



**Desert Christian Schools**  
**High School Course Description Guide**  
**2023-2024**

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**Note:** Desert Christian High School is pleased to offer AP courses as approved through the College Board, as well as dual enrollment courses approved through Colorado Christian University. Information regarding prerequisites and instructor recommendations accompany the course descriptions for these courses. Information regarding enrollment will be provided by the Guidance Department.

# English

## **Honors Entrance Criteria:**

1. A or B in previous English course and teacher recommendation. If new to DCHS, please provide an original writing sample.

## **English I**

**1 Credit**

In the freshmen year, skills and concepts which provide a foundation for high school and college language will be presented. These skills include: the correct use of grammar, vocabulary building, format for pre-writing and final drafts for final drafts of various types of papers (comparison/contrast, descriptive, narrative, etc.), research strategies, editing strategies, mechanics of writing, as well as speaking skills. Once at the conceptual level, critical thinking, analysis and argument strategies will be considered through reading of several novels as well as various short stories and essays. Throughout the entire curriculum, biblical themes and understandings are discussed to emphasize the importance of formulating a Christian worldview.

## **Honors English I**

**1 Credit**

In the freshmen year, skills and concepts which provide a foundation for high school and college language will be presented. These skills include: the correct use of grammar, vocabulary building, format for pre-writing and final drafts for final drafts of various types of papers (comparison/ contrast, descriptive, narrative, etc.), research strategies, editing strategies, mechanics of writing, as well as speaking skills. Once at the conceptual level, critical thinking, analysis and argument strategies will be considered through reading of several novels as well as various short stories and essays. Throughout the entire curriculum, biblical themes and understandings are discussed to emphasize the importance of formulating a Christian worldview. In Honors English I, the workload does not increase, but the level of discussion and expectations are elevated in preparation for Honors English II and eventual admission into AP courses offered at DCHS.

**Prerequisite:** B or higher in 8th grade English, teacher recommendation, and original writing sample.

## **English II**

**1 Credit**

Sophomore English provides students with instruction in reading, writing, and literary analysis. Reading skills will be honed by reading several novels. The class aims to help students with their vocabulary and written analysis to continue to view writing as a process. The class will reinforce the grammatical concepts from Freshman English, but will also focus on the syntax and organization of student writing using evidential textual support. Primary pieces of writing include the Documented Argument (a persuasive research paper) and multiple literary analysis essays. The class will teach students to approach all literature with the question: *What is the author's intended purpose?*

**Prerequisite:** English I

## **Honors English II**

**1 Credit**

Sophomore English provides students with rigorous instruction in both writing and literary analysis. This class aims to help students eliminate bad habits in their writing and to begin to see writing as a process deserving sincere effort and concentration. The class will also focus a great deal on the aesthetics and style of writing. Primary pieces of writing include the Documented Argument (a persuasive research paper) and multiple literary analysis essays. The class will teach students to approach all literature with the question: *What is the author's intended purpose?*

**Prerequisite:** B or higher and/or recommendation from English I teacher.

## **English III**

**1 Credit**

Junior Honors English focuses primarily, though not entirely, on American literature in order to coincide with the students' study of American History. Students will read and discuss various novels, essays, short stories and poems with a view to better understanding both historical and contemporary American culture and the philosophies that have shaped them. Students will be required to both participate in and lead discussion. The class is also writing intensive, and both expectations and critique are greater than is the case in the sophomore year.

**Prerequisite:** English II

### **Honors English III**

**1 Credit**

Honors English III is a college-level course that is a challenging, intense, and vibrant class full of lively discussion and texts that demonstrate incredible mastery of the English Language. Texts span numerous modes; students will read essays, poems, plays, and of course novels, all with an eye toward trying to determine the linguistic, figurative, and rhetorical strategies the authors use to illuminate their meanings and/or accomplish their objectives. This analysis will serve to deepen the student's own ability to write with purpose and to deliberately choose the rhetorical strategies that will aid them in composing pieces that are clear and effective.

**Prerequisite:** Previous year's English teacher recommendation.

### **English IV**

**1 Credit**

Senior English seeks to challenge students with a rigorous curriculum exploring complex themes and texts. The writing portion of this class will include personal analysis essays and literary analysis. In the literature this year, students will delve into the ideas of story, suffering, and relationships (familial and otherwise). The literature this year will be a compilation of both American and British literature and intentionally corresponds to the Senior Bible class.

**Prerequisite:** English III

### **Honors English IV**

**1 Credit**

Honors English IV is a college-level course that is a challenging and vibrant class full of lively discussion and challenging texts. It is a reading and writing intensive emphasizing the analysis of the stylistic and rhetorical elements of literature. The ultimate hope for this course is that students would not simply grow in their ability to read, write, and understand literature but that they would also grow in their love for language that is used well. The course curriculum is primarily American Literature but includes British authors as well. Students will be required to keep a journal of both their before-class reading and our subsequent class discussion. They will become well-versed in the skills of close reading, eloquent discussion, attentive listening, engaged questioning, and reasoned discourse.

**Prerequisite:** Previous year's English teacher recommendation.

### **Journalism/Newspaper**

**1 Credit**

In the newspaper elective, students will learn the fundamentals of journalistic writing, layout, photography, and newspaper production. There are two components to the course: journalism instruction and newspaper production. In the instruction component, students will learn how to compose and write non-biased news articles, opinion-editorials, feature pieces, sports, and arts and entertainment reviews. In the newspaper production component, students will actively create and publish a monthly newspaper, taking charge of the content, visual layout and printing of the paper. The newspaper will be published both digitally and in print, and will present and promote a Christian worldview to its readership. Throughout the process, students will learn interview techniques, source integration, photography skills, and layout techniques.

