, exploring how the entire text interweaves Jesus and the gospel. Students will examine the overarching narrative – and characters in the narrative – that display God's redemptive story of humankind from the beginning of creation to the prophecies of the coming Messiah.

CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION (CTE)

Today's world of advanced technology and competitive lifestyles requires that schools expand opportunities for students to prepare them for college and the world of work. Career and Technology Education (CTE) empowers individuals to manage the challenges of living and working in a diverse, global society. Career and Technology Education courses are designed to provide students with the opportunity to make informed occupational choices, determine educational needs and options, develop employability traits, and acquire marketable skills.



Broadcast Video, Production, and Journalism

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 7–8

In this class, students will learn how to produce a morning show. Students will obtain broadcasting and journalism skills through the wholistic completion of a show, which includes writing, planning, filming, producing, and helping in post-production. This class will also emphasize the importance of journalism law, news bias, and ethics. Students will have the opportunity to experience each part of the film process, from on-air talent to behind-the-scenes filming and planning. Students will work together in different roles to produce news segments for the *LCS Middle*.

Digital Life Skills

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

Digital Life Skills is a required course for all 6th grade students. They will gain the basic technology skills necessary to launch into a successful learning career. Students will be introduced to a variety of skills including animation, programming, video, web design, and logo creation. This course will allow students to set up successful and responsible practices for organization and efficiency within technology and learning. Students will learn the importance of Digital Citizenship in the world of technology and in their lives. Digital citizens connect and collaborate in new ways that need guidance for safe and responsible use in the classroom and in life.

STEM 6

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

Design and Modeling: Students will discover the design process and develop an understanding of the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. They will then be challenged and empowered to use and apply what they have learned throughout the unit to design a therapeutic toy for a child who has cerebral palsy.

Automation and Robotics: Students will learn about the history and impact of automation and robotics as they explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Using the VEX Robotics® platform, students will apply what they know to design and program traffic lights, robotic arms, and more.

STEM 7*Prerequisite: None**Grade: 7*

Magic of Electrons: In this unit, students will examine the behavior and parts of atoms, as well as the impact of electricity on the world around them. They will learn skills in basic circuitry design and use what they know to propose designs such as a burglar alarm for an art museum.

Energy and the Environment: Students will be challenged to think big and toward the future as they explore sustainable solutions to the world's energy needs and investigate the impact of energy on daily life. They will use what they have learned to design and model alternative energy sources, as well as evaluate options for reducing energy consumption.

STEM 8*Prerequisite: None**Grade: 8*

Green Architecture: In this unit, students will learn how to apply green concepts to the fields of architecture and construction. They will explore dimensioning, measuring, and architectural sustainability, and apply what they have learned to design affordable housing units using Autodesk's® 3D architectural design software.

Medical Detectives: Students will play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They will solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, examine nervous system structure and function, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

ENGLISH

English 6

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

This class is designed to challenge students to comprehend, analyze, appreciate, and enjoy a variety of texts, as well as develop critical thinking skills through creative expression. In an interactive writing workshop, students will learn the following types of writing: narrative, information, and argument. Heavy emphasis will be placed on developing students' critical thinking skills and communicating their findings. Students will be introduced to various forms of literature and writing genres. Summer reading is required.

English 6 Pre-AP

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

This course is designed to challenge students to comprehend, analyze, appreciate, and enjoy a variety of texts, as well as develop critical thinking skills through creative written expression. In an interactive writing workshop, students will learn the following types of writing: narrative, informative, and argument. Heavy emphasis will be placed on developing students' critical thinking skills and communicating their findings. Students will be introduced to various forms of literature and writing genres. The Pre-AP English course focuses on more complex text choices and a more in-depth study of those works. Students will also learn more about literary analysis and rhetorical analysis. Summer reading is required. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

English 7

Prerequisite: English 6

Grade: 7

Through a reading and writing workshop, this course focuses on students' development of deeper thinking skills. Students are challenged to analyze, evaluate, and create, all the while interacting with various genres of literature and writing. Critical thinking, perceptive reading, honest discussion, oral presentations, and powerful writing are the foundations of this course, based on the taxonomy of Socratic reasoning. Summer reading is required.

