



# HIGH SCHOOL COURSE SELECTION GUIDE

Academic Year  
2024-2025

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## Graduation Requirements

GCS offers two programs of study for high school students. The Required Program includes the standard number of credits students must earn in order to graduate from GCS corresponding to the Distinguished Level of Achievement under the Texas Foundation Program with a Multidisciplinary Studies Endorsement. The Prestigious Scholar Program requires additional courses and advanced measures for students pursuing a more rigorous, college-preparatory curriculum.

<u>Subject Area</u>	<u>Required Program</u>	<u>Prestigious Scholar Program</u>
Bible	1/year	1/year
English	4	4
History	4	4
Math	4	4
Science	4	4
Foreign Language	2	3
Physical Education	1	1
Fine Arts	1	1
Speech	0.5	0.5
Elective	1.5	1.5
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27 (at least 4 adv measures)</b>

Prestigious Scholar Program:

- Valedictorian and Salutatorian will be selected from among the Prestigious Scholars. While other students may rank high in their graduating class after completing the required program, they will not be eligible for Valedictorian or Salutatorian recognition.
- The successful completion of at least four advanced measures, including all courses designated as AP® and ADV.

In the event that special circumstances prohibit a student from completing the Required Program, the student and parents should meet with the high school Principal and Guidance Counselor to discuss any specific circumstances or needs.

Students in 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grade are required to have eight regularly-scheduled courses. Students in 11<sup>th</sup> grade must have at least six courses, and students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade must have at least five courses, four of which must be academic classes.

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## Typical High School Schedule

### 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

1. Bible 9
2. English 9
3. History 9
4. Math (Algebra 1 or Geometry)
5. Science (Biology)
6. Spanish 1
7. Fine Art/Speed & Strength
8. Study Hall/Elective (see below)

### 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

1. Bible 11
2. English 11
3. U.S. History
4. Math
5. Science
6. Elective (see below)
7. Elective (see below)

### 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

1. Bible 10
2. English 10
3. History 10
4. Math (Geometry or Algebra 2)
5. Science (Chemistry)
6. Spanish 2
7. Fine Art/Speed & Strength
8. Study Hall/Elective (see below)

### 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

1. Bible 12
2. English 12
3. Government/Economics
4. Math
5. Science
6. Elective (see below)
7. Elective (see below)

### Elective options

#### FINE ARTS (1 credit required)

- Art 1 (9-12)
- Art 2 (10-12)
- Art 3 (11-12)
- Ceramics 1 (9-12)
- Ceramics 2 (10-12)
- Concert Choir (9-12)
- Concert Band (9-12)
- Philharmonic Orchestra (9-12)
- Intro to Theater (9-12)
- Technical Theater (9-12)
- Theater (9-12)

#### SPEECH (0.5 credit required)

- Speech DC\* (11-12)
- Speech\* (11-12)

#### PE (1 credit required)

- Speed & Strength (9-12)

#### FOREIGN LANGUAGE

- Spanish 3 Honors (10-12)
- Spanish 4 Honors (12)

#### ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

- Applied Science (12)
- Engineering Survey (12)
- Video Production (9-12)
- Yearbook (9-12)
- Human Geography AP®
- Bible Electives (11-12)

\* Denotes courses that are one semester in length.

**Four-Year Planning Worksheet** (BOLDED courses are required for graduation)

	<b>Credits</b> R = Required P = Prestigious	<b>Freshman</b>	<b>Sophomore</b>	<b>Junior</b>	<b>Senior</b>
<b>BIBLE</b>	<b>4 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>Bible 9</b>	<b>Bible 10</b>	<b>Bible 11</b> <b>Bible Elective</b>	<b>Bible 12</b> <b>Bible Elective</b>
<b>HUMANITIES</b>	<b>4 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>English 9</b>	<b>English 10</b>	<b>English 11</b> English 11 AP®	<b>English 12</b> English 12 DC English 12 AP®
	<b>4 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>History 9</b>	<b>History 10</b> World History AP®	<b>U.S. History</b> U.S. History DC	<b>Econ &amp; U.S. Gov't</b> Econ & U.S. Gov't AP®
<b>LOTE</b>	<b>2 - R</b> <b>3 - P</b>	<b>Spanish 1</b>	<b>Spanish 2</b>	Spanish 3 H	Spanish 4 H
<b>SCIENCE</b>	<b>4 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>Biology 1</b> Biology 1 H	<b>Chemistry</b> Chemistry H	<b>Choose at least one:</b> Physics Physics H Chemistry AP® Anatomy & Physiology ADV Biology DC	<b>Choose at least one:</b> Chemistry AP® Physics or Physics H Physics AP® Forensics Anatomy & Physiology ADV Biology DC Engineering Survey Applied Science
<b>MATH</b>	<b>4 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>Algebra 1</b>  <b>Geometry</b>  Geometry H	<b>Geometry</b> Geometry H <b>Algebra 2</b>  Algebra 2 H	<b>Algebra 2</b> Algebra 2 H Algebraic Reasoning  Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus H/DC	Financial Math Algebraic Reasoning Pre-Calculus Pre-Calculus H/DC ADV Statistics DC Calculus AP®
<b>OTHER ELECTIVES</b>	<b>R &amp; P</b> <b>1 - Fine Arts</b> <b>0.5 - Speech</b> <b>1.5</b> <b>Electives</b>	Art Ceramics Choir Band Orchestra Intro to Theater Tech Theater Theater Yearbook Video Production Human Geog AP® Study Hall	Art Ceramics Choir Band Orchestra Intro to Theater Tech Theater Theater Yearbook Video Production Human Geog AP® Study Hall	<b>Speech</b> Speech DC  Fine Art:  Elective:	<b>Speech</b> Speech DC  Fine Art:  Elective:
<b>ATHLETICS/ PE</b>	<b>1.0 - R &amp; P</b>	<b>Speed &amp; Strength</b> Sport:	Speed & Strength Sport:	Speed & Strength Sport: PE Alt:	Speed & Strength Sport: PE Alt:

## **Scheduling with College in Mind**

There are a number of ways to earn college credit while still in high school. Whether it is wise for a student to do so depends on a number of factors, and it is highly recommended to meet with a guidance professional before making your decision.