## Mathematics

### **Honors Entrance Criteria:**

1. At least a B in previous math class.
2. Teacher Recommendation (Honors Application Form)

### **AP Entrance Criteria:**

1. At least a 3.5 GPA for all math classes.
2. Teacher Recommendation (AP Application Form)

### **Algebra I**

**1 Credit**

This is a two semester math course that is designed to instruct and challenge students to not only learn about the properties of algebra, but to also apply these properties in real world settings. We will cover solving, writing, and graphing linear, exponential, and quadratic functions over the course of the year. Throughout the course, students will learn how to approach problems by using critical thinking and problem solving approaches to solve difficult and complicated problems. Students will learn how God designed the laws of mathematics and algebra and how math is implemented in many aspects of God's creation.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Pre-Algebra or 8th grade math course or remedial math to prove competency.

### **Geometry**

**1 Credit**

This is a two semester math course that is designed to instruct and challenge students about the various laws of geometry that govern our world. Students will apply these geometric properties and laws in real world settings through problem-based learning activities in class and completing various projects throughout the year. Students will learn how God designed the laws of mathematics and geometry and discover how creation is thoroughly embedded with the creativity of God. Topics covered in this course include postulates and theorems, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, transformations, triangles, parallelograms, similarity, trigonometry, circles, area, and volume.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Algebra I or remedial math to prove competency.

### **Honors Geometry**

**1 Credit**

Using the same curriculum as Geometry, this is a two-semester math course designed to instruct and challenge students about the various laws of geometry that govern our world. Students will apply these geometric properties and laws in real world settings through problem-based learning activities in class and completing various projects throughout the year. Students will learn how God designed the laws of mathematics and geometry and discover how creation is thoroughly embedded with the creativity of God. Topics covered in this course include postulates and theorems, proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, transformations, triangles, parallelograms, similarity, trigonometry, circles, area, and volume. In Honors Geometry, the workload does not increase; there is an elevated pace of instruction that allows further instruction on probabilities. In addition, there is a greater degree of discussion in preparation for the Honors Algebra II, AP Precalculus, Statistics and AP Calculus courses offered at DCHS.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I (in addition to the Honors criteria listed above)

### **Algebra II**

**1 Credit**

This is a two semester math course that is designed to instruct and challenge students as they learn new concepts in reasoning with linear, quadratic and polynomial equations, interpreting these as functions and interpreting data. This course will give students an opportunity to think mathematically, understand mathematical concepts, and apply mathematics to their everyday lives. The goal for this course is to challenge students to develop a set of skills and practices that will aid them in tackling complex problems, both in math and in life. Students will discover universal and eternal mathematical truths without

which it is impossible to understand God's creation. The use of various kinds of technology, including graphing calculators, will assist students in their understanding of Algebra II. Topics covered in this course include linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions; quadratic equations and complex numbers; rational exponents; sequences and series; probability, and data analysis and statistics.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Algebra I or remedial math to prove competency.

## **Honors Algebra II**

**1 Credit**

Utilizing the same curriculum and resources as Algebra II, this is a two semester math course that is designed to instruct and challenge students as they learn new concepts in reasoning with linear, quadratic and polynomial equations, interpreting these as functions and interpreting data. This course will give students an opportunity to think mathematically, understand mathematical concepts, and apply mathematics to their everyday lives. The goal for this course is to challenge students to develop a set of skills and practices that will aid them in tackling complex problems, both in math and in life. Students will discover universal and eternal mathematical truths without which it is impossible to understand God's creation. The use of various kinds of technology, including graphing calculators, will assist students in their understanding of Algebra II. Topics covered in this course include linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, rational, exponential and logarithmic functions; quadratic equations and complex numbers; rational exponents; sequences and series; probability, and data analysis and statistics. In Honors Algebra II, the workload does not increase; there is an elevated pace of instruction. In addition, there is a greater degree of discussion in preparation for the Honors Algebra II, AP Precalculus, Statistics and AP Calculus courses offered at DCHS.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I (in addition to the Honors criteria listed above)

## **Precalculus**

**1 Credit**

This is a two semester math course that is designed to prepare students for mathematics at the college level, specifically the study of Precalculus. This course will require students to encounter concepts, products, and results that are expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Through these different modalities, students will build an understanding of how precalculus uses limits to develop important ideas, definitions, formulas, and theorems, which students will use to build arguments, communicate methods and applications,



justify reasonings, and support conclusions. Topics covered in this course include functions, trigonometry, application of trigonometry, vectors, linear systems and matrices, conic sections, parametric equations, polar equations, and an introduction of limits.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Geometry and Algebra II

### **AP Precalculus**

**1 Credit**

This is a college-level Precalculus course that is designed to meet the Advanced Placement requirements for Precalculus (which is equivalent to a one semester Precalculus or College Algebra/Trigonometry course in college). At the end of the year, it is expected that students will take the AP Precalculus exam. AP Precalculus centers on functions modeling dynamic phenomena. This research-based exploration of functions is designed to better prepare students for college-level calculus and provide grounding for other mathematics and science courses. In this course, students study a broad spectrum of function types that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, business, social science, and data science. Furthermore, as AP Precalculus may be the last mathematics course of a student's secondary education, the course is structured to provide a coherent capstone experience rather than exclusively focusing on preparation for future courses.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II (in addition to the AP Criteria listed above)

