

Fredericksburg Christian School

High School Academic Handbook

2024-2025

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Introduction

The purpose of this handbook is to describe in general terms the high school courses taught at Fredericksburg Christian School (FCS). Students, in conjunction with their parents, should select courses of study that will prepare them for the future.

We encourage you to follow the scriptural admonition to be good and faithful stewards of your time and talents for the Lord. As you select courses outlined in this handbook, please consider taking upon yourself the responsibility for continuing your spiritual and intellectual growth.

Classes

Course Selections

We ask that students and his parents read the academic handbook prior to the course selection conference with Mrs. Thomas. Course selection/scheduling conferences will be held between February and April. Please plan early for your conference and have the Course Selection Form filled out prior to the conference. This form requires a parent's signature and is crucial to our planning.

The courses offered in this handbook cannot be guaranteed. A course may or may not be available based on teaching personnel, student enrollment, and scheduling patterns. The courses listed, however, are expected to be offered next year considering staff and enrollment projections.

Courses out of normal sequence may present a scheduling problem. For example, a sophomore choosing to begin a foreign language (some begin in 8th grade) may find a scheduling conflict with another course. This does not mean courses out of sequence are impossible to be scheduled, but it can result in the necessity of other undesired changes.

Dropping Classes

While we ask that students and parents select appropriate classes according to their preferred program of study, we know that some students may not succeed in particular areas of study. Students may drop a course and add another to accommodate this situation. On occasion, such needs may exist when different levels of courses need to be changed. (Example: Advanced English to English, AP English to English) These types of changes are required. Class preference changes, on the other hand, will not be allowed after the end of the first marking period.

Students may drop a course **up until the end of the fourth week of school**. If a student drops a yearlong class prior to the four-week deadline, the course will not be shown on the permanent transcript. But if the student drops a class after the end of the first four-weeks and before the 4th marking period, it will show on his permanent transcript as drop-pass or drop-fail with the grade. The grade will not be averaged into the cumulative grade point average. After the 4th marking period has started, all grades will show on the transcript and it will be averaged into the cumulative grade point average.

Students who drop a class will be assigned another class in its place. The academic appropriateness and availability will determine class selection. The procedure for dropping a class after this time consists of a conference with the Grade Level Counselor and completion of a pink "Student Parent Course Change" form (approval requires a signature by the student, teachers involved, parents and Dean Roper). The form MUST be turned in to Mrs. Thomas. Schedule changes will NOT go into effect until all these steps are completed. In the case of dual enrollment students who drop / add a course, the sponsoring school or college will determine the dual enrollment class and/or grade.

Additional Opportunities

High school students can earn additional high school or college credits through a variety of independent study or dual enrollment programs. These programs of study are available with the recommendation of the guidance counselor, principal or teacher. These programs work best for students who can work well on their own, or who have particular vocational interests and abilities. Many of these opportunities are offered online, and FCS has approved several online courses for students who are interested in classes not currently offered as part of our regular curriculum. The online programs are also used for credit recovery courses during the summer in the event a student fails a course that is required for graduation. However, online classes are not allowed for core course such as English, math, social studies, science, or Spanish. These programs of study must be coordinated through the Director of Guidance.

Advanced Placement Program

Advanced placement courses give qualified students the opportunity to do college-level work while still in high school. These courses are available to students who meet the following requirements: recommendations from previous teachers, qualifying PSAT scores, earning an "A" in the prerequisite classes, and a high motivation level. Upon completion of an AP course, students take a nationally-administered examination in May. Based on their score, students may receive college credit or advanced standing for each course taken. FCS offers the following AP courses (note that not all classes are offered every year):

- AP English Language & Composition
- AP Literature & Composition
- AP Biology
- AP Calculus AB
- AP Calculus BC
- AP Statistics
- AP Computer Principles
- AP Government
- AP US History

Dual Enrollment Program

The dual enrollment program is designed to offer students of all academic levels the opportunity to broaden their learning in areas of specialization. There are two major areas:

- **Technical or Professional:** This includes coordinated courses of study for the qualified student through a local community or 4-year college. This may or may not include specialized work-study in the corresponding course work. It enables a student to gain advanced standing in identified programs at the college level.
- **Dual Enrollment (DE) Classes at FCS:** FCS is pleased to offer several DE courses. These courses allow students, upon successful completion, to earn college credits while still attending high school. DE Chemistry is offered through Germanna Community College, provided there is enough interest in taking the class. DE English, DE Spanish, DE Psychology, DE Pre-Calculus, and DE Calculus are offered through Richard Bland Community College. An additional cost applies for DE Chemistry and DE Psychology. For all other courses, only a nominal registration fee applies.

High School Classes/Credit Available to 8th Grade Students

If a student takes Algebra I, Geometry, or Spanish in the eighth grade and meets the course requirements for high school credit; the course may be counted for credit towards graduation. The grade in the class/es will count toward the student's cumulative grade.

Summer School

Students who wish to enroll in summer classes must have prior approval from the high school principal. Credit will not be awarded for any class taken without permission. Geometry courses must also be approved by the Director of Guidance. Credits will **not** be awarded for any core classes (including English and all levels of foreign language) taken online or over the summer. The subjects offered for summer school at FCS will be announced in the spring each year. If students wish to take a summer school course elsewhere, such as online, **the principal must grant permission.** *English classes cannot be taken elsewhere.*

Academic Performance & Credits

Academic Probation

A student may be placed on academic probation for a variety of reasons: newly transferred, pattern of homework problems, failure to cooperate with faculty or work to his potential. **Any student who accumulates 3 or more points will be placed on academic probation at interim time. Students who decide to drop a class due to probation will still serve the three weeks on probation. A "D" counts as 1 point, and an "F" counts as 2 points.** Students will not be able to participate in extra-curricular activities until the student shows an improved grade. The timing will be decided by the athletic director and the principal to determine if the student warrants re-instatement. *Athletes on athletic probation will practice 3 times/week but not participate in games or travel with the team until they are no longer on academic probation.* Students placed on academic probation must understand that continuing in their negative pattern is serious and could jeopardize their placement at FCS.

Failed Courses

Courses that do not meet the required grade for passing and are required for graduation must be repeated. For underclassmen, full-year and semester courses must be repeated the following year. During the senior year if a student is in jeopardy of failing a course, he will not be allowed to participate in the senior trip. The senior is required to report to school during the regular school hours, and to work intensively toward learning the required material and completing all required work for passing. The senior must make special arrangements with the principal as to the academic requirements needed to pass the class before a diploma will be issued. Alternatively, the student can return the following year to complete the requirements.

Grade Point Average & Class Rank

The GPA is obtained by converting the numerical grades of a student's courses into a point value system. The high school courses taken during grade levels 9 -12 grades are factored in the cumulative GPA. Courses taken prior to the ninth grade which are considered to be high school courses (Algebra I, Geometry, Spanish, etc.) are figured in the GPA. Each numerical grade is assigned a number value. Listed below is the conversion point value system:

Grade Point Values (July 2010—present)

Letter Grade	Numeric Scale	Unweighted GPA
A+	98-100	4.5
A	93-97	4.25
A-	90-92	4.0
B+	87-89	3.5
B	83-86	3.25
B-	80-82	3.0
C+	77-79	2.5
C	73-76	2.25
C-	70-72	2.0
D	65-69	1.0
F	64 and below	0
P	pass	

Weighted Courses

The following courses* will be awarded an accelerated weight value when calculating the GPA:

DE & AP Courses	+1
Conversational Spanish IV	+1
Calculus	+0.5
Advanced/Honors Courses	+0.5

*Note that all classes listed are offered every year.