### **1. Advanced Placement® courses**

Advanced Placement® courses are taught at the college level and offer the opportunity to demonstrate subject mastery through an AP® exam. The exam is not mandatory, but it is the only way college credit can be granted. Each college or university makes its own decisions about awarding credit and placement. Scores range from 1 (lowest) to 5 (highest), usually with a score of 3, 4, or 5 necessary for college credit. AP® exams cost \$98 each and are administered at Grace in May.

Advantages: Saving costs on college tuition; taking fewer courses in the college years; taking challenging courses while still in high school; getting a feel for what college-level material is like.

Disadvantages: Taking the AP® exam does not guarantee college credit since each college has unique policies; AP® courses are more difficult and usually require more time for study.

### **2. CLEP exams\***

Through the College Level Exam Program by College Board, high school students may be able to skip basic college courses if they have taken rigorous high school classes. CLEP tests are computerized tests administered by appointment at the TJC Testing Center and cost about \$89 each. As with AP® exams, CLEP exams are not automatically accepted at all colleges. Check with the colleges you are considering or go to [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) to find CLEP policies at specific schools. It is wise to take a CLEP test immediately upon completion of the high school subject course. CLEP exams are available in a wide range of subject areas.

Advantages: Saving costs on college tuition; taking fewer courses in the college years.

Disadvantages: Taking the CLEP exam does not guarantee college credit. Students may be disadvantaged in higher-level college classes if they do not participate in the entry-level courses.

#### 4. Dual credit courses

Select courses in the 2024-2025 school year will be offered by GCS through our partnership with East Texas Baptist University in which students will be able to enroll simultaneously for high school and college credit. In most cases, students will earn 3 college credit hours and 0.5 high school credit during a semester-long dual credit course taught by a Grace instructor. Biology and Pre-Calculus will count as 4 credit hours for the year. Students must meet admission/testing requirements and pay tuition, supplies, and books for each course in which they choose to enroll.

Anticipated dual credit classes at Grace for 2023-2024 include:

**ETBU** – Biology 1406, English 1301, English 2321, History 1301, History 1302, Math 1342, Math 1425 and Speech 1315

Advantages: Reducing costs on college tuition; taking fewer courses in the college years; gaining early exposure to college-level material.

Disadvantages: Taking a dual credit course does not guarantee a college will grant credit toward your degree plan; poor performance in the dual credit course may adversely affect the college GPA.

Contact the guidance office for more details, and most importantly, **check with your prospective colleges to find out which courses will transfer.** One helpful resource for transfer information on all colleges in Texas can be found at [www.tccns.org](http://www.tccns.org).

#### 5. Early Admission Program at Tyler Junior College\*

Grace students may take classes at TJC, with permission, after the sophomore year. These courses may be taken on the TJC campus during the summer, after school, at night, or online. Detailed information about Early Admission is available in the TJC Dual Credit office and the GCS guidance office. **Courses taken at TJC by early admission students will not count for high school credit and are not listed on the GCS transcript.**

	Dual Credit	AP® Credit	CLEP Test
<b>Cost</b>	\$300-\$400	\$98	\$89
<b>Assured College Credit?</b>	Yes, but must pass and check college/major	No, must score high enough on the test	No, must pass and check college/major
<b>Assured College Credit for a specific course?</b>	No, but usually at least as an elective credit	Yes, if score is high enough	Yes, if score is high enough
<b>Is there a way to find out, in advance, if this credit will be accepted?</b>	Yes, check college and major	Yes, check with college	Yes, check with college
<b>Does this require extra study time?</b>	No	Yes	Yes
<b>When is this taken?</b>	At GCS (your class doubles for high school and college)	In May at GCS – specific dates TBA	On your own time -- whenever you feel ready

**\*To maintain our biblical distinctive, all courses required for graduation must be taken at GCS.**

## **2024-2025 Course Descriptions**

**H** = Accelerated course designed to prepare students for an Advanced Placement® course. GPA weighting of 3 points.

**DC** = Dual Credit – College-level course offered at GCS awarding both high school and college credit.

**AP®** = Advanced Placement® – Rigorous, college-level course approved by the College Board. AP® exams are administered on the GCS campus in May but are not required. GPA weighting of 5 points.

**ADV** = Advanced – Rigorous, college-level course not affiliated with the College Board. GPA weighting of 5 points.

### **BIBLE**

#### **1 credit required for each year of attendance at GCS**

##### **Bible 9 (The Story of Scripture)** (2 Semesters; 1 credit)

This course introduces students to the metanarrative of scripture. With an emphasis on Genesis and Exodus, students learn the basic building blocks of biblical narrative. They'll learn to recognize common literary patterns that show how Bible stories relate to each other. These stories will collectively reveal the way ancient Israelites understood the relationship between the spiritual and material realms. Students will discover how patterns in the Exodus story enrich our understanding of salvation. This course will empower students with practical ways to live more faithfully as followers of Jesus Christ.

##### **Bible 10 (The Life of Christ)** (2 Semesters; 1 credit)

This course helps students become familiar with the pattern of Jesus' life and teaching as presented in the four Gospel accounts in scripture. Students build on their ability to read and interpret biblical narrative by learning distinctive features of the Gospel genre. Students will reflect on Christ's example of obedience to the Father and His pattern of making disciples as a model for their own lives. Their study of Christ is also framed by the second article of the Nicene Creed which affirms the deity, humanity, virgin birth, crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorious return, future judgment, and everlasting kingdom of Jesus Christ.