### **AP Calculus AB**

**1 Credit**

This is a college-level Calculus course that is designed to meet the Advanced Placement requirements for Calculus AB (which is equivalent to a one semester Calculus I course in college). At the end of the year, it is expected that students will take the AP Calculus AB exam. The foundation of this course is centered around three big ideas: change, limits, and analysis of functions. This course will require students to encounter concepts, products, and results that are expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Through these different modalities, students will build an understanding of how calculus uses limits to develop important ideas, definitions, formulas, and theorems, which students will use to build arguments, communicate methods and applications, justify reasonings, and support conclusions.

***This class is offered for Dual Enrollment through CCU.***

**Prerequisite:** Precalculus or AP Precalculus (in addition to the AP Entrance Criteria listed above)

## **Discrete Math**

**1 Credit**

This course is designed to provide authentic conceptualizations in mathematics based on the foundations of integers (as opposed to continuous numbers). Students will be exposed to new areas in math, including logic, set theory, matrices and vectors, game theory, number theory, and graph theory. In each unit, students will apply the mathematical processes necessary for problem solving, reasoning, and conceptual understanding. Applications to real-life scenarios will be an emphasis, including business competition, computers, sports, social media, engineering, physics, and cybersecurity.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Algebra II or remedial math to prove competency.

## **Statistics**

**1 Credit**

This is a two-semester math course designed to instruct and challenge students about the science of statistics that deals with the collection, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of vast amounts of data we see and use every day. Students will learn how to organize and summarize data through descriptive statistics and learn formal methods of inferential statistics for drawing conclusions from data. The goal of statistics is not to perform numerous calculations using formulas; the goal is to gain an understanding of the data to be more confident in real-life decisions. Topics covered in this course include statistical background to critically read results reported in today's media regarding social, environmental and medical choices; how to collect good data; describe data graphically and numerically; uses and abuses of statistics; understanding variation and statistical significance; modeling chance; statistics in the courtroom, lotteries, opinion polls and other case studies; emphasis on understanding concepts along with computations; use of software packages and the internet.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in both Geometry and Algebra II

# Science

## **Biology**

**1 Credit**

This course provides students with an in-depth view of the living portion of God's created world and its interactions with the rest of creation. Students will study biochemistry, cell structure and function, genetics, and creation & evolution in the first semester. Second semester, students will study the taxonomy of

microorganisms, fungi & plants, animal systems, and ecology. The laboratory component of this course is crucial to an authentic study of the life sciences. One or more trips to local field study sites are included.

### **Honors Biology**

**1 Credit**

Honors Biology uses the traditional Biology standards and topics (see Biology listing), yet goes further and deeper. Emphasis is placed on student-focused and student-designed laboratory activities as well as critical thinking and problem solving. Academic collaboration, presentation, and demonstration of learning are paramount. Application of biological concepts to other academic disciplines is also a focus. Strong reading, writing, math, and reasoning skills are recommended for successful completion of this course. Honors Biology is strongly recommended for students who are interested in pursuing post-secondary studies in the life sciences.

**Prerequisite:** Teacher recommendation

### **Advanced Biology (Field Ecology)**

**1 Credit**

This course is designed as a college-level course to cover and to expand on specialized topics from biology. The focus of this course is to examine plant and marine ecology through hands-on field investigations, discovery, and problem-based learning, rather than through lecture and demonstration. Students will also give emphasis to "...an exploration of environmental issues including population growth, energy use, global climate change, air-water-solid waste pollution, resources, stewardship, solutions and sustainability. Through readings, lecture, and discussion we will examine geological, biological, chemical, economic, political, and social aspects of environmental issues on personal, local, national, and global scales." Main topics covered are Plant Morphology and Classification; Biome & Community Structure; Plant Population & Demographics; Oceanography; Organismic Classification, Relationships, and Adaptations; and Environmentalism & Conservation.

***This class is offered for Dual Enrollment through CCU.***

**Prerequisite:** Biology or Honors Biology, and any physical science (geology/astronomy, chemistry, and/or physics).

### **Anatomy & Physiology**

**1 Credit**

This course explores the biology of the human body from a cellular level through

gross anatomical structure, emphasizing the form of man as “fearfully and wonderfully made.” Topics explored include: Introduction to Anatomy - biology review, homeostasis and regulation, and anatomical terminology; Support and Motion - skeletal system, movement and joints and the muscular system; Control and Coordination - nervous system, senses, and endocrine system; Transport - blood and the cardiovascular and respiratory systems; Absorption and Excretion - the digestive system, nutrition and metabolism, and the urinary system; Protection - integumentary, lymphatic and immune systems; and Reproduction - covering the male and female reproductive systems, fertilization and pregnancy.

***This course is offered for dual enrollment.***

**Prerequisite:** Biology or Honors Biology, and Chemistry

### **Biotechnology & Forensic Science**

**1 Credit**

This year-long science elective is separated into two distinct but related semesters. Biotechnology will investigate DNA and RNA, protein chemistry, and other lab techniques. Polymerase chain reaction (PCR), restriction enzyme digests, gel electrophoresis are a few of the lab skills that will be learned. Forensic Science will focus on the scientific techniques used in investigating crime. High value is placed on observation skills and deductive reasoning. Investigations will include examination of trace evidence, including fibers, textiles, glass, and soils, as well as fingerprinting, DNA evidence, and toxicology. Basic anatomy and physiology will be discussed as it pertains to the subject. Manner and cause of death, rigor and livor mortis will also be discussed.