English 7 Pre-AP

Prerequisite: English 6

Grade: 7

Through a reading and writing workshop, this course focuses on students' development of deeper thinking skills. Students are challenged to analyze, evaluate, and create, all the while interacting with various genres of literature and writing. Critical thinking, perceptive reading, honest discussion, oral presentations, and powerful writing are the foundations of this course, based on the taxonomy of Socratic reasoning. The Pre-AP English course focuses on more complex text choices. Summer reading is required. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

English 8

Prerequisite: English 7

Grade: 8

Eighth grade English focuses on cultivating and honing writing skills by mastering the fundamentals of vocabulary, grammar, and critical reading abilities. Students will increase their ability to express ideas clearly through written and oral presentation, and will learn to critically analyze various literary texts, as well as gain an overall understanding of language components and their functions. Through a workshop model, students will deepen their ability to independently write, analyze, and evaluate texts. Students will continue to develop critical thinking skills through their reading of various texts including novels, short stories, poetry, podcasts, and nonfiction texts. Summer reading is required.

English 8 Pre-AP

Prerequisite: English 7

Grade: 8

Eighth grade English will focus on cultivating and honing writing skills by mastering the fundamentals of vocabulary, grammar, and critical reading abilities. Students will increase their ability to express ideas clearly through written and oral presentation, and will learn to critically analyze various literary texts, as well as gain an overall understanding of language components and their functions. Through a workshop model, students will deepen their ability to independently write, analyze, and evaluate texts. Students will continue to develop critical thinking skills through their reading of various texts including novels, short stories, poetry, podcasts, and nonfiction texts. The Pre-AP English course focuses on more complex text choices and a more independent in-depth study of those works. Summer reading is required. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Art for Middle School

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–7

This course is an introduction to mixed media. Basic drawing skills are emphasized as students begin to “see” and interpret two-dimensional forms. Beginning painting skills are also introduced, including acrylic and watercolor. Students will execute projects in the classroom using a variety of media, such as watercolor pencil, scratch art, colored pencil, oil pastel, and clay. This class may also be modified to challenge students to reach their desired level of expertise.

Art I

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 8

Credit: 1 (Fine Arts credit for Upper School included on the student’s transcript)

Art I is a prerequisite for all Upper School Art courses. This course emphasizes basic elements of art (line, shape/form, value, space, and color) within the disciplines of drawing, painting, printmaking, pottery, and sculpture. A wide variety of media is explored including graphite, pastels, colored pencils, watercolor, acrylic, paper mache, clay, and mixed media. This course is designed to enhance students’ creative and technical abilities in art. Daily assignments and longer projects are assigned to enhance students’ proficiency of self-expression. Students will be introduced to art history through projects and presentations.

Band

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–8

The fundamentals necessary to perform well on a musical instrument are emphasized, such as tone production, technique, tonguing styles, balance of the ensemble, dynamics, starting and releasing together, counting rhythms, and developing steady time. As these fundamentals are developed, concentration is given to performing more music in different styles with varied time signatures. Students work to develop more range on their instruments and play at faster tempos. The goal of this program is to provide each student with a Christ-centered music education based upon sound music theory and study. Students work individually, in small ensembles, and as a large group to prepare for performances and area competitions.

Concert Choir

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–8

Concert Choir is open to anyone in Middle School who likes to sing. Students will explore a broad range of music from classical to pop. This course is an introduction to vocal music and production, sight-singing, and music theory. There will be a fall concert, a Christmas concert, a spring showcase, and the potential to sing at other venues, such as the National Anthem at sporting events. No prior choral experience is necessary, just a great attitude and a willingness to work hard.

Show Stoppers

Prerequisite: Audition required

Grades: 6–8

Show Stoppers is made up of 6th, 7th, and 8th grade actors and singers who desire to develop their skills vocally and theatrically. Acceptance into the class is based on an audition with teachers. This class is designed to teach, perform, and observe higher levels of singing, theatre, and musical art. Fundamentals in singing and musical theatre acting will be reviewed and expounded. The goal of this class is to acclimate students to a mixed age cast/choir and encourage them to take on leadership responsibilities that will prepare them for Upper School choir, theatre, and more. Because Show Stoppers is a performance course, students will display their skills, talents, and gifts in a fall concert and a Broadway musical in the spring.

Spotlight

Prerequisite: Theatre experience and audition

Grades: 7–8

This advanced level course is for students in 7th and 8th grades who have discovered their passion for theatre and desire to hone their skills in preparation for Encore at the Upper School level. Members of the class are required to perform in an annual winter presentation and compete in area contests including the Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) One Act Play and Speech and Academics. Class time is spent rehearsing for performances and studying various acting styles and theatre techniques. Mandatory outside rehearsals the week before a performance will be required to prepare for the performance.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

In this course, students will learn traditional mathematics, including computation and estimation of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percent, as well as the practical application of these skills. Geometric concepts and formulas are also taught, as are algebraic equations and an introduction to integers. This class lays a solid foundation for students entering into Pre-Algebra in the 7th grade.