##### **Bible 11 (The Message of the Prophets)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

This course introduces students to the ministry of biblical prophets and the basic message of the Old Testament prophetic writings. Students will develop a more integrated understanding of Israel's national history as the context for Israel's prophets. Students will reflect on major themes in the writings of the prophets, especially selections from Isaiah, Zephaniah and Psalms. Students will discover how prophecy in the Old Testament anticipates the life and ministry of Christ. The ministry and message of the biblical prophets will challenge students to consider what covenant faithfulness looks like in their own lives and to pursue integrity in their relationship with Christ.



**Bible 12 (Christian Living in a Secular Age)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

This course helps students to integrate their understanding of the biblical metanarrative, focusing on the Nicene Creed as an organizing principle for reality and life. The class will focus on the triune God and His work in both the Old and New Testament and in our lives. Students reflect on the personal and communal implications of Christian faith for politics, family, education, vocation, sexuality, and technology. Furthermore, we hope the course helps students to create a Christian cosmology to live by, rooting themselves in the historic expressions of the faith. The course will also explore Genesis, The Psalms, and the Gospels as an explanatory framework for the Creed.

**Juniors and Seniors must choose one of the following to fulfill a full Bible credit:**

**Bible Elective (Hard Topics in the Bible)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

This elective gives students the opportunity to practice faithful engagement with culture. Students discuss contemporary objections to Christianity and other difficult topics. They learn how to respond to those objections with conviction and compassion. For their final project, students will create a video addressing a hard (controversial) topic. They must present their topic by covering the main objections and the proper Christians response using the bible, science, and logic. The video is designed to be a resource for their peers. This elective is available for juniors and seniors.

**Bible Elective (Christ and Culture)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

How should Christians faithfully engage with culture? The deep hope of this course is that students will learn how to discern what is good, beautiful, and true in order to cultivate and create a faithful culture. Students will explore this question by reading Scripture alongside works from Christian thinkers such as Richard Neibuhr, C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, and others. We will analyze cultural artifacts including art, music, and film in an attempt to better understand how culture can both reflect and distort God's truth. The course is heavily discussion based and is available as an elective for juniors and seniors.

**Bible Elective (Miracles & Mysteries)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

Bible stories are more wonderful and strange than you know. In this course we'll discover what miracles show us about the mysterious nature of God's cosmos and God's redemptive work in it. We'll trace important symbols and themes in the book of Revelation. And we'll discover what these miracles and mysteries reveal about how to live faithfully as a follower of Jesus Christ. This elective is available for juniors and seniors.

**Bible Elective (Spiritual Disciplines)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit)

This elective helps students deepen their understanding of the spiritual disciplines as a way to cultivate love for God and for others. Students will practice and reflect on disciplines including prayer, fasting, reading scripture, service, worship, and confession.

**Bible Elective (Chapel Practicum)** (1 Semester; 0.5 credit) Teacher approval

This elective gives students the opportunity to serve the school community by planning breakout sessions, student chapels, and legacy events. Students also provide resources for Life Group meetings and spiritual formation discussions. This elective is available for juniors and seniors and may be taken multiple times.

## **HUMANITIES**

**English – 4 credits required**

**History – 4 credits required**

In grades 9, 10, and 11, history and English curricula are combined in a humanities approach as an introduction to our rich heritage of Western Civilization. Freshmen study ancient literature along with ancient world history (Creation to Renaissance), and sophomores do the same with modern world history and literature (Reformation to present). Juniors combine a study of American literature with American history.

### **ENGLISH 9 (Literature of the Humanities I)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Literature of the Humanities I provides a thorough introduction to the primary genres of literature, poetry, prose, and drama, represented by various literary selections. The mission of the class lies in further educating students in the discipline of seeking truth through literary texts; in other words, poetry is a mode of knowledge that has the power to show us who we are and what we ought to be. In the discipline of reading, students will continue to cultivate the skills of close reading and interpretation by immersing themselves into the great works of literature from the classical tradition of the West and by connecting the imagery of the poetic world to the landscape of history. The course follows a chronological structure in regards to literature that seeks to explore and integrate historical, political, theological, and artistic considerations along with literary analysis. Works studied span from the early Greek era through the late Medieval and early Renaissance period. In the discipline of writing, students will work to enhance their rhetorical skills through critical thinking, logic, and persuasion. This course also offers a review of grammar, provides a solid foundation for formulating well-written, multi-paragraph essays, and introduces the elements of research culminating in a research paper. Students are required to read various literary selections and write literary analyses over several works.

### **ENGLISH 10 (Literature of the Humanities II)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Literature of the Humanities II provides a challenging approach to the study of classic pieces of literature, including prose, poetry and drama. Coinciding with world history, the works span from the latter half of the Renaissance to Modern Times and focus primarily on the historical influences of the Age of Exploration, the Reformation, the Enlightenment, the French Revolution, industrialization, imperialism, the Russian Revolution, and World War II. Along with five required novels, other works studied consist of various essays, poems, and short stories. Students participate in an in-depth analysis of each work studied and are expected to participate in discussion of the text. Students produce literature-based papers and are guided and monitored through an advanced researching process that produces a culminating research paper coinciding with a historical time period. Students are constantly challenged as Christians to evaluate “What is truth?” in the light of varied philosophies presented in literature.

**ENGLISH 11** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

This course provides a challenging approach to the study of American literature from the colonial period through the post-modern period. While reading and evaluating American literature, students will examine how growth and changes in American government, industry, society, and culture influenced writers of each era. Emphasis is placed on writing skills, grammar in writing, critical thinking, persuasive styles and techniques, and literary analysis. Required reading includes four novels. Various poems, essays, and short stories are also required reading. Most writing assignments are literature-based or history/literature-based, including a research paper.