**Prerequisite:** Biology or Honors Biology; Chemistry (or concurrent enrollment)

### **Geology**

**1 Credit**

This course introduces the basics of Geology, the study of the Earth and its processes, as well as strengthens core concepts in science. Students will explore topics such as weathering and erosion, geologic hazards, geologic history, paleontology, plate tectonics, interior of the Earth, rocks and minerals, hydrogeology, astrogeology, and mapping. Students will participate in labs to explore geologic concepts, as well as study rock formations in the field to interpret depositional environments. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand various geologic concepts, identify common rocks and minerals, and create topographic maps.

**Prerequisite:** Biology or Honors Biology

## **Chemistry**

**1 Credit**

Chemistry is the study of matter, its properties, and how it interacts with other matter. Students will participate in various laboratory activities in order to study concepts such as measurement, atomic structure, the periodic table, phases of matter, behavior of gasses, chemical bonding, chemical reactions, the mole, stoichiometry, and solutions. Laboratory experiments will allow students to discover the laws that govern our world, apply the science and engineering practices, learn and apply various safety procedures, and learn how to use various scientific tools.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I

## **Honors Chemistry**

**1 Credit**

Honors Chemistry covers all of the Chemistry standards (see “Chemistry” course), but delves deeper into each topic. College level concepts, such as the quantum mechanical model of the atom, are incorporated throughout the course. Emphasis is placed on developing critical thinking skills and the ability to apply learned concepts to unfamiliar situations. Students will engage in both pre-planned and self-developed experiments in order to test hypotheses.

Honors Chemistry is strongly recommended for students interested in taking AP Chemistry, or pursuing a college degree in any science related field.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I and teacher approval

## **AP Chemistry**

**1 Credit**

AP Chemistry is a college-level course following the standards set by the College Board. It covers a range of topics, including: atomic structure and properties, intermolecular forces, chemical reactions and equilibrium, thermodynamics, and electrochemistry. Students will explore chemistry concepts and learn crucial laboratory skills as they conduct multi-day experiments. AP Chemistry is a must for any student hoping to get a headstart on their college science courses. It is a very math-heavy course, so students should be proficient in Algebra II or higher-level math. *This course is offered every other year.*

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II and Chemistry/Honors Chemistry

## **Honors Physics**

**1 Credit**

This course is taught as a traditional mechanics physics course where students

will study the properties, changes and interactions of matter and energy. We rely on student engagement and student explanation as the dynamic of learning, specifically through model development and deployment. In the first semester we will study kinematics, forces, and Newton's laws. The second semester covers circular motion, two-dimensional motion, energy, momentum, and astronomy. Mathematics, specifically mathematical models, is the primary tool and the language by which this is accomplished. Science is not able to answer the "why" questions. However, through the study of physics, we can discover evidence for purpose and evidence of a Creator.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in geometry

### **Summer Interdisciplinary Program (Science)**

**1 Credit**

Proposing that meaningful and lasting learning often takes place outside of the classroom, the DCHS Summer Interdisciplinary Program presents a chance to explore and have wonder of the American West and all that lies in-between ocean, mountains, culture, history, the arts and more. This expeditionary learning experience integrates this cross-curricular opportunity with highly interactive and applied learning. We go to the "source" — a place and time where young people have the opportunity to live, breathe and thrive in a student-owned interdisciplinary learning environment—and to come to grips with God the Creator of this earth and the Creator of human nature. "All truth is God's truth" as we explore climatology, comparative ecologies, organismic adaptations, and stewardship/conservation.

**Prerequisite:** Biology or Honors Biology, and World History

# Social Sciences

## Honors Entrance Criteria:

1. Teacher Recommendation.

### World History

**1 Credit**

World History is a year-long course. The narrative of world history from the 16th century to modern day promotes a fundamental and imperative understanding of repetitive societal patterns, regardless of geographical location. This study will attempt to reveal the history of humanity through the eyes of God using comparative perspectives and critical thinking and judgment. Key concepts covered in this class include: Imperialism/Colonialism, Economic/Government Systems, Trade (including human) Systems, Revolutions, War, Genocide, Population, and Environmental Causes. In this course, students will develop and hone their ability to engage essential questions, dialogue and debate with their peers through Socratic seminar, work in a group setting, and professionally present a large collection of data. **Note: This class is also offered as a separate honors course**

### U.S. History

**1 Credit**

US History is a year-long course. The study of US history from a Christian worldview reveals that history repeats itself (Eccles 1:9) because of our sinful nature (Rom 3:10). Through this lens, students analyze the American experience through time, recognize the relationship of events and people, and interpret significant patterns, themes, ideas, and turning points in American history so as to recognize the fallen nature of man and the redemptive nature of Jesus Christ. Through student-centered and problem-based learning, students will endeavor to promote diversity and equity at Desert Christian Schools and contribute to the social history of our local community. Key concepts in this course include exploration, colonization, war, nation building, sectionalism, isolationism, slavery, industrialization, immigration, class, gender, and racial conflict, domestic and international policies, and civil rights.