Mathematics Pre-AP

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

In this course, students learn traditional mathematics. The Pre-AP course is designed for students who excel in all areas of math. Skills covered in this course are the computation and estimation of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percent, as well as the practical application of these skills. Geometric concepts and formulas are also taught, as are algebraic equations and an introduction to integers. This class lays a solid foundation for students taking Pre-Algebra in 7th grade. When compared to the standard 6th grade mathematics course, the Pre-AP course moves at a faster pace, covers many topics in greater depth, and includes some additional topics. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: Mathematics

Grades: 7–8

This course is designed to help ease the transition from mathematics to algebra. The class includes a strong review, the building of mathematical skills, the use of variables, algebraic expressions (decimals, integers, and rational numbers), geometry, and techniques for solving various equations. The next course in sequence is Algebra I.

Pre-Algebra Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Mathematics

Grades: 7–8

This course is designed to help ease the transition from mathematics to algebra for students who excel in math. The class includes a strong review, the building of mathematical skills, the use of variables, algebraic expressions (decimals, integers, and rational numbers), geometry, and techniques for solving various equations. When compared to the standard Pre-Algebra course, the Pre-AP course moves at a faster pace, covers many topics in greater depth, and includes some additional topics. The next course in sequence is Algebra I Pre-AP. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Algebra I

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Grade: 8

Credit: 1 (Math credit for Upper School that will be included on the student's transcript and in GPA calculations)

This course is the first of a two-year study of algebra designed primarily for 8th grade students. Algebra I emphasizes rules, symbols, and the laws of arithmetic as applied to algebraic structure. Students obtain analytical and critical thinking skills that will be the basis for future math classes.

Algebra I Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Grade: 8

Credit: 1 (Math credit for Upper School included on the student's transcript and in GPA calculations)

Algebra I is the first year of a two-year study of algebra. The Pre-AP course is designed for students who excel in math. This course emphasizes rules, symbols, and the laws of arithmetic as applied to algebraic structure. In Algebra I, students obtain analytical and critical thinking skills that will be the basis for future math classes, with an emphasis on problem solving. When compared to the standard Algebra I course, the Pre-AP course moves at a faster pace, covers many topics in greater depth, and includes some additional topics. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

ATHLETICS

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–8

Students who enroll in athletics are doing so with the intent of competing for a roster spot on one of the Middle School athletic teams. Sports available for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade boys include football, basketball, track and field, wrestling, swimming, soccer, tennis, and cross country. Sports available for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade girls include volleyball, swimming, soccer, tennis, basketball, track and field, and cross country. Students enrolled in athletics are required to stay in athletics all year. If a 6th grade team does not make, students may explore options in Liberty Youth Athletics (LYA).

PERSONAL FITNESS

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–8

The physical education course provides an enjoyable experience in physical activities that help all students develop the knowledge, attitude, emotional and behavioral skills, and confidence needed to adopt and maintain physically active lifestyles.

SPIRIT TEAM

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 6–8

The Middle School Spirit Team for girls teaches cheer and dance routines that increases memory, coordination, and teamwork skills. There are no tryouts for the Spirit Team. Participating in the Spirit Team will not prevent students from trying out for other athletic team sports, and it is not a requirement for doing so. Girls participating in the Spirit Team are required to perform at designated games and other events outside of regular school hours. The Spirit Team will perform at several Middle School pep rallies throughout the year. Parents should be aware that important parent meetings take place throughout the year, and there is an extra cost of \$350 to cover shirts, uniforms, and miscellaneous fees.

SCIENCE

Science

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

Science for 6th grade is a hands-on applied science course that includes lecture and lab. The course encourages critical and analytical thinking, while fulfilling the Genesis command to subdue the earth and exercise dominion over it with compassion and stewardship. The curriculum encompasses two sections – life science and physical science. Life science is a study of God’s creation of living things. This section of the course focuses on the importance of plants and animals as they pertain to life on earth. Physical science is a study of inanimate natural objects including astronomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science. Students will acquire an understanding of the earth’s formation and the forces that act upon it while realizing that all things were put in motion as stated in Genesis 1:1

Science Pre-AP

Prerequisite: None

Additional prerequisites: See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP/AP requirements.