**ENGLISH 11 AP® (English Language and Composition)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Previous grades, approval from English department, parental approval, and completion of the summer reading and writing assignment.

The AP® Language curriculum is designed to build a student's skills, understanding, and discipline in reading, writing, and critical thinking through a variety of classic and modern literature. Much of the literature in this course is nonfiction. While reading and evaluating American literature from colonial times through the present, students will examine how growth and changes in American government, industry, society, and culture influenced writers of each era; however, the focus of this course is to develop and hone close-reading skills. Students will write extensively in the MLA typed format and handwritten work while mastering literary elements. It is important to note that students taking this class should be competent in reading comprehension, solid in composition, and must meet all Humanities department recommendation requirements. Students are expected to read at least one book and complete a corresponding packet of requirements for each book during the summer. Most reading for this class is homework, thus not done during class. Emphasis is placed on persuasive styles and techniques, literary analysis, and synthesis. Students will also complete a history/literature-based research paper as well as coursework designated on the class syllabus

**ENGLISH 12 DC\* (ENGL 1301, ENGL 2321)** (2 semesters; 1 HS credit; 6 college credit hours)

This course provides an intensive study of British literature ranging from the Old English period to the Modern period and beyond. It is reading and writing intensive. Fall semester is primarily a writing course (ENGL 1301) with literature woven throughout, and spring semester is a literature course (ENGL 2321) with writing woven throughout. We work concurrently with the senior-level government class to collaborate on joint projects that push students to integrate their learning from both disciplines and to practice skills that will aid them in becoming virtuous citizens of the City of God and the city of man.

**ENGL 1301 (RHETORIC AND COMPOSITION I)**

Intensive study of and practice in writing processes, from invention and researching to drafting, revising, and editing, both individually and collaboratively. Emphasis on effective rhetorical choices, including audience, purpose, arrangement, medium, genre and style. Focus on writing the academic essay as a vehicle for learning, communicating, and critical analysis. Literature spans Old English era to Renaissance.

### ENGL 2321 (BRITISH LITERATURE)

This college sophomore level survey course will explore the Romantic, Victorian, and Twentieth Century periods of English literature. To facilitate a complete understanding of the writings and poetry, we study the historical events that coincide and inform the texts such as the French Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, the rise and fall of the British Empire, world wars, and approaches to social concerns such as faith, class, ethnicity, and gender within literary discourse.

\*Course requirements are the same for all students, whether they are enrolled for dual credit or not.

### **ENGLISH 12 AP® (ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Previous grades, approval from English department, parental approval, and completion of the summer reading and writing assignment.

This college-level course centers on literary analysis and criticism of classical texts, primarily British literature, along with a selection of in-class novels. Students study numerous texts in depth, write essays in MLA style, master literary and poetic terminology, and apply all knowledge to timed exams and essays. It is reading and writing intensive with one outside novel read during the year leading to a literary analysis; an examination of four styles of writing, resulting in formal essays, as well as several creative pieces throughout the year; and an MLA-documented research paper examining a thematic purpose of two classic British literature novels then establishing an argumentative thesis defended by primary and secondary sources. Students taking this class should be competent in reading comprehension and solid in composition skills, as well as meet all Humanities department recommendation requirements. Students are expected to read at least one novel/play and complete a corresponding packet of requirements for each during the summer, read seven additional novels/plays as in-class works, as well as coursework designated on the class syllabus.

### **HISTORY 9 (ANCIENT WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

This course covers the beginning of recorded history through the Renaissance. The history, literature, geography, religion, culture, and art of each civilization are studied. The classical Greek and Roman roots of Western culture are highlighted, along with a study of major world religions and their influence on today's society.

### **HISTORY 10 (MODERN WORLD HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY)** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Beginning with the Reformation and continuing through the present age, this class examines the past events that have shaped our present world. A fully integrated study of political and church history, geography, music, literature, and art focuses primarily on our European heritage.

### **WORLD HISTORY AP® (2 semesters; 1 credit)**

AP World History: Modern is an introductory college-level modern world history course. Students cultivate their understanding of world history from c. 1200 CE to the present through analyzing historical sources and learning to make connections and craft historical arguments as they explore concepts like humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

### **U.S. HISTORY DC\* (HIST 1301, HIST 1302)** (2 semesters; 1 HS credit; 6 hrs college credit)

This course begins with the colonization of North America, focuses on this nation's Christian heritage of self-government, and spans the entire length of American history, including the current events that impact the students of today. Using primary sources, the ideals that formed America's core values are thoroughly examined.

\*Course requirements are the same for all students, whether they are enrolled for dual credit or not.

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS** (1 semester; 0.5 credit)

American Government is a study of the origins, institutions, and policies of national, state, and local government in the United States. The course promotes better citizenship through understanding and appreciation of American self-government. Students will also become familiar with the various Judeo/Christian influences on the development of the U.S. government, as well as the role of virtue in the success of a republic.

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT & POLITICS AP®** (1 semester; 0.5 credit)

Prerequisites: Completion of U.S History or AP® U.S. History, teacher approval, parental approval, and completion of the summer reading and writing assignment.

AP® Government is a college-level course in which students will be presented with an analytical perspective on government and politics in the U.S. This course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. It also requires a familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute U.S. government and politics. Students will become acquainted with the variety of theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. Students will also become familiar with the various Judeo/Christian influences on the development of the U.S. government, as well as the role of virtue in the success of a republic.