**Note: This class is also offered as a separate CLEP preparation course**

### CLEP/Honors US History

**1 Credit**

This course is designed to prepare students for the CLEP exam, a nationally recognized exam program which, with a passing score, exempts students from college courses. This course is also reflected on a high school transcript as an

honors course. The CLEP/Honors course is divided into two semesters: The History of the United States I: Early Colonization to 1877 and History of the United States II: 1865 to the Present. Students are expected to take the corresponding CLEP exam at the end of each semester. The first semester covers the period of United States history from early European colonization to the end of Reconstruction, with an emphasis on the period of 1790–1877 and the British colonies. The second semester covers the period of United States history from the end of the Civil War to the present, with an emphasis on the 20th century. Throughout the year students will identify and describe, interpret, and contrast historical phenomena through regular formative and summative assessments which will include written and oral tests as well as group Socratic discussion.

### **Mock Trial**

**1 Credit**

Mock Trial is a full year course that strengthens student speaking, acting, writing, reading, critical thinking and analytical skills through competition at the regional, and potentially state and national level. Students will gain a deep and personal understanding of the American legal system, alternating between criminal and civil cases each year. Students of the Mock Trial program will gain valuable social skills including teamwork and collaboration, oral presentation, the art of productive argument and persuasion, and confidence in public speaking.

### **Government**

**0.5 Credit**

Government is a ½ year course. The study of government reveals the rights and duties of citizenship and how a Christian worldview impacts the understanding of it. This class will engage virtue, democratic principles, politics, and law, their practice and universal character, and their character within the American constitutional order. Desert Christian seniors will actively participate in problem-based learning, addressing and bringing awareness to community concerns based on student interest. Key concepts include the philosophical foundations of American government, its structures, institutions and functions, political parties, elections, the media, civic virtue, and foreign policy.

### **Economics**

**0.5 Credit**

Economics is a ½ year course. This course is a comprehensive survey of basic economic principles. The purpose of this course is to give students a broad



understanding of the Biblical, personal, and fundamental principles of economics. The study of Economics will help students become better decision makers and develop an economic way of thinking and problem solving. The understanding of economic principles will enable students to live their lives more intentionally as Christians, responsible citizens and effective participants in the global economy. Students will develop their ideal economic system based on their understanding of theory, while integrating their Christian Faith and introduce common economic problems that occur in the United States. With regard to economic principles, we will examine both microeconomics (the study of individual decision making by consumers and businesses) and macroeconomics (the study of social level problems that are most often reported in the news). A sampling of these topics include inflation, economic growth, unemployment, government spending, taxes, money and interest rates, and exchange rates.

### **AP Microeconomics**

**0.5 Credit**

AP Microeconomics is a ½ year course. Students will study the principles of economics that apply to the behavior of individuals within an economic system. We will use graphs, charts, and data to analyze, describe, and explain economic concepts. In addition, students will develop skills such as defining economic principles and models, explaining given economic outcomes, determining outcomes of specific economic situations, and modeling economic situations using graphs or visual representations

### **AP Psychology**

**1 Credit**

The AP Psychology course is designed to introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals, which is psychology. Students are exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. Time will be spent looking at methods of psychology and how they speak to a Christian worldview. Time will also be spent learning about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. Students will study the following topics in this course; the history, research methods, biological bases of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, cognition, motivation and emotion, development, personality, abnormal psychology, testing, treatment of psychological disorders, and social

psychology. This course requires that students present throughout the year. This includes presentations about a specific topic, multi-level concepts, and psychological phenomenon. Students will practice the construction of presentations, focusing on articulate, organized, well thought out ideas.

## Bible

### **Freshman Bible: Christian Standards and Integrity (CSI) 1 Credit**

The design and purpose of this course is to encourage students to make their faith their own. We will study Image and Dominion, The Attributes of the Triune God, Who We are in Christ, Why God instituted prayer, The Fruit of the Spirit, Spiritual Gifts, and the necessity of a Biblical Worldview. We will spend significant time understanding the Christian influence and response to some of the major current events of the day, including politics, abortion, and God's design in sex and gender identity issues. There is a large emphasis on "teaching students to teach students," accomplished by equipping each and every student with the tools and knowledge necessary to lead Bible studies, small groups, how to share their personal testimonies, and more.

### **Sophomore Bible: Old and New Testaments 1 Credit**

The design and purpose of this course is to encourage students to develop habits to read their Bibles on their own, and to enjoy doing so. Students will study the Old Testament first semester in chronological order, gaining an understanding of the six Covenants God makes with His people, giving a solid foundation for the purpose and plan of the Cross of Christ and the New Covenant. In the second semester, students will grasp the general context of each New Testament book, and we will go deeper into the Gospels, Acts, Ephesians, Galatians, Hebrews, and Revelation.

### **Junior Bible: Logic & Apologetics 1 Credit**

Logic and Apologetics is a course which focuses on thinking logically and reasoning from a Christian perspective. Students will wrestle with what they believe, the ramifications of what they believe, and more importantly, why they believe. The subject of worldview will be addressed, as well as Christianity as a total worldview. Various competing worldviews will be examined, along with a framework of how to assess the truthfulness of a worldview. Special emphasis is placed on the evidence of Christianity as a true worldview and the application

of such a truth to life.