Repeated Courses

When a student repeats a course previously passed or failed in order to improve a grade, only the highest grade earned is used in calculating the grade point average, and only the credit received for the highest grade will be awarded. All grades will remain on the transcript.

Transferred Grades

Transcripts will reflect all course work done at the high school level. If students transfer in from other accredited schools, their grades will be reflected per their previous school scale and will affect their Grade Point Average and class rank. International high school credits will be documented according to the translated international transcript. For college application purposes, a copy of the international transcript will be sent with the Fredericksburg Christian transcript. Only the grades from accredited United States schools will be used toward grade point average and rank in class.

Homeschool High School Credits

FCS will only award high school credit on a pass/fail basis for work completed through an accredited home school program. (This will be handled on a case by case basis, based on documentation of student work and administrative approval.) If the credits are transferred from an accredited home school program, grades will be transferred. Homeschoolers must be in attendance at FCS for their junior and senior year to be qualified for Valedictorian or Salutatorian. Homeschoolers must be in attendance at FCS for one semester before being qualified for National Honor Society. All home school students will be placed in Class Rank.

Audited Courses

Transferred audited grades will not be given credit and are not averaged in the grade point average. They will be shown on the permanent transcript.

Graduation Requirements

Students attending Fredericksburg Christian School may earn a diploma for a general course of studies or an advanced course of studies. The requirements for each diploma are outlined in the following tables:

General Diploma

Subject	Credits
Bible	4
English	4
Social Studies	4
• World Geography	
• World History	
• US History	
• American Government/Economics	
Math	3
Laboratory Science	3
Physical Education/Health	2
Fine Arts Elective	1
Other Electives	5
Total Units	26

Advanced Studies Diploma

Subject	Credits
Bible	4
English	4
Social Studies	4
• World Geography	
• World History	
• US History	
• American Government/Economics	
Math (Alg. 1, Geometry, Alg. II or higher)	4
Laboratory Science	4
Physical Education/Health	2
Fine Arts Elective	1
Spanish	3
Other Electives	2
Total Units	28

Guidance Timetable By Year

Freshmen Year

June—August (prior to freshman year): Design a four-year course of study that will prepare your child for college. Suggested classes: Bible 9, English, World Geography, Algebra 1/Geometry, Earth Science/Biology, Spanish I, PE and Health, elective or study hall.

August—June:

- Get involved! Extracurricular activities, class officers, and service clubs are all important for a well-rounded student. Community service is a key to many scholarships, so *be sure to document your service hours*.
- Talk with college representatives that visit FCS.
- Set up an appointment with the guidance counselor to talk about careers and professions. (Spring).

- Visit college and career fairs available to you (October).
- Keep active, but remember your grades are very important.
- Starting freshman year with a strong grade point average is **very important** for college entrance. Stay focused!

Be sure to document all awards, special recognition, leadership, and community service activities.

Sophomore Year

June—August: Take advantage of summer opportunities. This is a great time to explore career areas of interest. Remember, community service is key to many scholarships—*be sure to document your service hours.*

- Participate in volunteer service programs.
- Attend camps that strengthen areas for scholarships, such as:
 - Leadership
 - Sports
 - Service
 - Academics (technology, science, math, governor’s school)

September:

- Get a strong start in academics. Keep organized and turn work in on time. Be sure to balance your schedule with academics, extracurricular activities, and “down time.” Parents are encouraged to monitor their student’s abilities and schedules to prevent “overload” and to help their student establish good time management habits. Academics are important for college, but a physical activity helps with stress.
- Consider signing up to take a Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). It will be for practice only. This is not required, and the results will not be forwarded to college until they have taken the SAT or ACT—Junior year is the most important year to take these exams. At that time, the scores will be looked at for possible national merit scholarships. Pay for PSAT testing results to see what areas need to be strengthened before taking the SAT. (Practice SAT materials are on line at collegeboard.com).

October:

- Attend the Spotsylvania Towne Center College Fair to become better informed on secular and private colleges in October.
- Visit college representative tables at lunchtime when they come to school throughout the year.
- Consider taking the PSAT in October.

November

Attend a Career Fair. Use your time productively talking to representatives about careers you are considering as a profession.

March—June

- Make an appointment with Mrs. Thomas to select classes for next year (at least one parent should attend the conference).
- If you have opportunities to visit colleges during trips, etc. take a tour, sit in on some of the classes, and talk to students who attend there to get an idea of what really happens on campus...and off.

Be sure to document all awards, special recognition, leadership, and community service activities.

Junior Year

June—August: Consider getting involved in community activities that can be used for career exploration, service work for scholarships, or internships for resume building.

August

Register for a strong academic program for junior year. It is important to remember that you should take courses that are appropriate for your learning needs. It is much better to do well in college preparatory classes than to do excellent in lower level courses that do not challenge you. Likewise, if you find that an advanced level course is too challenging even with extra tutoring, it would be wise to talk to Mrs. Thomas and consider taking a course that matches your skill level.

September

- Register to take the PSAT and a SAT Prep class in the first week of September.
- Become familiar with the information available for college planning from Mrs. Thomas.
- Pursue community service opportunities and leadership positions.
- Start looking for scholarship money through essay competitions.

October

- Take the PSAT. This test determines eligibility for National Merit Scholarships.
- Attend the Spotsylvania Towne Centre College Fair to compare secular, private, and Christian colleges and universities.

December: Review PSAT results and identify areas for improvement. Use SAT practice tests to strengthen weak areas. Make use of collegeboard.com, software programs, and library resources.

January—May

- Schedule an individual conference with your guidance counselor.
- Make a list of things that you are looking for in a college, and identify major(s) that interest you.
- Continue investigating colleges, and narrow your down your choices to five or six selections.

- Visit the colleges on your list.
 - Take a campus tour, sit in on some classes in the major you are considering.
 - Make an appointment with the department head of your major to answer any questions about the curriculum.
 - Make an arrangement to have a host student from the dorm and spend the night in the dorm. Ask students real life questions about life on campus.
- Obtain catalogs and applications from prospective colleges.
- Conduct scholarship research, and make a note of application dates and deadlines. The following websites are helpful:
 - [Fastweb](#)
 - [US Department of Education](#)
 - [finaid](#)
 - [GOCOLLEGE](#)
 - [State Council of Higher Education for Virginia](#)
 - [FAFSA](#)
- Explore financial aid options by checking with the colleges you are planning to apply to, various books on available scholarships, local organizations and businesses, and the internet.
- Line up internships and jobs that will help determine your career goal.
- Find service opportunities.
- If you are interested in playing a college sport, develop a list of schools that suit your major and provide scholarships for athletes.
 - Contact college coaches in advance of your college visits to set up an appointment to discuss possible scholarship opportunities and observe or scrimmage with their team.
 - Prepare highlight videos.
 - Register for summer athletic camp(s).
 - Coordinate with your guidance counselor regarding NCAA deadlines.
- Pray
 - for God’s direction and that He will open doors for you at the college you wish to attend.
 - for a roommate that will be an awesome Christian friend.
 - that you will find a church nearby to attend.
 - to guide you to a Christian fellowship group.