### **ECONOMICS** (1 semester; 0.5 credit)

Free Enterprise and Economics is designed to provide young adults with an understanding of individual and national economic decisions and their consequences. Students will study opportunity costs, supply and demand, microeconomics, government policy, macroeconomics, foreign trade, and personal finance, including a personal financial responsibility unit. Students will be challenged to engage government, politics, and economics as a disciple of Jesus Christ to better understand the role and obligations of a Christian in a pluralistic and capitalist society.

# MATHEMATICS

## 4 credits required

\*Required courses are Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, and additional math credit.

**Calculator Policy:** **ALL STUDENTS** are required to bring a graphing calculator, such as the TI-84 or TI-NSPIRE, to all high school math classes.

### **ALGEBRA 1** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Algebra 1 is the foundation for all future mathematics courses. Topics covered include the number system, functionality, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, combining and factoring polynomials, and solving and graphing basic quadratic equations. Graphing calculators are used periodically to increase students' understanding by comparing algebraic and graphical representations.

### **GEOMETRY** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

In Geometry, students explore the properties of various geometric figures and the concepts of congruence and similarity. These topics will include application of area, volume, basic trigonometry, transformations, logic and proofs.

### **GEOMETRY HONORS** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Satisfactory grades in Algebra 1 and teacher approval

Geometry H is an in-depth study that moves at a faster pace than Geometry. Students will explore the properties of various geometric figures and the concepts of congruence and similarity. These topics will include application of area, volume, basic trigonometry, transformations, logic and proofs.

### **ALGEBRA 2** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry

The Algebra 2 content is designed to extend the concepts presented in Algebra 1 and Geometry and to explore a variety of functions. Time will be spent studying polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic and trigonometric functions, matrices and conics (as time allows).

### **ALGEBRA 2 HONORS** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Satisfactory grades in Algebra 1 and Geometry and teacher approval

Algebra 2 H is an in-depth study that moves at a faster pace than Algebra 2. The Algebra 2 content is designed to extend the concepts presented in Algebra 1 and Geometry, and to explore a variety of functions. Time will be spent studying polynomial, rational, exponential and logarithmic and trigonometric functions, matrices and conics.

**FINANCIAL MATH** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

This full year financial math course covers all of the essential personal finance topics necessary to become a financially faithful steward. Topics include banking, credit, budgeting, investing, taxes, philanthropy, and insurance. By the end of this course, students will have a thorough understanding of personal finance topics and be prepared to handle the financial responsibilities that exist after graduation.

**ALGEBRAIC REASONING** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Algebraic Reasoning is designed to extend a student's understanding of algebraic concepts studied in Algebra 1 and Algebra 2. The primary focus of the course will be on functions including linear, quadratic, square root, rational, cubic, cube root, exponential, absolute value, and logarithmic. Students will use technological tools, real world examples, and data throughout the course to improve their algebraic reasoning. This course is designed as an alternative to Pre-Calculus after Algebra 2.

**PRE-CALCULUS** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Satisfactory grades in Algebra 2 and departmental approval

Pre-Calculus is an in-depth study of the various families of mathematical functions, their properties, and their graphs. Additional topics include trigonometry, sequences and series, probability, conic sections, and an introduction to limits of a function. This course is designed to move at a slower pace than the Honors option.

**PRE-CALCULUS HONORS / DC (MATH 1425)** (2 semesters; 1 HS credit; 3 college credit hrs)

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 H and departmental approval

This course will focus on the study of elementary functions and their graphs including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and trigonometric functions. Emphasis will also be placed on the use of graphing calculators, complex numbers, mathematical modeling, and the mathematics of finance.

**ADV STATISTICS DC (MATH 1342)** (1 semester; 0.5 HS credit; 3 college credit hours)

Prerequisites: Algebra 2 and departmental approval

Adv Statistics DC will introduce students to the major concepts and tools used for the presentation and interpretation of data, probability, sampling, correlation and regression, analysis of variance, and the use of statistical software. It will allow students to receive both high school and college credit simultaneously. Students will be responsible for college registration fees and required software and/or books.

**CALCULUS AP<sup>®</sup>** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus and teacher approval

The AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus curriculum is designed to prepare students for the AP<sup>®</sup> Calculus AB exam given each May. Students study the major concepts of first-semester college Calculus, including limits, derivatives, and integration.

## **SCIENCE**

### **4 credits required**

\*Required courses are Biology, Chemistry, and two additional science credits.

#### **BIOLOGY 1** (Grade 9; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Biology 1 is a survey course in general biology emphasizing the life sciences as God created them. It is organized around five basic themes: cellular and molecular biology, taxonomy, natural history, scientific investigation and basic anatomy and physiology.

#### **BIOLOGY 1 HONORS** (Grade 9; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Biology 1 H is an accelerated survey course in general biology emphasizing the life sciences as God created them. It is organized around five basic themes: cellular and molecular biology, taxonomy, natural history, scientific investigation, and basic anatomy and physiology.

#### **CHEMISTRY** (Grade 10; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra 1

Chemistry is a survey course in general chemistry that seeks to develop an appreciation of God's creation and to help develop verbal and mathematical skills for describing natural events. General topics include matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, chemical kinetics and equilibrium. Projects and lab experiments are utilized to enhance the understanding of the concepts being discussed.

#### **CHEMISTRY HONORS** (Grade 10; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra 1; 80% or above in both classes.

Chemistry H is an accelerated survey course in general chemistry that seeks to develop an appreciation of God's creation and to help develop mathematical skills for describing natural events. General topics include matter, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, the periodic table, atomic structure, chemical bonding and intermolecular forces, chemical kinetics and equilibrium. Hands-on experience with lab experiments and analysis, enhance understanding of the concepts covered.

