



**Desert Christian Schools**  
**High School Course Description Guide**  
**2022-2023**

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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

## **AP Entrance Criteria:**

1. A or B in previous English course and teacher recommendation

## **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 and/or teacher recommendation.

## **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

## **English II Honors**

**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

## **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

## **AP Literature**

**1 Credit**

AP Literature and Composition 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. Offered every other year.

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

## **AP Language**

**1 Credit**

AP Language and Composition course 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. Offered every other year.

**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.

## **Creative Writing**

**0.5 Credit**

In this course, students will have the opportunity to write the story they have always wanted to finish, whether it is sci-fi adventure, fast-paced shoot-'em-up, romance, mystery, fantasy—you name it. The course will develop and fine-tune students' writing abilities and equip them with real story-telling prowess. The class is primarily a workshop setting; some class time will be devoted to writing, but mostly students will be reading peer work and discussing their stories. Students will interface with their readers in real time, get live feedback, reactions, and critical/analytical thoughts about their work, so they can take the next big steps of the writing process—writing those sweet, victorious words: *The End*. By the end of the class, students will have covered poetry, prose, basic fundamentals of exposition and characterization, and, ultimately, walk away from this class with a completed, published novel or collection of works (short stories or poems).

# **Mathematics**

## **Honors Entrance Criteria:**

1. At least a B in previous math class.
2. Teacher Recommendation.

## **AP Entrance Criteria:**

1. At least a 3.5 GPA for all math classes.
2. Teacher Recommendation.

## **Pre-Algebra**

**1 Credit**

This is a two semester math course that is designed to reinforce basic pre-algebra concepts and prepare students for success in an Algebra 1 course. We will review integers and expressions, and then continue with solving, writing, and graphing linear equations, roots and exponents, and finish with basic geometry principles. 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:** Approval from the HS Skills Center Coordinator.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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 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 (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:** Algebra II

## **Math Applications**

**1 Credit**

This course is designed to prepare students for understanding how to recognize and use the concepts of mathematics and logic in many real world avenues. mathematics to solve real world problems. 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. Topics include Inductive and deductive reasoning, estimation, word problems and problem solving, linear equations, quadratic equations, exponential equations, basic probability, odds and expectations, compound probability, permutations and combinations, budgeting, financing

education, stock market (Investments), simple interest and loans, compound interest, credit cards, taxes, sampling techniques, methods for collecting data, measures of central tendency, measures of dispersion, percentile, normal distributions.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II

## Science

### **Environmental Science**

**1 Credit**

Environmental Science is an investigation of the systems at work in the natural world God has provided for our use. Key sections of this course include the water cycle, water quality and availability, soil composition and contamination, and the diverse biotic communities (biomes) on planet Earth. Interactions between these biotic and abiotic components within ecosystems are of particular importance. Additionally, students will learn about Biblical stewardship of these environmental resources. Throughout the course, focus is directed at building reading and writing skills as well as graphing and data analysis.

### **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. Strong reading, writing, math reasoning skills are recommended for successful completion of this course.

**Note:** Strength in writing, and logic/math reasoning is recommended for freshmen taking this course.

### **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, 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 every other year.***

**Prerequisite:** Biology and Chemistry

### **Geology**

**0.5 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, plate tectonics, rocks and minerals, and mapping. Students will participate in labs to explore geologic concepts. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand various geologic concepts, identify common rocks and minerals, and create topographic maps.

***This course is one semester and is taken alongside Space Science.***

**Prerequisite:** Biology

## **Space Science**

**0.5 Credit**

Students will investigate our own planet and characteristics that make it ideal for life--e.g. gravity, atmosphere, location within the solar system. Study will study the moon, other natural and artificial satellites, our sun, other stars, the planets in our solar system and beyond. Galaxies, black holes, dark matter and other phenomena will be addressed as well as the history and future of space exploration. Understanding that "the Heavens declare God's glory" is part of God's revelation to us.

***This course is one semester and is taken alongside Geology.***

## **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**

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. Students taking honors chemistry will be expected to perform above and beyond in laboratory experiments, including doing outside research on various chemistry topics.