Be sure to document all awards, special recognition, leadership, and community service activities.

Senior Year

June—August

- Fill out applications and write essays for the colleges you plan to apply to. Pick up an informational sheet from your college counselor on how to write college essays.

- Talk to persons you plan to ask for college references: school administrators, teachers, employers, pastor.
- Continue to search for scholarships.
- Work over the summer to gain experience in possible career areas.
- Set up a calendar with college and scholarship deadlines you are planning on applying to during senior year.
- Fill out a NCAA Clearing house Application, and let Mrs. Thomas know you need a transcript sent in.

September

- Maintain or improve academic grades during your senior year. College officials look unfavorably upon failing grades and reduced or less rigorous academic loads during your senior year.
- Attend Christian College Fair
- Check with the colleges you plan on applying to. See which tests they require for entrance: SAT's, ACT's, SAT II subject tests. Register to take those tests as required.
- Consider taking the SAT improvement class.
- Know the general admission and early decision deadline for each college. Update your calendar.

October—November

- Attend Spotsylvania Towne Center College Night (Oct.) to compare secular and private colleges.
- Apply to 3 to 5 colleges with different admissions requirements (least selective to more selective). Make sure to fulfill all application requirements.
- Retake SAT and/or ACT tests to try for a higher score.
- Continue applying for scholarships.
- Know all deadlines.
- Find out all of your stats for the season and have them sent to the college that interests you.
- Gather all family financial information in preparation for filling out the [FAFSA financial aid form](#) for January deadline. Note that early completion of tax returns is essential for FAFSA information. Mail in FAFSA.

December

- Send all applications, recommendations, SAT scores, and copies of high school transcripts to the colleges before Christmas, unless a college indicates otherwise.
- Complete the admissions test required by some colleges.

January: Take the SAT, ACT, and SAT II assessment tests if required by the colleges and if not taken previously.

February: Complete the Senior MID-YEAR Transcript Request Form, and submit it to Mrs. Thomas, along with any other information not already forwarded. Some colleges provide forms for this purpose and some do not.

April—June

- Finish the year strong academically.
- Keep a record of acceptances and financial aid awards. Make copies for Mrs. Thomas and turn in.
- Reply promptly to colleges to notify them of your decision.
- Reply promptly when you are notified that you have been awarded a financial aid package. Tell the college whether you are accepting or declining the award.
- Meet the reply deadline or you may lose the admission acceptance or financial aid you have earned. Plan summer employment to help defray college costs.

Be sure to document all awards, special recognition, leadership, and service activities.

Record-Keeping (throughout high school career)

Be sure to save:

- all test score reports.
- high school transcripts.
- copies of the FAFSA and all other financial aid forms.
- College Scholarship Services acknowledgment form.
- copies of all correspondence sent to or received from schools, including applications and acceptance letters.
- documentation of all awards, special recognition, leadership, service hours, and service activities.

Sample Four-Year Course Plans

Below are sample four-year plans to assist students with scheduling their courses. Note that more competitive colleges are looking for transcripts that show challenging college preparatory, advanced, and Advanced Placement classes, and students pursuing an Advanced Diploma are encouraged to enroll in Honors, Advanced, AP, and DE classes. Note, however, that students must qualify to take an advanced-level class.

Students and parents are advised to consider the student’s educational and career objectives when selecting electives. Remember that *academic classes may also be used as electives* to broaden academic exposure and facilitate a stronger transcript.

General

Course	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Credits
Bible	Bible 9	Man/Woman of God +1 add'l semester class	Apologetics	choice of 2 classes (1/2 semester each)	4
English	English 9	English 10	English 11	English 12	4
Social Studies	World Geography	World History	U.S. History	American Government & Economics	4
Science	Earth Science or Biology	Biology or Earth Science	Chemistry	Anatomy, Physics, or AP Biology	3
Math	Algebra I	Geometry	Personal Finance or Algebra II	Personal Finance or Algebra III	3
PE/Health	PE/Health 9	PE/Health 10	choice of elective (or study hall)	choice of elective (or study hall)	2
Electives	choice of elective (or study hall)	choice of elective (or study hall)	choice of elective (or study hall)	choice of elective (or study hall)	6
					total: 26

Advanced

Course	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12	Credits
Bible	Bible 9	Man/Woman of God +1 add'l semester class	Apologetics	choice of 2 classes (1/2 semester each)	4
English	English 9	English 10	English 11 or AP English	English 12, AP English, or DE English	4
Social Studies	World Geography	World History	U.S. History or AP U.S. History	American Government & Economics or AP Government	4
Science	Earth Science or Biology	Biology, Earth Science, or Chemistry	Chemistry or Physics	Anatomy, Physics, AP Biology, DE Chemistry, Science Elective	4
Math	Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra II	Geometry, Algebra II, or Pre-Calculus	Algebra II, Pre-Calculus, Calculus, or AP Calculus AB	Algebra III/Trig, Statistics, Calculus, AP Calculus AB or BC	4
PE/Health	PE/Health 9	PE/Health 10	choice of elective	choice of elective	2
Spanish	Spanish I	DE Spanish 101/102	DE Spanish 201/202	Spanish IV or choice of elective	3
Electives	choice of elective	choice of elective	choice of elective	choice of elective	3
					total: 28

Course Offerings

Biblical Studies

Bible 9

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed to develop a basic knowledge of the Old Testament, Christian Doctrine, and Hermeneutics. A survey of the Old Testament will provide the foundation to understanding the key elements of the New Testament. Christian Doctrine will instruct the student in the major tenets of the Christian faith. And finally, an introduction to hermeneutics will develop the student's Bible study skills with the goal of making them an effective Bible student.

Gospels

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

This course is the study of the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. We will explore God's Word as His revelation of Himself and His plan of salvation for us. We will study it, memorize it, and explore what it says, and what it does and see how it applies to our daily lives.

Man Of God I

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

Using Proverbs as a basis, this course will be a topical study of human relationships, life situations, and current issues. Emphasis is placed on discernment and development of positive character qualities. This course is also designed to encourage young men to be an example in their faith and pursue excellence as they grow.

Woman of God I

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

This course is designed to further encourage young women to search the Scriptures to draw closer to God in the understanding and practice of faith. Emphasis will be given to determining what it means to understand and apply Scriptural principles to "real life," purity and living in our society as a Woman of God. "Woman of God" will strive to go beneath the physical to reveal the soul of young women.

Apologetics

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

The content of this course will focus on a specific study of apologetics, worldviews, moral relativism, and world religions. This class will be taught in the hope of preparing students for life's choices and the philosophies of the world which they will encounter.

Daniel/Revelation

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

The content of this course will focus on a specific study of prophecy. This class will be taught with the goal of making students aware of the different images concerning the end times found in scripture. An emphasis will be placed on the hope that Christians have in this coming tribulation.