#### **CHEMISTRY AP<sup>®</sup>** (Grades 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra II Completed or Concurrent

AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry is the equivalent of a first-year college chemistry course that prepares students to take the AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry exam. It is a lab-based course which will include Stoichiometry, Chemical Kinetics, Equilibrium, Acid Base Equilibrium, Thermodynamics and Electrochemistry. Students must be strong in study habits, math, and critical thinking skills. The course will follow the guidelines for AP<sup>®</sup> Chemistry that are established by the College Board.



**PHYSICS** (Grade 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Physics is a conceptual course that explores a broad range of principles including introductory kinematics, Newtonian mechanics, projectile motion, conservation of momentum and energy, fluid and wave properties, electromagnetism, and a brief introduction to nuclear physics. Students receive experience in a laboratory setting and are challenged to think analytically, creatively, and critically.

**PHYSICS HONORS** (Grade 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, and strong math skills

Physics H covers the major topics found in a first-year college physics course. It is a lab-based course that includes the topics of mechanics, energy, matter, heat, sound and light, electricity, magnetism, and modern physics. Students must have a strong background in math and will be challenged to think critically and creatively.

**PHYSICS AP<sup>®</sup>** (Grade 12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Concurrent enrollment in Calculus and teacher approval

AP<sup>®</sup> Physics is the equivalent of a calculus-based, first-year college physics course that prepares students to take the AP<sup>®</sup> Physics C exam. It is a lab-based course which will include Newtonian and modern physics with sections of electricity and magnetism. Students must be strong in study habits, math, and critical thinking skills. Students will be in preparation mode for the AP<sup>®</sup> exam. A detailed lab book will be required, along with four projects.

**ADV BIOLOGY DC (BIOL 1406)** (Grades 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 HS credit; 4 college credit hours)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry and admission into the Dual Credit program

Adv Biology DC is the study of life at the cellular, microscopic level. It is the first part of a normal collegiate two-semester survey through the biological sciences that begins with atoms and ends with studies on ecosystems and the environment. Throughout this course, you will learn how scientists do science, and then you will see how these methods have been applied throughout the centuries of research in biology. The intricacies of life will be explored, from the smallest of subatomic particles to the most complex pathways of cellular energy metabolism to the molecules, DNA, and genes that control the expression of our inherited traits. Our time in this course and our examination of these details will show why all of creation glorifies God. This college-level course gives students the necessary background to succeed in a science-related field in college and/or provide college credit for a lab science course to students that are not planning to major in science.

**ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY** (Grades 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

In this course, students will explore the human body's major organ systems structures and functions. It is designed to help students gain an appreciation for the intricate design God used to create the human body and to educate students in how the body organ systems work to maintain the health of the individual. It is an upper-level course designed around three major unifying principles: 1) how organ systems work together to maintain a stable internal condition or homeostasis; 2) the way that structure and function complement one another and 3) the pathology or disease that results when the first two principles fail. This course is designed for students interested in pursuing a career in a medical profession or anyone who is interested in gaining an appreciation of how their own body is designed and functions.

**FORENSIC SCIENCE** (Grade 12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

Forensic Science is a course designed to develop and understand the techniques, problem solving skills and science behind forensics. Throughout the course, concepts from biology, chemistry, earth science, mathematics and physics will be explored as students investigate how forensic scientists utilize these disciplines to solve crimes. This is a lab-based class where students will be exposed to the following topics: crime scene investigation; collection, handling and examination of trace evidence such as hair, fibers, soil, pollen and glass; fingerprint, blood and blood splatter examination; DNA, drug, handwriting, and tool mark analysis; impressions, ballistics, forensic anthropology; and the cause and determination of death. This course is intended for students who are interested in a broad exposure to a variety of scientific disciplines and their applications in the study of criminology.

**APPLIED SCIENCE** \* (Grade 12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

This class is designed to answer the question: How does that work? From pixels to potato cannons, we will explore how scientific principles can be seen in everyday life. Students will be challenged with a variety of building projects including boats, carpentry, 3d printing, and more. The course will teach students how to use the engineering design process to address problems and turn their ideas into reality. Students will learn basic construction skills using powered and hand tools, additive manufacturing, and other simple manufacturing processes. Additionally, the course promotes an interest in and understanding of career opportunities in STEM related fields.

**ENGINEERING SURVEY** \* (Grade 12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Physics

This course is designed to teach students about the four main engineering disciplines (Mechanical, Electrical, Civil, and Chemical), types of jobs in the engineering world, and explore many interdisciplinary fields/careers. The technical content of the course will primarily draw from mechanical engineering and will extend students'

understanding of physics to engineering applications. Students will learn digital design work using vector graphic design and CAD software. They will practice project management skills, critical thinking, team leadership, budgeting, scheduling, and public speaking as they guide several projects through the stages of engineering development from concept to finished product.

\*Engineering courses may count as a 4th science credit or as an elective credit.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **1 credit required**

#### **ART 1 (INTRODUCTION TO ART)** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Introduction to Art is designed to take the beginner artist through the basic principles of art and elements of design. Students are given projects using color theory, design, and composition, with an emphasis on drawing, printmaking, and including a variety of other projects and media. Regular sketchbook assignments are required homework.

#### **ART 2 (INTERMEDIATE ART)** (Grade 10-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Art 1

Intermediate Art includes an in-depth study of visual perception and drawing as well as color theory and painting. Students will create challenging projects and learn to use the language of design in talking about their own and their peers' work. Meaningful investment in sketchbook homework is a significant component of the class.

#### **ART 3 (ADVANCED ART)** (Grade 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Art 1&2 and teacher approval

Advanced Art is a course for higher-level art students. Students will be guided through individual projects that will help them develop a visual language, a creative process, and a collaborative approach to thinking about, talking about and producing art. Students will be expected to independently generate a significant quantity of work quickly, and to be responsible for the completion of work for a deadline. Meaningful sketchbook work, gallery visits and critiques will be required. This is for art students interested in furthering their art studies to have a completed art portfolio for college or career.