**Prerequisite:** Algebra I and teacher approval

## **AP Chemistry**

**1 Credit**

AP Chemistry is designed to prepare students for future advanced chemistry

courses with a college-level foundation. This course will cover previous chemistry topics in greater depth, as well as delve into acids/bases, intermolecular forces, kinetics, and thermodynamics. This course is heavily based on experimentation, so students will be expected to keep a lab notebook.

***This course is offered every other year.***

**Prerequisite: 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 and World History

# Social Sciences

## Honors Entrance Criteria:

1. Teacher Recommendation.

## AP Entrance Criteria:

1. Teacher Recommendation.

## World History

**1 Credit**

World History is a year-long course. The narrative of world history from the 15th 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 world belief systems, interregional interactions, revolutions in thought, industry and nations, economic systems, imperialism, war, and globalization. In this course, students will develop and hone their ability to engage essential questions and dialogue and debate with their peers through Socratic seminar.

## 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.

## Mock Trial

**1 Credit**

Mock Trial is a  $\frac{3}{4}$  year course but which awards  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit for public speaking and  $\frac{1}{2}$  credit for creative arts. The rigor of this class merits a total of one full credit as it 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.

***This course satisfies the speech and debate requirement for graduation.***

### **Government/Civics**

**0.5 Credit**

Civics is a ½ year course. The study of civics promotes knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary for informed, responsible participation in public life and a rapidly changing world. Responsible citizens demonstrate civic engagement when they address public problems individually and collaboratively and when they maintain, strengthen, and improve their communities and society. As children of Christ's kingdom, 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.

### **Honors Government/Civics**

**0.5 Credit**

All coursework as explained in Government/Civics with the addition of an American Politics summative, developed over the course of the semester, which includes:

- Application of Biblical principles to politics, and identification of historic Christian views on politics
- Summary of the principles upon which the United States was founded and a differentiation among the principles and powers of the Constitutional system of US government
- Evaluation of competing ideas of justice, equality, and liberty
- Analysis and evaluation of the major political ideologies, as well as how they affect contemporary political debates and issues
- Understanding of the importance of a Biblical view of human nature to the American political experience

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

## **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.

## **Honors Economics**

**0.5 Credit**

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. The honors section of this course will go into greater depth in regards to economic policy throughout the semester. Students will be required to complete an additional summative



project that discusses economists' theories and the relevance of those theories in the current state of the United States economic system. Honors students will also be required to research key economic components through current news and report to the class the application of mentioned concepts.

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

### **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.

***This course satisfies the speech and debate requirement for graduation.***

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

### **Summer Interdisciplinary Program (Humanities)**

**1 Credit**

Proposing that meaningful and lasting learning often takes place outside of the classroom, the two week 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. As history repeats itself (Eccles 1:9) because we are all sinful (Rom 3:10), we explore

comparative worldviews, liberal arts as a means of connecting truth, and cultural diversity.

**Prerequisite:** Biology and World History

## 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 on understanding the Christian influence and response to some of the major current events of the day, including politics, 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**

**1 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.

## **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

### **German I**

**1 Credit**

This course is an introduction to the study of the German 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 German 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 friends.

### **German II**

**1 Credit**

This course is a 2nd level study of the German 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 German 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. Upon completion, students should be able to genuinely create friendships and professional relationships with German speakers.

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

## **Chinese I**

**1 Credit**

This course is an introduction to the study of the Mandarin language and various Chinese 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. (Emphasis is placed more on listening, speaking, and reading characters for the first semester). 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 Chinese 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 friends.

# Physical Education

## **Freshmen P.E.**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to provide freshmen 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.

## **Health**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to provide freshmen with an overview of the four aspects of total wellness – the spiritual, mental, social, and physical. A Biblical foundation is presented as a foundation to the course goals to: Learn the importance of personal care; Appreciate the significance of being a temple of God; Recognize the responsibility of being a good steward of oneself; Establish and nurture good relationships; Develop and use proper motor skills and increase physical understanding; Develop a Biblical worldview of health; and develop a healthy lifestyle in each area of total wellness studied.

## **Strength and Conditioning**

**0.5 Credit**

The aim of this course is to provide a framework for students to design and implement life-long habits that relate to strength and conditioning. Life is hard! In this course, students will learn to struggle and overcome obstacles as they relate to physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Students will learn weightlifting, plyometrics, agility, and conditioning exercises, all designed to glorify God with their bodies.