### **Senior Bible: Christian Living**

**0.5 Credit**

Christian Living addresses how each one of our personal stories fits into the story of those around us, as well as God's greater story. The story God is telling, like each of our stories, consists of several main themes. First, things are not what they seem, there is more going on than what we see on the surface. Second, we are at war. There is a battle that each of us face daily and the sooner we recognize this, the sooner we can engage in the battle. Last, each one of us has a crucial role to play. We were made with a purpose to bring honor and glory to God with the talents and gifts that He has equipped us with. Each of our stories are more complex and matter more than we believe.

### **Senior Bible: Romans**

**0.5 Credit**

This course on Romans will help us understand how the message of Romans can have the same powerful impact today that it did when it was first written. The primary goal of the class is to grow in our relationship with Jesus. We will do this as we explore a clear view of the Gospel. Paul's message will lead us to evaluate who we are, who God is, and what our place in this world ought to be. Along with that, some of the topics and questions which will be addressed in this class include unity in the church, the Christian life, and the Christian's relationship to government. How does the law relate to faith? How were those who came before Christ saved?

## World Languages

### **Spanish I**

**1 Credit**

This course is an introduction to the study of the Spanish language and its various cultures. The emphasis is placed on interactive and engaging activities geared toward the development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing within the context of greetings, freetime activities, school subjects and family. The learning extends outside of the classroom setting when possible and focuses on the students' lives and experiences and includes an exposure to everyday customs and lifestyles. The course is designed to increase each

student's understanding of the Spanish language, its people and culture, to raise each student's awareness of cultural diversity in order to appreciate God's love for all humanity, and to be able to meet and get to know new Spanish speaking friends.

## **Spanish II**

**1 Credit**

This course is a 2nd level study of the Spanish language and its culture. It allows students to go deeper in the functions of the language and to gain a greater appreciation and knowledge of a wide variety of Spanish speaking cultures and their traditions. The emphasis is placed on further development of the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing within the context of moods and feelings, daily routine, opinions and comparisons, travel and discussing the past. This extends outside of the classroom setting as much as possible, including travel opportunities. Upon completion, students should be able to genuinely create friendships and professional relationships with Spanish speakers.

**Prerequisite:** Spanish I or 80% or higher on Spanish I equivalency exam

## **Spanish III/IV**

**1 Credit**

This course is an intermediate level study of the Spanish language and culture. It allows students to go deeper into advanced functions of the language and to gain an in-depth appreciation and diverse knowledge of Spanish speaking cultures and their traditions. The emphasis is placed on reading and writing within the context of Scripture, art, literature, and history, speaking and listening through a high level of engagement and discussion in the target language and advanced grammar including present subjunctive, present perfect and present/past progressive. Learning extends outside of the classroom into our rich local hispanic community and throughout the world through interactive on-line engagement and in-person travel opportunities. Upon completion, students should be able to genuinely create deeper level friendships and professional relationships with Spanish speakers.

**Prerequisite:** Spanish II or 80% or higher on Spanish II equivalency exam

## **ASL I**

**1 Credit**

Students in ASL I will learn what it means to be deaf in a hearing world. They will acquire the language skills necessary to communicate at the Arizona Foreign and Native Language "Essentials" level. Students will come to understand what a language is and how ASL fits into the definition of a language. Students will

explore Deaf culture by looking at community norms and learning about the lives of famous Deaf people. ASL I students will gain a better understanding of Deaf history as they take a look at the history of both the Deaf community and the language of ASL. Finally, students will begin to learn how they as Christians can impact the world of the Deaf community in positive ways.

## Physical Education

### **Recreational P.E.**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to provide students with a foundation for personal fitness with an emphasis that each student will choose to continue some type of physical activity for life. Activities are designed to promote good sportsmanship, positive attitude, and respect for others. By developing a Biblical worldview of health and recreation, students will learn the importance of personal care, appreciate the significance of being a temple of God, and develop an understanding of teamwork and a healthy sense of competition. This course will be delivered in various formats such as group exercise, yoga, dance, hiking, and other lifelong activities.

### **Strength and Conditioning**

**0.5 Credit**

Strength and Conditioning focuses on developing & improving muscular strength, muscular endurance, cardiovascular endurance, flexibility and improved body composition. This class is available to all students, but an emphasis is placed on improving sports performance. For those students that are seeking general fitness and health improvement, this class will meet those needs, all designed to glorify God with their bodies.

### **Kinesiology (Fall)**

**0.5 Credit**

Kinesiology is the scientific study of how muscles, joints, and bones interact to create movement. Special emphasis will be placed on the structural anatomy of the bones and muscles of the human body. This class is for students interested in a career in fitness, athletic training, strength and conditioning, physical therapy or other health related careers.

**Prerequisite or concurrent enrollment** of biology is required.

### **Exercise Physiology (Spring)**

**0.5 Credit**

Exercise physiology is a branch of physiology that deals with the functioning of the human body during exercise. Special emphasis will be placed on improving sports or exercise performance. An understanding of how the body responds to acute and chronic exercise is crucial for the physical educator, athletic trainer, coach, fitness expert, or exercise physiologist.

**Prerequisite or concurrent enrollment** of biology is required.

### **Sports Psychology**

**1 Credit**

Sport Psychology is the scientific study of how individuals behave in sport and exercise, and the practical application of that knowledge to performance enhancement or improvement strategies. Students in this course will investigate human behavior patterns in sports and exercise settings. This course is designed for individuals to better understand their performance and adherence to exercise. It is also designed for anyone interested in coaching athletes or other sports related occupations such as physical education teacher, athletic training, personal training, physical therapy, or other health-related fields.