#### **CERAMICS 1 (BEGINNING CERAMICS)** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Art 1 or taken concurrently with Art 1

In Ceramics 1, students will learn all the foundational skills for ceramic hand building that, once mastered, can be used to create an infinite variety of forms, both functional and non-functional. An emphasis on the elements and principles of design as they relate to 3-dimensional work is a strong component of this class. Students will create individual work that will be kiln-fired and glazed. Students will also be introduced to the historical context and contemporary applications of the medium.

**CERAMICS 2 (INTERMEDIATE CERAMICS)** (Grade 11-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Beginning Ceramics and teacher approval

Ceramics 2 is an intermediate course in which students will further explore and develop hand-building skills as they relate to the expression of ideas in abstraction. Students will also be introduced to basic wheel-throwing techniques. A rotation schedule will have students working alternately on these skills throughout the year. Students will view professional ceramic work and respond in writing, as well as participate in the semester's Art Gallery. May be repeated for credit.

**CONCERT CHOIR** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisite: Director approval based on previous year's artistic discipline and progress

The Concert Choir is for students who exhibit a serious interest in choir and a commitment to excellence in work ethic and attitude. Each student must purchase performance attire, and those making auditioned ensembles may have additional attire fees for optional show choirs. The Concert Choir will compete in TAPPS and TMEA competitions, as well as perform in community and school programs. Occasional outside-of-class practices will be scheduled prior to major performances, concerts, and TAPPS competition. Students desiring to excel in their musical abilities can earn the opportunity to audition for one of two small ensembles that will rehearse once a week, either after school or before school. These ensembles are The Cougar Chorale (a mixed ensemble, SATB), and The Tapestry Singers (an SSA ensemble.)

**CONCERT BAND** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Basic proficiency on instrument and music reading

The Concert Band explores various genres of music and performance, including ensemble performances at various events, competitions and concert performances. Jazz Band and Full Orchestra are auxiliary ensembles available to selected students from the Concert Band.

**PHILHARMONIC STRING ORCHESTRA** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Director approval based on previous year's performance and progress

The Philharmonic Orchestra will concentrate on advanced skills and repertoire. Students must already have a mastery of shifting, sight-reading, and intonation. Students are expected to prepare selected music for TAPPS and the TMEA All-Region audition process in the fall. The group has many school and community performance opportunities. Emphasis on helping the students prepare for college auditions is also an integral part of the class.

**INTRO TO THEATER** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Intro to Theater is a survey style class designed to introduce students to the various elements of theater and to familiarize them with the history that produces these elements. Students in this course will read, watch, discuss, and analyze historical and contemporary plays, as well as examine aesthetic concerns of the audience, playwright, performers, director, and designers. Students will also learn a basic foundation of technical theater: costume construction, sound and lighting design, hair and makeup design, set design. This class can also serve as a prerequisite to the Technical Theater class.

**TECHNICAL THEATER** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Instructor or Department Chair approval

TECH students design lights, sound, and projections for every JH and HS production, as well as work in the booth and backstage. The class also is in charge of running lights, sound, and projection every other week for JH and HS chapels, as well as all other Fine Arts events, such as choir, orchestra, band, and drumline concerts. The class is scheduled to meet during the school day, but most work will occur before or after school. Meeting and rehearsal schedules will be determined throughout the semester with advanced notice.

**THEATER (ACTS OF GRACE COMPANY)** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Instructor or Department Chair approval

This course is performance-based and will teach and reinforce acting and production skills through scene work and the production of shows. The company competes in the TAPPS One-Act Play contest (Fall), produces a spring show, competes in the TAPPS Speech meet, produces student directed shows, and participates in a 6-12 grade showcase at the end of each year. **Outside rehearsals are Mondays 4-6pm and Fridays 1-4pm and are a required graded extension of the class.** Students who are committed to stage performance whose schedules do not accommodate the class schedule may be enrolled through independent study if cast in a show.

**HIGH SCHOOL DRUM LINE** (Grade 9-12; 0.5 PE credit in fall; 0.5 fine arts credit in spring)

Prerequisite: Selection by audition

This after-school activity is designed to help students develop skills on a variety of percussion instruments, and to give students the opportunity to play various styles of percussion music. In the fall semester, high school drum line focuses on football game performances and fall drum line competitions, including the TAPPS State Drum Line Contest. In the spring semester, the drum line participates in the TAPPS State Solo and Ensemble Contest, and holds an annual year end concert. There are also several performances for other school and community events throughout the year. There is a required yearly participation fee, and all practices and performances are mandatory.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

### **2 credits required**

#### **SPANISH 1** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Spanish 1 is an introduction to the basic foundation of the language. It offers the development of communicative abilities through the integration of skills in listening, speaking, reading, viewing and showing. Students focus on vocabulary groups and a presentation of grammar, which is provided with comprehensible language input through a variety of cultural and conversational themes. Class activities combine basic Spanish language practice with exploration of culture and cross-curricular content.

#### **SPANISH 2** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 1

Spanish 2 is a continuation of Spanish 1. A recursive Scope and Sequence is used to revisit the themes from Spanish 1. This class provides language practice and activities that develop all four language skills and focus on relevant language tasks. Students expand their vocabulary, grammar and cultural understanding in greater depth.

#### **SPANISH 3 HONORS** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 2 and teacher approval

Spanish 3 H offers thought-provoking themes that integrate rich vocabulary groups and a thorough presentation of grammar. Class activities combine communication, culture, and cross-curricular content with opportunities for students to create their own original, creative content in Spanish. This level provides a solid foundation for advanced Spanish study.