## **Technology**

### **AP Computer Science Principles**

**1 Credit**

This is an 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.

## **Life Skills**

### **Chapel**

**1 Credit**

This course is designed for those who wish to enhance their artistic talents to glorify Jesus, or those who are considering vocational ministry, or enjoy

audio/visual effects, or wish to be trained to lead and develop other leaders as well. The design and purpose of Chapel Class is to develop a student-led worship service model. Students will be trained and mentored in every aspect of leading Christ-honoring worship gatherings. Students' roles will include serving on various teams, such as music, drama, arts, teaching and preaching, administration and oversight, audio and visual, and other creative outlets from which to present the Good News of Jesus Christ in a congregational setting.

### **Speech and Debate**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to give students the skills and confidence to articulate a position, discuss a topic, land an interview, or have a conversation. Focal points include organization of thoughts and content, timing, transitions, as well as non-verbal components of effective oral communication. Attention is paid to reducing the anxiety of public speaking while developing articulate, organized and engaging speakers.

### **Personal Finance**

**1 Credit**

Personal finance is designed to equip students in developing a deeper understanding of the mathematics of finance to include: money management, risk management and financial planning related to consumer and family studies, career and technical education and personal finance. The emphasis will be on refining problem-solving skills using project-based learning activities and academic integration within the context of financial applications.

### **Senior Expo**

**0.5 Credit**

This is a one to two year capstone project for our graduates. Senior Expo is an integrated learning experience where students have the opportunity to apply their Christian Worldview and various skills they have acquired at DCS to address a real world issue of personal interest that puts them in contact with the world around them. Given autonomy, self-directed learning, and 21st Century skills, students identify a need and address it, culminating in an oral defense of their work.

# Fine Arts

## Visual Fine Arts

### Art I

**0.5 Credit**

Art I is a beginner's introduction to the fundamentals of art, focusing on the Elements of Art. This includes line, shape, form, value, texture, color and space. 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.

### Art II

**0.5 Credit**

Art II is an extension of Art I where students will be focusing on the Principles of Design. This includes pattern, contrast, balance, emphasis, movement, proportion and unity. Students will explore these topics through both two-dimensional and three-dimensional mediums. 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.

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

### 2D Art

**0.5 Credit**

2D Art is an intermediate level course where students will specifically be utilizing two-dimensional media only. This includes pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, oil paint, acrylic, watercolor, collage, and digital design. 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:** Art I and Art II.

### 3D Art

**0.5 Credit**

3D Art is an intermediate level course where students will specifically be utilizing three-dimensional media only. This includes 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:** Art I, Art II, and 2D Art or teacher approval

### **Yearbook**

**0.5 Credit**

Yearbook is an 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.

### **Photography I**

**0.5 Credit**

Photo I 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**

**0.5 Credit**

Photo II 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.

### **Photography III**

**0.5 Credit**

Photo III furthers work in their personal style of photography, moving away from the basics of composition, aperture, exposure, light, and tonal range, attempting more creative methods of construction of light. Students will utilize their developing skills to give back to the local community in the setting of

missionary work, e.g., portraiture for Gospel Rescue Mission, assisted living homes, and animal shelters. 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 II

### **Photography IV**

**0.5 Credit**

Photo IV focuses on the compilation of the photographer's portfolio. Students will focus on adding any work that they specifically feel will make their portfolio more well-rounded as well as developing their own presets. Students will complete their portfolio on their own website that they will design.

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

**Prerequisite:** Photography III

## **Performing Fine Arts - Instrumental**

### **Instrumental Music/Band/Orchestra I**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to introduce students to reading music, playing an instrument of choice, 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.

**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

### **Instrumental Music/Band/Orchestra II**

**0.5 Credit**

This course is designed to further students' love for music and excellence in their ability to play their instrument. Through intermediate music choices, community performances, and leadership opportunities within the Band program, Instrumental Music/Band II students will continue to read music, perform and lead their music section in rehearsals. Instrument experience and knowledge of music theory is required to join this course.

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

**Prerequisite:** Instrumental Music/Band/Orchestra I or Teacher Approval

## Performing Fine Arts - Choral

### Concert Choir

**0.5 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

**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!

### **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.