Grade: 6

Pre-AP Science for 6th grade is a rigorous hands-on applied science course that encourages critical and analytical thinking. Throughout the year, students will collect and analyze data through structured labs and by using and creating models. Pre-AP labs will be more student-led with pre-labs and post-labs required. The curriculum encompasses two sections – life science and physical science. Life science is a study of God’s creation of living things. This section of the course focuses on the importance of plants and animals as they pertain to life on earth. Physical science is a study of inanimate natural objects including astronomy, chemistry, physics, and earth science. Students will acquire an understanding of the earth’s formation and the forces that act upon it while realizing that all things were put in motion as stated in Genesis 1:1. Participation in the Liberty Science Fair is mandatory, including all fairs to which the student may advance. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Life Science

Prerequisite: Science

Grade: 7

Life Science covers the observations, predictions, and conclusions about the living world God created. The content of this course will include cytology (the study of cells) and genetics, creation, evolution, biology, and taxonomy, with an emphasis on the scientific method. These topics will be studied through a variety of methods including labs, hands-on problem-solving activities, technology, and class discussion. The primary objectives of Life Science are for students to gain a deeper understanding of God’s character and power through all He has created. A focus will be placed on increasing students’ confidence in independent learning while making practical decisions in their everyday lives. Participation in the Liberty Science Fair is encouraged but optional.

Life Science Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Science and a clear understanding of the scientific method

Grade: 7

Pre-AP Life Science covers the observations, predictions, and conclusions about the living things God created at an accelerated rate. The content of this course includes cytology (the study of cells) and genetics, creation, evolution, biology, and taxonomy. There will be an emphasis on the scientific method by making a claim based on scientific research, experimentation, and reasoning based on scientific principles. These topics will be studied through a variety of methods including labs, hands-on problem-solving activities, technology, and class discussion. The primary objectives of Life Science are for students to gain a deeper understanding of God's character and power through all He has created, and further develop reasoning, critical thinking, and independent learning skills while making practical decisions in their everyday lives. Participation in the Liberty Science Fair is mandatory, including all fairs to which the student may advance. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Science of Physical Creation

Prerequisite: Life Science

Grade: 8

This course investigates God's physical design of the world through inquiry-based learning in a lab setting. Interaction in physical science is based on the principle that all students can reason like a scientist by thinking and developing ideas through the collection of evidence. The basis of this course involves observing, thinking, discussing, investigating, and practicing. The content focuses on the method of claim, evidence, and reason; the conservation of matter and chemistry, and the interactions of energy and forces that are present in our everyday life. In guided inquiry activities (lab), students perform experiments and construct many physical science concepts based on evidence they collect during experimentation. The students will be required to keep an up to date lab notebook which will be their primary study guide for all assessments. Participation in the Liberty Science Fair is encouraged but optional.

Science of Physical Creation Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Life Science and a thorough understanding of the scientific method

Grade: 8

This course moves at an accelerated pace and involves more discussion, peer reviews, and presentations. There will be more critical and analytical thinking involved with questioning and reflecting on key ideas. This course investigates God's physical design of the world through inquiry-based learning in a lab setting. Interaction in physical science is based on the principle that all students can reason like a scientist by thinking and developing ideas through the collection of evidence. The basis of this course involves observing, thinking, discussing, investigating, and practicing. The content focuses on the method of claim, evidence, and reasoning; the conservation of matter and chemistry; and the interactions of energy and forces that are present in everyday life. In guided inquiry lab activities, students perform experiments and construct many physical science concepts based on evidence they collect during experimentation. Students will be required to keep an up-to-date lab notebook that will be their primary study guide for all assessments. Participation in the Liberty Science Fair is mandatory, including all fairs to which the student may advance. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Ancient Civilizations, Languages, and Cultures

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

This class is an introduction to ancient civilizations and their cultures, histories, and languages. One objective of this course is to provide a solid foundation for the understanding of Western Civilization and the origins of Christianity. Throughout the entire year, an emphasis will be placed on the Greek and Latin languages, which provide the roots of more than 80 percent of the words used in literate English. The course begins with the origin of the world and its cultures as they developed from the time of Creation through the modern age.