## Career & Technical Education

### **AP Computer Science Principles**

**1 Credit**

This is a full year entry-level Computer Science course that is designed to meet the Advanced Placement requirements for Computer Science Principles (equivalent to a foundational Computer Science course at the college level). At the end of the year, it is expected that students will take the AP Computer Science Exam, as well as complete the Create Performance Task associated with the course. The foundation of this course is centered around seven big ideas: creativity, abstraction, data and information, algorithms, programming, the Internet, and global impact.

### **Introduction to Computer Aided Design (CAD)/3D Printing**

**0.5 Credit**

This is a one semester elective course designed for students who are interested in how to properly design custom parts with 3D printers. Students will apply the engineering process to prototype, design, build, and assemble different products using CAD (Computer Aided Design) methods. Students will learn how to use Autodesk Fusion 360, Blender, and OnShape to prototype and design parts on workstations and learn how to use Cura to transform their designs into files that use MakerBot Sketch 3D Printers to print their designs. At the end of the

course, students will tackle a real world engineering problem by designing and presenting a custom product to a community panel for their final project.

## **Engineering I**

**1 Credit**

Engineering I is a full year course that introduces students to engineering concepts that are applicable across multiple engineering disciplines and empowers them to build technical skills through the use of a variety of engineering tools, such as geographic information systems (GIS), 3-D solid modeling software, and prototyping equipment. Students learn and apply the engineering design process to develop mechanical, electronic, process, and logistical solutions to relevant problems across a variety of industry sectors, including health care, public service, and product development and manufacturing.

**Prerequisite:** C or higher in Geometry, concurrently taking Algebra II or higher.

## Life Skills

### **Senior Capstone**

**1 Credit**

Senior Capstone is a required course taken senior year in both fall and spring. During the fall semester, students will be introduced to financial decision making. Students will be encouraged to begin thinking about their senior year, specifically personal goals, leadership opportunities, and service learning. Time will be spent researching possible Expo ideas and making connections to outside sources. During the Spring semester, students will take steps to prepare for college, trade school, direct employment, as well as other paths after graduation. Students will learn more about personal finance, public speaking, presentation skills and will be challenged to develop their leadership skills. Career exploration as well as college major choices will be discussed. In addition, students will complete an EXPO project, prepare a portfolio, and present their project in a professional manner.

## Fine Arts

### **Visual Fine Arts**

#### **Art Foundations**

**1 Credit**

Art Foundations is a beginner's introduction to the fundamentals of art, focusing on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. This includes line, shape, form, value, texture, color, space, pattern, contrast, balance, emphasis, movement, proportion and unity. These topics will be explored through a variety of two-dimensional and three-dimensional mediums. Depending on a student's previous art experience, enrichments or challenges, modifications are made to meet the students at their individual level in their art skills. Using a variety of hands-on project based learning, students learn the importance of creativity and innovation and are given the freedom to plan, design, and execute their ideas.

### **Intermediate Art**

**1 Credit**

Intermediate Art is a year long second level course where students will specifically be utilizing two-dimensional media first semester, and three-dimensional media second semester. This includes pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, oil paint, acrylic, watercolor, collage, digital design, clay, sculpture, metal-working, macrame, weaving, wax, plastic, and other recycled materials. Using a variety of hands-on project based learning, students learn the importance of creativity and innovation and are given the freedom to plan, design, and execute their ideas. This class is perfect for an Artist trying to narrow down their specialty or passion within Art.

**Prerequisite:** Foundations of Art.

### **Honors Studio Art**

**1 Credit**

Honors Studio Art is a year-long course that allows students to explore a topic of interest under close supervision (similar to an independent study). The course will include four essential goals that build upon themselves. These goals will be chosen by the student and teacher together based on their area of interest. Some examples of interests that can be pursued during this course are: a 3rd and 4th level of photography, oil painting, illustration, graphic design, ceramics, or any other visual art they would like to pursue.

**Prerequisite:** Foundations of Art, Intermediate Art, and teacher approval.

### **Yearbook**

**1 Credit**

Yearbook is a year-long elective course focusing on utilizing and developing student skills in digital design, photography, journalism, and teamwork to create



a visual representation of the year's events. Students will collaborate to choose a theme, design pages through online software, and set goals and deadlines to meet with their team. This course is an appropriate and contextual application for students who have previously taken Photography courses.

**Note: This class is also offered as an honors course**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher approval.

### **Photography I**

**1 Credit**

Photo I is a year-long course that covers basic concepts and practice of digital photography, including understanding and use of the camera in manual mode. Photo I will also address aesthetic principles as they relate to composition, aperture, exposure, light and tonal range. Basic post processing digital manipulations of images will be taught in preparation for creating a photo portfolio of images.

**Note:** Students must have their own camera which supports manual mode.

### **Photography II**

**1 Credit**

Photo II is a year-long course that continues to hone skills in photography using manual mode. In addition to continuing to grow their knowledge on aesthetic principles, Photo II students will focus on finding and developing their style of photography. Photo II students will help to teach Photo I students the basics of camera operation in manual mode. Additional post processing manipulations will be explored to add to an existing portfolio.

**Note:** Students must have their own camera which supports manual mode.

**Prerequisite:** Photography I or teacher approval.

## **Performing Fine Arts - Instrumental**

### **Concert Band**

**1.0 Credit**

This year-long course is designed to introduce students to reading music, playing an instrument of choice from the concert band selection, and performing with their classmates. No prior instrument experience is required to join this class. We will explore many different genres of music, including movie scores, jazz, pieces of historical/cultural significance, and more. Students will acquire a basic music theory knowledge, music vocabulary, instrument assembly, and performance skills.