Advanced Bible I & II (one semester each)

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: minimum average of 90 in English for students enrolled in College Prep English OR a minimum grade of 80 in English for students enrolled in AP or Advanced English; successful completion of Apologetics with a minimum grade of 80; teacher recommendation; highly motivated students only; students must submit a one-page essay that includes their testimony and reasons they wish to enroll in the class

Credit Awarded: ½ credit for each

Advanced Bible I (first semester) will study a method of evangelism, the process of sanctification, and the doctrine of the Holy Spirit. Advanced Bible II (second semester) will focus on the study of doctrine and apologetic issues.

Romans

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

This course was developed because it addresses the fundamental theology of the Christian faith which is so imperative for all believers. The themes of God's righteousness and the justification of the believer are at the heart of Romans and the gospel message. In this course, students will recognize in a practical way the need for righteousness, the provision of righteousness, and how righteousness is worked out in the life of a believer. The obvious theological issues of Romans will be addressed but the prevalent practical issues and applications will not be neglected.

New Testament Epistles

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: ½ (semester course)

This course will survey many people, topics, and teachings of the Epistles of the New Testament. Many passages will be examined throughout the epistles of Romans through Jude. It is hoped that students will learn for a lifetime from the teachings of the writers of the New Testament Epistles.

English

Note: There are three levels of English classes offered at each grade level: Regular (small group), College Prep, and Advanced. Students are placed in classes based on academic performance. Students must receive a recommendation from the previous year's English teacher in order to be eligible for an Advanced English class. Advanced English classes carry a weight of +0.5.

English 9

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite: English 8

Credit Awarded: 1

In this course students read and discuss various genres of literature and the elements that distinguish each type. In addition to the text, three classic novels and plays are studied. Students learn to recognize and distinguish different literary devices in each literature selection. Special emphasis is placed on the writing process. Students write both creatively and analytically. Writing assignments are a vehicle for grammar review.

English 10

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite: English 9

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is a study of various types of world literature and written expression. Emphasis is placed upon utilizing the God-given gift of language to express oneself, as well as interpreting the self-expression of others in light of God's Word. A cursory survey of world literature beginning with ancient eastern writings and continuing through modern European literature is made in this course.

English 11

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisite: English 9 & 10

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is a study of American literature. The student reads critically, gains insight into American history and culture, increases understanding of the range and depth of human experience, and explores the relationship between style and meaning in literature. The student writes descriptive, persuasive, and expository compositions, as well as conducts research and writes a paper.

English 12

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, & 11

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is a study of various types of English literature and various forms of written expression. Emphasis is placed upon critical thinking and formal writing skills as English literature is interpreted in comparison to Biblical principles. A survey of English literature is made in this course, which follows the survey of American literature accomplished in English 11. A persuasive research paper on a social issue is also completed as part of the class / graduation requirements.

Dual Enrollment English Composition

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, & 11; teacher recommendation, final grade of 90 or higher in Advanced English 11 OR 80 or higher in AP English; 80th percentile or higher in reading/writing standardized test scores, highly-motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

Through the advanced study of English literature of all genres, the student will gain insight into English history and culture, increase understanding of the range and depth of human experience, and explore the relationships between style and meaning in literature. The student will recognize, analyze, and discuss elements of various genres and write critically about literature. Students will complete four research papers, two each semester, using both MLA and APA styles. This course can be taken for college credit through Richard Bland Community College's dual enrollment program for an additional fee. With at least a C average in each semester (Eng 101 and Eng 102), the student will complete the school year with six college credits in English composition.

AP Literature & Composition (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 12

Weight +1

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, & 11; teacher recommendation, final grade of 90 or higher in Advanced English 11, 80th percentile or higher in reading/writing standardized test scores, highly motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1 “The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on reading, analyzing, and writing about imaginative literature (fiction, poetry, drama) from various periods. Students engage in close reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature to deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both meaning and pleasure. As they read, students consider a work’s structure, style, and themes, as well as its use of figurative language, imagery, and symbolism. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays that require students to analyze and interpret literary works. (*College Board English Literature and Composition Course Description*).”

AP English Language & Composition (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 11 or 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, & 11; teacher recommendation, final grade of 90 or higher in Advanced English 11; 80th percentile or higher in reading/writing standardized test scores, highly-motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

Through the advanced study of English literature of all genres, the student will gain insight into English history and culture, increase understanding of the range and depth of human experience, and explore the relationships between style and meaning in literature. The student will recognize, analyze, and discuss elements of various genres and write critically about literature. The students will complete four research papers, two each semester using both MLA and APA styles. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

Creative Writing

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will learn to write creatively within different genres, with the understanding that writing is a process and each piece is a work in progress. The goal is for the student to find his own writing voice and style. The great writers of the past and present will be the teachers, and from them the students will learn techniques and forms that will make them better writers. Each student will submit at least one work for publication in a literary journal or magazine.

Speech (availability contingent on enrollment)

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Students of Speech will gain a basic background knowledge of Public Speaking. They will begin to understand the different types of speeches and their purposes. Students will learn more about the communication process and begin to understand how we incorporate various nonverbal skills into our speeches. Students will also understand the steps of putting together a speech from start to performance.

Social Studies

World Geography

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

World Geography is a course designed to help the student study the physical features of the earth and their effects on the political, economic, and social life of a country. Emphasis is placed upon helping the student develop awareness for international concerns utilizing comparative cultures.

World History

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite: World Geography

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed to develop a Biblical understanding of the world's major socio-economic, political, and religious systems. The curriculum will cover Ancient, Medieval, and Modern eras. Students will explore how the events and developments of the past have come to influence the present and will influence the future.

United States History

Grade(s): 11

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course focuses on many aspects of American history including, but not limited to, these areas: exploration and colonization, American War of Independence, the Constitution, early American education, the Civil War and reconstruction, industrialization, the Progressive Movement, the Great Depression, the World Wars, and Communism. There is a weekly focus on current events and an analysis on how the news events are a continuing part of making history.

American Government

Grade(s): 12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course includes basic studies that focus upon the Biblical foundation of government and the Constitution. Included is a study of each branch of government, the free market system, and political parties. There is daily focus on current events and how they relate to our current government and American culture.

Criminal Justice

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed to develop a student's knowledge of the United States criminal justice system and the three branches it encompasses. The police, court system, and corrections will be the focus. Crime in America today and special issues will also be topics of study. The curriculum will also develop a student's critical thinking and communication skills as we explore a historical background of criminal justice, current law enforcement events and practices, and how they may affect the future of the criminal justice system.

Psychology

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Psychology is the study of the mind and individual behavior. It is a soft science which attempts to understand and develop principles which can be consistently applied to the activities of the mind, behavior, feelings and emotions. It compares, to a much lesser degree, the differences between humans and animals. Psychology will be examined within the context of Biblical Christianity and how that controls how we understand and apply principles to the discipline. Students will also do a comparative study between secular and Christian understanding of the subject matter. Students will perform and develop experiments which will help them in their understanding.