Ancient Civilizations, Languages, and Cultures Pre-AP

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 6

This class is an accelerated survey of ancient civilizations and their cultures, histories, and languages. One objective of this course is to provide a solid foundation for the understanding of Western Civilization and the origins of Christianity. Throughout the entire year, an emphasis will be placed on the Greek and Latin languages, which provide the roots of more than 80 percent of the words used in literate English. The course begins with the origin of the world and its cultures as they developed from the time of Creation through the modern age. This course requires additional reading, writing, analysis, translation, and study beyond a basic understanding. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

Contemporary World History, Geography, and Cultures

Prerequisite: Ancient Civilizations, Languages, and Cultures

Grade: 7

This class is a survey of the people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Students will learn to interpret maps while exploring cultures and histories of the countries of the world. Students will compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religion. Students will investigate and understand how belief in God and the Bible are fundamental to loving people and impacting the world for Christ. Class time will include mini-lessons, Socratic seminars, group collaboration and discussions, video excerpts, reading assignments, projects, and hands-on activities.

Contemporary World History, Geography, and Cultures Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Ancient Civilizations, Languages, and Cultures

Grade: 7

This class is an accelerated survey of the people, places, and societies of the contemporary world. Students will learn to interpret maps while exploring cultures and histories of the countries of the world. Students will compare institutions common to all societies such as government, education, and religion. Students will investigate and understand how belief in God and the Bible are fundamental to loving people and impacting the world for Christ. An emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, analysis, and problem solving as it relates to world events and cultures. Class time will include mini-lessons, Socratic seminars, group collaboration and discussions, video excerpts, reading assignments, projects, and hands-on activities. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

United States History

Prerequisite: Contemporary History, Geography, and Cultures

Grade: 8

United States History is a comprehensive study of the foundation of America and the struggle to build the nation. The class begins with a focus on the motivations of the Age of Exploration and ends with the Civil War. Students will develop an appreciation for the first Americans and the price they paid to establish the United States today. Influential characters who played important roles in the pivotal events that shaped American history will be examined. The text highlights the Christian background of America's forefathers who were responsible for shaping the democratic government that still exists today. The course will include a brief study of European and North American geography.

United States History Pre-AP

Prerequisite: Contemporary History, Geography, and Cultures

Grade: 8

This course is designed to give students an understanding of the establishment of the United States. Students will develop an appreciation of America's history as they study the cultural, economic, political, social, and religious development of the United States from its beginning through the Civil War. This course is accelerated and requires supplemental reading along with a large, in-depth project through the National History Day foundation. This course prepares students for AP classes and other academically challenging courses in Upper School. See Page 3 for more information about Pre-AP and AP requirements.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The vision and mission of Liberty Christian School's World Languages program is to empower students to develop an appreciation for God's people around the world and the ability to share His love in another language. The program provides students the opportunity to reach the highest level of proficiency possible by offering a sequential, spiraling World Languages curriculum based on the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Language (ACTFL) proficiency standards.

German I

Prerequisite: None
Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters
Credit: 1

German I is a fun, interactive course designed to introduce students to the German language and culture. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and basic writing. The primary goal is to give students the ability to carry on a simple conversation in German, including asking and answering questions. Students will also learn how to say a basic prayer in German, share basic information, and learn German songs as a fun way to acquire the language. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).

Note: Students must maintain an 80 average for the first quarter in German I and obtain an overall average of 80 percent to advance to German II Pre-AP.

Mandarin I

Prerequisite: Approval from guidance counselor
Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters
Credit: 1

Throughout this course, students will develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills, with an emphasis on oral communication. Students will learn to say a basic prayer in Chinese, share basic information, and learn Chinese songs as a fun way to acquire the Chinese language. Each unit in the course covers a specific theme that includes new vocabulary and language notes, with a guided practice in communicative context.

Students are encouraged to take this course, as it could have a huge impact on their future. "Tomorrow's leaders must be able to compete, work, and thrive in a globalized world with diverse, multilingual consumers and economies in which China and the U.S. will continue to be major players" (U.S. News – Oct. 25, 2016).

Note: Students must maintain an 80 average for the first quarter in Mandarin I and obtain an overall average of 80 percent to advance to Mandarin II Pre-AP.

Spanish I

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 8–12

Length: Two semesters

Credit: 1

Spanish I is a fun, interactive course designed to introduce students to the Spanish language and culture. Emphasis will be on the acquisition of four skills: listening, speaking, reading, and basic writing. The primary goal is to give students the ability to carry on a simple conversation in Spanish, including asking and answering questions. Students will also learn how to say a basic prayer in Spanish, share basic information about Latino songs and singers, and read and discuss simple novels in Spanish. The course has been carefully aligned to national standards as set forth by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL).



LIBERTY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

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