*Concert Band instruments include: Flute, Trumpet, Trombone, Saxophone, Clarinet, Snare, etc.*

**Note:** Students will need to rent or purchase their assigned instrument for this course if they do not already own one.

**Prerequisite:** No experience required

### **Praise Band**

**0.5 Credit**

The Praise Band worship class is an exciting and engaging course designed to provide students with the opportunity to explore and develop their musical talents while deepening their understanding of worship. Throughout the course, students will perfect their fundamental skills of playing various instruments commonly used in praise bands, such as guitars, drums, keyboards, and vocals. Students will have the opportunity to practice and perform a variety of worship songs, allowing them to grow in their ability to lead others in worship for Chapel service. Additionally, the course will cover sound engineering, lighting and stage setup . Students will form teams to accomplish this.

### **Marching Band/ Color Guard**

**0.5 Credit**

Marching Band is a unique, choreographed musical experience staged on a football field that combines the artistry of musical performance and visual pageantry. The performance involves students marching on a football field to a designed sequence of formations while playing music. The color guard is a non-musical section that provides additional visual aspects to the performance. Color guards perform choreographed dances and routines with various props like flags, to enhance and interpret the music of the marching band show. Our students' work diligently to achieve high levels of excellence in performance and through this process will establish a strong work ethic, develop life skills and build life-long bonds.

### **Orchestra**

**1.0 Credit**

This year-long course is designed to introduce students to reading music, playing an instrument of choice from the orchestra instrument selection, and performing with their classmates. No prior instrument experience is required to join this class. We will explore many different genres of music, including movie scores, jazz, pieces of historical/cultural significance, and more. Students will acquire a basic

music theory knowledge, music vocabulary, instrument assembly, and performance skills.

*Orchestra Instruments include: Double Bass, Violin, Viola, Cello, etc.*

**Note:** Students will need to rent or purchase their assigned instrument for this course if they do not already own one.

**Prerequisite:** No experience required

## **Guitar I**

**0.5 Credit**

This class is designed for beginners on the guitar or students who would like to fill in the gaps in their basic overall knowledge of the instrument. The idea is to start playing right away. This course will cover fingerboard knowledge, basic techniques, chords, strumming, basic knowledge and use of the capo, basics of finger-style technique, reading music (standard notation/tablature), and basic concepts in music theory that can be used to read & write music and figure out songs by ear. Most of the music played in this class will be drawn from popular contemporary songs.

## **Guitar II**

**0.5 Credit**

Guitar II will dive deep into topics such as advanced fingerstyle techniques, intricate soloing and improvisation, advanced rhythm patterns, music theory and its practical application on the guitar, as well as exploring different scales and modes. Expressing your creativity through songwriting will also be taught in this course. Guitar 101 is a prerequisite for this course.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of Guitar I or approval of instructor

## **Performing Fine Arts - Choral**

### **Concert Choir**

**1.0 Credit**

The Concert Choir (*Desert Chorus*) exists to refine choral musical skills and to foster a sense of commitment to ministering to others, particularly the body of Jesus Christ, with those skills. Ultimately, we sing to bring glory to God alone. The course focuses on vocal and choral methods, ear training skills through singing in an ensemble setting and sight reading, interpretation of music, appreciation of a wide variety of choral genres, and performance skills.

## **Performing Fine Arts - Theatrical**

### **Musical Theater (Fall Semester Only)**

**0.5 Credit**

Musical Theatre is unique in the realm of fine arts. It exercises all aspects of an individual because it draws on their ability to sing, act, and dance to create a believable story on stage. As a Christian, these abilities are uniquely suited to share the story and the glory of God. Moreover, as God is excellent, musical theater too strives for excellence, requiring students to not only be self-disciplined but to be disciplined and to disciple others. Being a part of a cast composed of various roles is a great example of what it means to be in the body of Christ. Each part must work through its unique function in the story/production to create an excellent, *complete* performance. This class will identify and develop students' God-given talents while encouraging them to work hard, learn from failure, overcome nerves and fears, and perform as unto the Lord—as an act of worship. (There are no prerequisites for this class; all students who sign up for this class are welcome. However, students will be required to prepare and perform an audition at the start of the semester for casting and educational purposes.)

### **Drama & Stagecraft 101**

**0.5 Credit**

Drama and Stagecraft 101 introduces students to the incredible world of theater and stage production where the possibilities are endless—as are the choices. While the class has a focus on acting, improvisation, and performance, it also encourages the students to explore the myriad ways in which one can be involved in theatrical production, such as: directing, scenic design, costuming, playwriting, and more! This class is perfect for students looking to exercise their God-given creative talents and urges in a way that *produces* something—in their character, and *for* their audience!

### **Advanced Drama/Spring Play**

**0.5 Credit**

Similar to Musical Theater class, the Spring Play is an exercise in teamwork and self-discipline. Musical Theater focuses more on the presentation of singing and dancing, but the Spring Play demands more of a student's acting skills, such as character development, character studies, monologues, dialogues, blocking, line reading and interpretations, cold-reading, etc. While the skills honed in this class will result in a final production, this class hopes that students will walk away with tools and experiences of more eternal value: confidence, listening skills, speaking skills, self-control, and open-heartedness.