DE Psychology

Grade(s): 11

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: English average of 85 or better; completion of Biology course with an average of 80 or above

Credit Awarded: 1

The DE Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology.

AP US History

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: final grade of 88 or higher in Advanced or College Prep English AND World History; PSAT qualifying scores; successful completion of an assessment and a critical writing essay; highly-motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

This advanced placement course is an intensive study of the history of the United States. This course is a college level course. Upon completion of the course, students take the nationally-administered AP examination in May. Based on their scores, students may receive college credit or advanced standing for this course. As with any AP class, having this class offered will depend on class enrollment and teacher availability.

AP Government

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: recommendation from US History teacher, 90 or better in Advanced/AP/College Prep English AND AP US History

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is an intensive study of the formal and informal structures of government and the processes of the American political system, with an emphasis on policymaking and implementation. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

Mathematics

Algebra I

Grade(s): 8,9

Prerequisite: successful completion of Pre-Algebra with a minimum grade of 70; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Algebra 1 is the study of the real number system and its properties and is the extension of arithmetic with numbers to arithmetic with variables. Students study the evaluation and simplification of algebraic expressions, solution of linear and quadratic equations, linear inequalities, systems of equations, operations with polynomials, exponents and exponential functions, radical and radical equations, and graphing topics typically covered in a first-year algebra course.

Advanced Algebra I

Grade(s): 8

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Pre-Algebra with a minimum grade of 90; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Algebra 1 is the study of the real number system and its properties and is the extension of arithmetic with numbers to arithmetic with variables. Students study the evaluation and simplification of algebraic expressions, solution of linear and quadratic equations, linear inequalities, systems of equations, operations with polynomials, exponents and exponential functions, radical and radical equations, and graphing topics typically covered in a first-year algebra course.

Geometry

Grade(s): 9,10 (full-year or summer)

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I with a minimum grade of 70

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is a study of Euclidean geometry beginning with basic definitions and continuing with postulates and theorems in order to develop proof-writing skills while emphasizing the connection between geometry and the physical world. Critical thinking, logical reasoning, and problem solving skills are stressed and enhanced throughout the course. This course is recommended for students who have passed Geometric Algebra I. This course does not set students up to take Advanced Algebra II. It is designed for those going into Algebra II.

Algebra II

Grade(s): 9,10

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry with a minimum grade of 70 in each course

Credit Awarded: 1

Algebra II is the study of the following topics within the framework of the real number system: equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic equations and functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems, matrices, polynomial and rational functions, powers, roots and radicals.

Honors Algebra II

Grade(s): 9,10,11

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I and Geometry OR Advanced Algebra I and Geometry with a minimum grade of 90; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Algebra II is the study of the following topics within the framework of the real number system: equations and inequalities, linear and quadratic equations and functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, and systems, matrices, polynomial and rational functions, powers, roots and radicals, quadratic relations and conic sections, trigonometric ratios, functions, graphs, identities, and equations. Critical thinking and problem solving skills are emphasized throughout the course.

Algebra III

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II or Honors Algebra II with a minimum grade of 70

Credit Awarded: 1

Algebra III helps students realize that algebra is everywhere. The course emphasizes the use of algebra in real world situations. The course covers topics typically covered in a basic pre-calculus course. These include: a review of the fundamentals of algebra, linear and non-linear functions and their graphs, exponential and logarithmic functions, systems of equations in two or three variables, matrices and determinants, conic sections and analytic geometry. The end of the course also touches briefly on sequences, induction, and probability. This course serves to point the student to the intelligence and orderliness of their Creator, as well as to develop the Christ-like qualities of perseverance and stewardship. A student is required to have successfully completed Algebra III to continue to Statistics.

Pre-Calculus

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Honors Algebra II with a minimum grade of 85; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Pre-Calculus is the prerequisite course for both Calculus and AP Calculus AB. Students will conduct an in-depth study of functions and their characteristics, to include polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions. A thorough study of trigonometry is conducted in the second half of the course: the definitions, applications and graphs of trigonometric functions, as well as the solution of trigonometric equations. The course includes an introduction to the use of a graphing calculator. The goal of this course is to provide a strong understanding of functions and trigonometry and their applications, thereby preparing students to perform well in Calculus or AP Calculus next year.

Calculus (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Pre-Calculus with a minimum grade of 80; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

This is a basic introductory calculus course, designed for the student who wants a fifth year of college preparatory mathematics but is not ready for college-level calculus. A review of functions, to include the properties of elementary functions, including algebraic, trigonometric, exponential, and composite functions, as well as their inverses and the graphing of these functions and trigonometry, precedes an introduction to limits and to differential and integral calculus.

DE Pre-Calculus

Grade(s): 10,11, 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II with a minimum grade of 85; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed for STEM students who are planning to take DE Calculus. Topics include trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, applications of trigonometry, and an introduction to limits.

DE Calculus

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of DE Pre-Calculus with a minimum grade of 85; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Topics include analytic geometry, limits and continuity of functions, derivatives and applications, anti-derivatives, applications of integration, transcendental functions, techniques of integration, elementary differential equations, improper integrals, sequences and series, power series, Taylor series, parametric equations, and polar coordinates.

AP Calculus AB (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Pre-Calculus with a minimum grade of 90; teacher recommendation; highly motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

Taught at a college-level, AP Calculus AB is a course in single-variable calculus that includes techniques and applications of the derivative, techniques and applications of the definite integral, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. It is equivalent to at least a semester of calculus at most colleges and universities, perhaps a year at some. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout the course, thus a graphing calculator is required. The goal of this course is to provide students with a strong understanding of foundational calculus concepts and their applications, thereby enabling them to perform well in math courses beyond first semester college calculus, and to teach students the skills needed to perform well on the AP exam. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the nationally-administered exam in May of each year may result in college credit for one semester of Calculus, depending on the college being considered.

AP Calculus BC (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of AP Calculus AB with a minimum grade of 85; teacher recommendation; highly motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

This is college-level course follows AP Calculus AB. Topics include modeling using a graphing calculator, advanced and more complex integration techniques, infinite series, conic sections, parametric equations, and use of polar coordinates. A score of 3, 4, or 5 on the nationally-administered College Board AP Calculus BC exam in May of each year may result in college credit for one or two semesters of Calculus, depending on the college being considered.

Personal Finance

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course develops students understanding and skills in such areas as money management, budgeting, financial goal attainment, the wise use of credit, insurance, investments, and consumer awareness and responsibilities from a biblical perspective. In this two-semester course, students will design personal and household budgets; simulate use of checking and saving accounts; demonstrate knowledge of finance, debt, and credit management; and evaluate and understand insurance and taxes. This course will provide a foundational understanding for making informed personal financial decisions now and for situations later in life.

AP Statistics (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra II with a minimum grade of 80 OR successful completion of Advanced Algebra II with a minimum grade of 70

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is an introduction to descriptive and inferential statistics. Students will study frequency distributions and graphs, data description, counting techniques, probability, discrete and continuous probability distributions, confidence intervals, hypothesis testing, chi-square tests, and correlation and regression. A TI83+ or TI84 calculator is required for this course; students use their calculators to organize and explore data, simulate experiments, and calculate probabilities for both discrete and continuous distribution. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

Science

Note: The levels of science classes offered at each grade level may vary according to the needs of the students during any given year. Students are placed in appropriate classes based on academic needs and performance.