#### **SPANISH 4 HONORS** (2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Spanish 3, previous grades, teacher approval

Through dynamic conversational activities, students will gain confidence in speaking, acquire new vocabulary, and solidify their ability to use structures previously studied. The objective of this engaging and highly participatory course is to improve the student's speaking ability and expand knowledge of Spanish vocabulary. The course is designed for advanced learners who have already learned to conjugate verbs in the present, present progressive, past (Preterite/Imperfect), future, future perfect, conditional, and subjunctive tenses in Spanish and would like to focus on increasing fluidity. Activities will include exploring different vocabulary themes (such as local organizations, food, nature, travel), sharing personal stories and anecdotes, learning new idiomatic expressions, situational role-plays, and abundant conversational practice in partners and as a group.

## **SPEECH**

### **0.5 credit required**

#### **SPEECH DC (SPCH 1315)**

(Grades 11-12; 1 semester; 0.5 HS credit; 3 college credit hours)

Prerequisite: Minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA; admission into dual credit program

Students will study basic communication principles, with emphasis placed on public speaking. Topics include the nature of communication in light of a Christian worldview, communication theory, speech development and organization, use of visual aids, and strategies for informative, persuasive, and special occasion speeches.

\*Course requirements are the same for all students, whether they are enrolled for dual credit or not.

### **ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

#### **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY AP®** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

AP Human Geography is an introductory college-level course in which students will learn how human behavior transforms the Earth's surface in response to changing social, cultural, and political needs. This course will help students examine patterns of human population, migration, and land use.

#### **VIDEO PRODUCTION** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1 credit)

Prerequisites: Instructor or Department Chair approval

Through viewing, analyzing, and discussing classic and modern films, students will learn the basics of making their own movies. Emphasis will be placed on narrative, cinematography, and editing, as well as evaluating and critiquing professional and student-produced films. Weekly requirements include viewing one film outside of class, being able to describe and discuss it, and keeping a film journal. There will be out-of-class time commitments required of each student (for example: scouting for filming locations, researching directors, extra editing, etc.) Every student will be required to submit a project for the TAPPS Short Film spring competition.

#### **YEARBOOK** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 0.5 Fine Art credit, 0.5 Elective credit)

Prerequisites: Application and teacher approval

This course creates the GCS yearbook, The Cougar, for publication and distribution to the families at Grace. Students will gain knowledge of and experience graphic design, journalism, interviewing, writing and photography. The deep hope is for students to capture how God uses all people for His story and His glory along with providing a lasting memory of each year at GCS. All members are required to attend a two-day summer workshop to determine the yearbook theme and design the cover for the following year. Opportunities for leadership roles are available to students who repeat this course. This course will be graded on a pass/fail scale.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

1 credit required

The P.E. requirement may be met through any combination of activities listed below:

1. **Speed and Strength Class**. This class helps students improve athletic performance through a speed and strength program designed to increase strength, explosiveness, quickness, and endurance. Completion of one semester will earn 0.5 PE credit.
2. **Participation in school-sponsored, high school sports and spirit groups**. Successful completion of one athletic season earns 0.5 PE credit. Successful completion of two or more athletic seasons will earn 1.0 PE credit.
3. **Participation in an approved extra-curricular activity**. A minimum of 30 hours of physical activity is equal to a one-semester P.E. credit. It is recommended that students meet with a Guidance Counselor in advance to ensure the activity will meet requirements, and students must submit a **Physical Education Alternative Credit** form upon completion of the activity. Examples of activities are dance classes, horseback riding, tennis, karate, club sports, yoga, etc. PE Alternative Credit forms are available in the guidance office and under Resources in myGCS.



## **ACADEMIC SUCCESS CENTER (ASC)**

“Purposeful instruction for academic success”

Academic Success Center courses are fee based. Registration will need to be completed through the Academic Success Center and myGCS.

### **ACADEMIC COACHING** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; no credit)

Academic coaching is a working partnership that focuses on the process of learning and developing executive functioning skills. Together with an instructor, students examine their learning styles, habits of working, and current difficulties or barriers to success. Instructors provide students with semester-long academic support in areas such as time management, procrastination, test preparation, note-taking, and reading strategies. Then together the instructor and student work to create and implement effective strategies. The goal is to heighten awareness of what it takes to achieve academic success and anchor the new strategies through a supportive relationship and personal accountability. Academic Coaching is a one two-to-one student and teacher course. The course is 45 minutes twice a week.

### **EDUCATIONAL THERAPY** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; 1.0 credit)

Educational therapy is a pull-out program for students with a diagnosed learning disability. The upper campus currently can serve students with dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia, high functioning spectrum disorders, reading comprehension and writing disorders, and executive functioning struggles. We guide students through individualized, multisensory instruction that is supported by the latest research. Educational therapy does not seek to improve academic areas directly as tutoring does, but instead focuses on difficulty in perceptual and cognitive functioning. This course is 90 minutes twice a week.

### **LEARNING LAB** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; no credit)

Grace High School offers a Learning Lab program for students in need of academic assistance and executive functioning support. All students are welcome to enroll in Learning Lab, with or without a diagnosis. Students will practice specific study techniques, complete homework, develop test-taking strategies, review content, and practice executive functioning skills. Students will be assigned to Learning Lab in place of their study hall according to grade level with a limit of 10 students.

### **LEARNING ADVANTAGE** (Grade 9-12; 2 semesters; no credit)

Learning Advantage is designed for students in need of one-to-one academic assistance and executive functioning support who have a diagnosed learning difference. This course is for students whose Grace Plan outlines higher need accommodations and support. Through a partnership with grade level teachers and the ASC teacher, students will have one on one support in pre teaching, reteaching, practice, and modeling academic expectations and curriculum, progress monitoring, direct instruction to improve executive functioning skills and weekly grade checks and assignment check points. This course is 90 minutes twice a week.