Earth Science

Grade(s): 9,10

Prerequisite: none (students who earn a minimum grade of 90 for 8th Grade Science AND have taken Algebra I may skip this course)

Credit Awarded: 1

This course explores God's wonderful and unique design of planet Earth and its surrounding universe through the introduction of four sciences: geology, astronomy, meteorology, and oceanography. The student will gain a basic knowledge of each science and how God's laws governing the universe interplay in dynamic, complex, and wondrous ways to provide the environment in which we dwell.

Biology

Grade(s): 9,10

Prerequisite: Earth Science

Credit Awarded: 1

Biology is a study of living things and their relationships to one another in ecosystems. This includes respect for the place that each component has in God's world and the responsibility man has to care for the environment. Extensive study of ecosystems, cell structure, functions, genetics, and the distinguishing characteristics of the five kingdoms and ecosystems are taught. Laboratory work is done with microscopes and other equipment utilized in small groups to discover the relationships and complex functions of living things. Students compose their own lab reports after receiving instructions on individual experiments.

Chemistry

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I; enrollment in or successful completion of Algebra II

Credit Awarded: 1

This course focuses on the study of the elements and the compounds they form. This includes problem solving using unit analysis, writing formulas and equations, types of compound bonding, and the extensive mathematical and thermodynamic relationships or equations. Students spend time in active laboratory work.

Consumer Chemistry

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Algebra I; enrollment in or successful completion of Algebra II

Credit Awarded: 1

This course offers students who are not planning to pursue a science-focused college degree the opportunity to fulfill the FCS Chemistry requirement through a less rigorous course.

Dual Enrollment Chemistry (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Chemistry and Algebra II; enrollment in Pre-Calculus or Calculus

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is intended to be the equivalent of a first year chemistry course in college. Students work to develop a deeper understanding of chemistry concepts and problem solving techniques that were presented in general Chemistry. In addition, new topics are introduced, and students work toward competence in these areas. The laboratory work is of a different content and mathematical requirement is of a higher level. This course is endorsed by Germanna Community College and a college credit is rewarded to students who successfully complete the course with a "C" or better.

Anatomy/Physiology

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Biology with a minimum grade of 70; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will study the complexity of the human body by a systems approach, first learning the anatomical parts, then the physiological working within the system and ultimately the entire body. Laboratory work in dissection with microscopes and experiments demonstrating the process will coincide with the study. The students will be exposed to a general overview of the body. This course is not recommended for anyone with less than a "C" average in biology.

Marine Biology

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course covers the basics of marine biology with a global approach, using examples from numerous regions and ecosystems worldwide.

Physics

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Chemistry, Geometry, and Algebra II; enrolled in Pre-Calculus or Algebra III with Trigonometry or higher; highly motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is a college preparatory study of the physical laws governing the universe: how energy and matter are related in the physical world that God has created. In particular this course will cover the topics of mechanics, electricity, magnetism, and wave theory. Analysis and problem-solving are emphasized. Students also learn actively through laboratory work.

Honors Physics (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Chemistry, Geometry, and Algebra II with a minimum grade of 80; successful completion of Pre-Calculus or higher; highly motivated students only

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is the study of the physical laws that are fundamental to all sciences. In each concept, the student will work from the common simple illustrations to develop the more complex applications. The scope includes motion, thermal energy, wave energy, electricity, and magnetism. Independent study and experimentation are expected from each student.

AP Biology

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Biology and Chemistry with a minimum grade of 90; qualifying standardized test scores

Credit Awarded: 1

This course primarily focuses on providing students a solid foundation in general biology and chemistry. The Big Idea statements used as guidelines for the course help students to develop greater and deeper understanding of the study of life. The lab investigations and science practices give students a hands-on application of abstract principles and help them to apply their knowledge to everyday life situations. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

Foreign Language

Spanish I

Grade(s): 9,10,11

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is an introduction to language and culture. It includes basic grammar, vocabulary, and an exploration of the cultural and historical background of several countries where the language is spoken. At this level, oral and written communication is limited to single words, short phrases, and expressions used in the context of familiar topics. With the help of cognates, listening and reading comprehension are slightly more developed. This course is not recommended for students enrolled in Basic English classes their freshman year, because an adequate background in English is important for achievement in a foreign language. The level of successful mastery of year one will determine if the student is recommended by the teacher to progress to an advanced track or a regular track. In the advanced track, four years will be offered. In the regular track, three years will be offered. Because approval to move on to the advanced level requires mastery of a least 80% of the material from 1st year, students are generally not recommended to proceed without a C+ or higher in the class and a passing grade on the exam.

Spanish II

Grade(s): 9,10,11

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish I with a minimum grade of 80 AND a minimum grade of 70 on the final exam; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will continue to develop their listening comprehension, presentational speaking, interpersonal speaking, reading comprehension, and written composition using the present, preterit, imperfect, and compound tenses.

Spanish III

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish II with a minimum grade of 70; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will continue to develop their listening comprehension, presentational speaking, interpersonal speaking, reading comprehension, and written composition using all previously learned grammar in addition to the future and conditional tenses, the present subjunctive mood, and other topics.

Dual Enrollment Spanish 101/102

Grade(s): 9, 10

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish I with a minimum final grade of 85;
teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will continue to develop their listening comprehension, presentational speaking, interpersonal speaking, reading comprehension, and written composition using the present, preterit, imperfect, and compound tenses. This is a dual-enrollment course which allows students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. Students will enroll with Richard Bland College of William and Mary and earn 4 college credits for the fall semester and 4 additional credits for the spring semester. Students must earn a 70% or above in DE 101 to receive credit from Richard Bland College and continue to DE 102.

Dual Enrollment Spanish 201/202

Grade(s): 10,11, 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish II with a minimum final grade of 85;
teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

Students will continue to develop their listening comprehension, presentational speaking, interpersonal speaking, reading comprehension, and written composition using all previously learned grammar in addition to the future and conditional tenses, the present subjunctive mood, and other topics. This is a dual enrollment course which allows students to earn high school and college credits simultaneously. Students will enroll with Richard Bland College of William and Mary and earn 3 credits for the fall semester and an additional 3 credits for the spring semester. Students must earn a 70% or above in DE 201 to receive credit from Richard Bland College and continue to DE 202.

Conversational Spanish IV

Grade(s): 12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Spanish III—Honors with a minimum grade of 75
AND a passing grade on the final exam

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is for intermediate to advanced Spanish students or heritage speakers (students who learned a language at home, but were formally educated in a different language than the home language). The focus is on the advancement of oral communication and listening skills in Spanish. Students will be required to speak in the target language at all times and actively participate.

Physical Education

Physical Education/Health 9

Grade(s): 9

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

The physical education classes focus on the development of individual and group skills and also include a segment of health education. The allocation of time for each of these components is consistent with the standards recommended by the Virginia Department of Education.

Physical Education/Health 10

Grade(s): 10

Prerequisite: Physical Education/Health 9

Credit Awarded: 1

The physical education classes focus on the development of individual and group skills, and also include a segment of health education.

Body Strength & Conditioning

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

The class will focus on the proper strength and body conditioning techniques emphasizing the proper physical development of the student athlete. Safety and proper techniques in weight training will be paramount. During the class students will develop:

- muscular strength endurance and cardiovascular fitness.
- muscular power through the use of heavy weights and reps.
- alternative activities for maintaining cardiovascular fitness and flexibility.
- a knowledge of good nutrition and its relation to weight training.
- appropriate strategies for gaining and losing weight.
- a personal weight training program based on their own needs.

Computer Technology

Digital Design 1

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Geometry with a minimum final grade of 87

Credit Awarded: 1

Digital Design 1 is a course designed to educate students on the ever-changing digital world, as well as provide hands-on experience with industry-standard software and equipment. The curriculum covers a wide range of areas, so it appeals to a diverse group of students. Topics covered in Digital Media classes include graphic design, audio production, video production, and web design. The basic elements of art will be taught, and this class will count as a Fine Arts credit.

Digital Design 2 (Independent Study)

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Prerequisite: Digital Design 1

Credit Awarded: 1

Digital Design 2 is a course designed to provide hands-on experience with industry-standard software and equipment. Students will choose to concentrate on audio production, video production, 3D printing, or graphic design and will create real-world products for clients within FCS through the FCS digital studio.

Entrepreneur/Business Skills (availability contingent upon enrollment)

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Entrepreneur is a comprehensive course designed to provide students with the skills to create a conceptual enterprise and bring it to market using Design Thinking. The development of a business plan canvas will serve as the foundation for the students' efforts to organize, capitalize, and develop their new businesses. Course projects include: logo design, marketing materials, customer database, mail-merge, sales and expense budget, loan schedules, organizational charts, multimedia presentation, web page design, and business plan. Some students from past classes have actually launched their own successful businesses.

Introduction to Programming in Python 3

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Geometry with a minimum final grade of 87

Credit Awarded: 1

Introduction to Computer Science in Python 3 curriculum teaches the foundations of computer science and basic programming, with an emphasis on helping students develop logical thinking and problem solving skills. Upon completion of this course, students will have learned material equivalent to a semester college introductory course in Computer Science and be able to program using Python 3. At the conclusion of the course, students may opt to complete the Python 1 Certification Exam.

Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Geometry with a minimum final grade of 87

Credit Awarded: 1

As our world becomes increasingly dependent on technology, cybersecurity is a topic of growing importance. It is crucial that companies and individuals take precautions to protect themselves from the growing threat of cyber attacks. This course prepares students with crucial skills to be responsible citizens in a digital future. Students will learn foundational cybersecurity topics including networking fundamentals, software security, system administration, and the basics of cryptography and programming. While this is not a coding-intensive course, students will learn basic SQL and JavaScript and will utilize basic HTML and JavaScript within specific contexts while being provided with support within those contexts. Upon completion of the course, students may opt to complete the Cybersecurity 1 Certification Exam.

Advanced Cybersecurity

Grade(s): 10, 11, 12

Weight: +0.5

Prerequisite: successful completion of Fundamentals of Cybersecurity

Credit Awarded: 1

Many agree that cybersecurity is “the next big thing” in K-12 computer science education. As technology expands and the number of connected devices grows, so does the need for security and network experts. With over 300,000 job openings in the field, students can expect to learn real-world applications of network and security concepts that will open up a world of opportunities. The CodeHS Advanced Cybersecurity course is the capstone course of the cybersecurity pathway. In this course, students will learn advanced topics in the field of cybersecurity, including advanced cryptography, networking, risk assessment, and cyber defense.

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (SEM1) & Data Science (SEM2) (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Introduction to Programming in Python 3

Credit Awarded: 1

The Introduction to Artificial Intelligence portion of this course teaches students important programming concepts that enable the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in computer sciences and society at large. Students will learn how to incorporate basic AI algorithms in their own work and consider the social and ethical implications of how AI is used (and how it plans to be used). Students will develop a series of projects that illustrate the variety of ways AI can be used to optimize and predict information and processes.

Industries of all types are hiring data scientists to analyze and highlight the hidden patterns in data. The Data Science portion of this course equips students with the essential skills of a data scientist which include data collection ,cleanup, transformation, analysis, and visualization. Students will write algorithms, tell data stories, and build statistical models using Python libraries.

Independent Study AP Computer Science Principles

Grade(s): 11,12

Weight: +1

Prerequisite: successful completion of Introduction to Programming in Python 3 or another computer science class

Credit Awarded: 1

Students may choose AP Computer Science A, which focuses on JAVA programming, or AP Computer Science in Python 3. This course is designed to prepare students for the AP Exam.

Yearbook

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: good writing and time management skills; teacher recommendation; students must complete an application

Credit Awarded: 1

The basic objective of this course is to produce a yearbook that will serve as an accurate record of events for Fredericksburg Christian School for that particular year. The students will experience the dynamics involved in working on a deadline as they demonstrate the need for total commitment to one's responsibilities. During the course of the year they will: learn the basic elements of design which involve photographs, captions, copy, headlines, internal margins, external margins, gutter, white space, folios, and eye line; learn about column layouts and graphic elements; adhere to rules of journalism, punctuation and style guides; procure advertisements; learn to use Adobe In Design CS PageMaker 7.2 software and learn to use the tools used to produce the yearbook. Upon completion of this course, the student will have gained an appreciation for every aspect involved in publishing a book. The basic elements of art will be taught, and this class will count as a Fine Arts credit.

Visual & Performing Arts

Art I—Foundations of Drawing & Painting

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Since Art I is a foundational level course, our goal is to give each student an opportunity to become more fully involved in the experience of the visual arts. This course is designed to encourage students to develop skills of observation, show aesthetic growth through visual discrimination and judgment, and develop an appreciation for art. The student will become more fully involved in the experience of the visual arts by: acquiring visual sensitivity through personal response to art; learning the fundamental basic concepts of drawing and painting; and producing artwork that develops art skills as well as reflects a Christ-like attitude. This is accomplished through lectures, demonstrations, class participation, slides, videos, and field trips.

Art II—Drawing

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Art I or equivalent

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed so that the student will have a more in-depth study of the concepts, media, and techniques introduced in Art I. Art II—Drawing seeks to provide enriching experiences that foster greater perceptual awareness and creative thinking concentrating solely in drawing. Students will know how to respond to art, and they will be capable of judging artwork. They will view art through a historical, philosophical, and Christian viewpoint by listening to lectures, watching demonstrations, through class participation, viewing slides and videos, and field trips.

Art II—Painting

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: Art II—Drawing

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed so the student will have a more in-depth study of the concepts, media, and techniques introduced in Art I. Art II—Painting seeks to provide enriching experiences that foster greater perceptual awareness and creative thinking while concentrating solely on painting. Students will know how to respond to art, and they will be capable of judging artwork. They will view art through an historical, philosophical, and Christian viewpoint by listening to lectures, watching demonstrations, through class participation, viewing slides and videos, and field trips.

3-D Design/Sculpture (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: Art I or equivalent

Credit Awarded: 1

The emphasis of this course is on 3D Studio Art. The student will have the opportunity to create 3-D relief sculptures made of fibers, paper, cardboard and wood. Also, they will create 3-D sculptures in-the-round using plaster of paris, clay, and soapstone. During the process of creating sculptures, students will gain an appreciation for 2D and 3D works of art.

Choir

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: demonstration of acceptable tone and pitch; matching ability within an octave

Credit Awarded: 1

This course provides the opportunities for talented vocalists of any experience level to participate in concerts, ministry, and special events as a group. A variety of traditional, popular, patriotic, and sacred songs will be performed to glorify God. A commitment to excellence and furtherance of personal and group vocal skills will be pursued. Competitions and solo opportunities will be made available for students who demonstrate advanced skills. Members are responsible to purchase the concert outfit and festival fees. Participation in the following major events is required: Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, District Assessment and Spring Festival.

Worship Team

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: interview; prior experience; enrolled in Choir, Band, or Orchestra

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is designed to facilitate student worship leaders in their preparation for weekly chapel ministries. Students will have the opportunity to develop personal musicianship and leadership skills as well as organizational and performance techniques. This is a pass/fail class taken for credit. It may be taken again for credit. Exemplary standards in conduct, relationships, and personal integrity are expected of team members.

Band

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: minimum of two years of instruction on a band instrument; individual performing audition with sight reading; chair placement auditions are conducted during the first full week of school

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is for those students who currently play a band instrument and are interested in participating in concerts, competitions, outreach performances, and special ministry trips. Music from all time periods and several styles will be studied, performed, and adjudicated. Styles/genres of music to be performed include Christian, Classical, Baroque, jazz, contemporary band, folk, and swing. Two octave scales and arpeggios will be required and should be memorized throughout the year. Advanced techniques will be discussed per instrument. Students are responsible for purchasing the concert uniform and festival fees. Participation in the following major events is required: Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, District Assessment and Spring Festival.

Orchestra

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: minimum of two years of instruction on a stringed instrument (exceptions to be considered on a case-by-case basis); performing audition with sight reading

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is for those students who presently play an instrument and are interested in performing in concerts, competitions, outreach performances, and special trips. Music from all time periods and several styles will be studied, performed, and adjudicated. Styles/genres of music to be performed include: Classical, Baroque, jazz, contemporary band, folk, fiddle, swing, and pops. Three octave scales and arpeggios will be required and should be memorized throughout the year. Vibrato and shifting skills are mandatory for all instruments.

Music Theory (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

Music Theory is a rigorous study of music theory for students interested in pursuing music beyond high school. The focus will be on skills required to be successful as a first year music student at a college, university, or conservatory. Students considering the class should have a strong background in music, including the ability to read both bass and treble clefs fluently. Course content will include harmony and harmonic analysis, melodic and rhythmic structure, part-writing, formal analysis, score reading, and a music history overview. Personal musical skills will be developed daily through ear training, dictation, and sight-singing. Although keyboard skills are not required, they are beneficial.

Drama I

Grade(s): 9,10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is an introduction to the theatrical experience for the beginning drama student. General acting principles are taught in a workshop format. Drama history and basic technical theatre technique are also taught with units on set design, lighting, and make-up. Practical hands-on experiential learning is the focus combined with some text work. The role of Christians in the Arts is discussed throughout the year.

Drama II

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: successful completion of Drama I; teacher recommendation

Credit Awarded: 1

This is a performance-oriented class requiring a great deal of memorization and motivation. Units on directing and playwriting will be foundational to the class so that students can contribute in all areas. In addition, a research project on the role of Christians in the Arts will be central to the class. Students will participate in the Virginia Theatre Association One Act Play Festival and prepare scenes, skits, Reader's Theatre, and short plays to perform for Chapel at all campuses and various area churches. Students will be expected at times to have weekend performances. Students interested in further drama material may take this class more than once for credit.

Improvisation (may not be offered every year)

Grade(s): 10,11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course is for the beginning improv student seeking to improve their spontaneity, creativity, and characterization skills. Students will learn the basics of improv, how it developed into an art form that is used around the world, how it relates to other forms of theatre (traditional acting, stand-up and invisible theatre), and how we can use improve as a witnessing tool.

Electives

Introduction to Aviation

Grade(s): 11,12

Prerequisite: none

Credit Awarded: 1

This course serves as a private pilot ground school and is a must for any student interested in learning how to fly! Aviation education will help students develop critical thinking, problem solving, and creativity skills, which are all important for STEM careers. Students will be exposed to various STEM-related professions such as commercial, military, and helicopter pilots, air traffic controllers, aeronautical engineers, drone operators, flight attendants, mechanics, FAA officials, and more. The class also includes a visit to a local airport and a tour of the Smithsonian Air & Space Museum. The course is taught by an FAA-certified flight instructor (CFI/CFII). Upon successful completion, students will have the option to take the FAA Knowledge Exam and may pursue private pilot training during or after the course.

Quick Reference of Course Offerings

Academic

Bible

Bible 9 (*required*)

Gospels

Adv Bible I & II (12th)

Man of God (10th or 12th)

Woman of God (10th or 12th)

Apologetics (11th) (*required*)

Daniel/Revelation (10th or 12th)

Epistles (10th or 12th)

Romans (10th or 12th)

English

English 9 (Reg, CP, Adv)

English 10 (Reg, CP, Adv)

English 11 (Reg, CP, Adv)

English 12 (Reg, CP)

DE English Comp

AP English Lit & Comp

AP English Literature

Creative Writing

Speech

Social Studies

World Geography

World History

US History

AP US History

American Government

AP Government

Psychology/Sociology

AP Psychology

Criminal Justice

Math

Personal Finance

Algebra I

Adv. Algebra I

Geometry

Algebra II

Adv. Algebra II

Algebra III

AP Statistics

Pre-Calculus

Calculus

DE Pre-Calculus

DE Calculus

AP Calculus AB

AP Calculus BC

Science

Earth Science (CP)

Biology (CP)

Chemistry (CP)

Physics (CP)

Honors Physics

Marine Biology

AP Biology

DE Chemistry

Anatomy/Physiology

Foreign Language

Spanish I

Spanish II or Adv. Spanish II

Spanish III or Honors Span. III

Honors Spanish IV

Conversational Spanish IV

DE Spanish 101/102 & 201/202

Physical Education

PE 9/Health

PE 10/Driver's Education

Advanced PE

Body Strength/Conditioning

Electives

Computer Technology

AP Computer Science A (online)
Intro to AI/Data Science
Digital Design 1 & 2
Intro to Programming in Python 3
Entrepreneur/Business Skills
Fundamentals of Cybersecurity
Advanced Cybersecurity
Yearbook

Performing Arts

Drama I
Drama II
Improvisation

Music

Choir
Worship Team
Band
Orchestra
Music Theory

Visual Arts

Art I-Foundation
Art II-Drawing
Art II-Painting
3D Art-Sculpture

Electives

Introduction to Aviation

NOTE: CP= College Preparatory, Adv=Advanced, Hon=Honors, AP=Advanced Placement (college level), DE=Dual Enrollment (Germanna Community College credit for Chemistry; Richard Bland Community College credit for English)