

WESTMINSTER
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



HIGH SCHOOL
CURRICULUM
GUIDE

Westminster Christian School

Curriculum Guide

*“There are those who seek knowledge for the sake of knowledge, that is curiosity.
There are those who seek knowledge to be known by others, that is vanity.
There are those who seek knowledge in order to serve, that is love.”
Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153)*

Since the inception of Westminster Christian School in 1978, the mission of our school has been to partner with Christian parents to educate their children in the knowledge of God for the purpose of serving Him and glorifying Him in the culture in which we live. The administration, faculty, and staff who love the Lord seek to weave Biblical principles into all areas of the school experience. Our goal is to effectively prepare each of our students to succeed in all areas of their lives in order that they might affect their community for Jesus Christ.

We believe that the daily testimony of our faculty and staff, their words and actions, contribute in an ongoing and significant way to the formation of students' thinking. It is within the school setting and through classroom instruction that students learn how to view the world through God's principles, and thereby become better equipped to make decisions formed by God's values.

At Westminster Christian School, we believe it is important for all students to receive a high-quality, Christ-centered, academic education. Every student at Westminster receives foundational courses that are necessary for them to grow, learn, and succeed in both higher education and life. Students learn to work diligently and explore their gifts, while adhering to the principle that all work should be done with excellence and for God's glory. We believe that students must learn to think critically, and they should be challenged to evaluate and analyze the information presented to them.

Even as we realize the primary responsibility of education lies in the hands of parents, we embrace the opportunity to create this partnership and reinforce what is being taught at home. With this in mind, we believe that this collaboration of shared responsibility and accountability provides the best learning environment possible for our students.

God has blessed Westminster by providing us with the faculty, staff, students, and parents that compose this unique “Westminster Christian School family” community. Our prayer is that He will continue to provide His blessings in this joint effort to nurture and educate students now and for many years to come.

In His Service,

Westminster Christian School Administrative Team

While significant effort is made to maintain accuracy, information found in this curriculum guide is subject to change based on enrollment, faculty availability, and other considerations. Westminster Christian School reserves the right to alter curriculum or withdraw a course when it becomes impractical to offer.

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INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM GENERAL OBJECTIVES

Bible

1. To know that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, inspired by the Holy Spirit.
2. To know that God reveals Himself and His salvation in the Bible.
3. To know that God is the Creator, Sustainer, and Sovereign Ruler of the universe, ordering all things according to His eternal plan for His own glory.
4. To know that Jesus Christ, the eternal Son of God, is the only Redeemer of mankind.
5. To know that there is one God, existing in three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
6. To know that man was created in the image of God but fell into sin and that all human beings are born with a sinful nature.
7. To learn to recognize and evaluate unbiblical ways of thinking and teaching.
8. To know that we are saved by grace and not by works.
9. To know that God is holy, just, and full of mercy.
10. To desire fellowship with God through prayer and worship experience.
11. To desire love, joy, peace, and fellowship with other believers.
12. To desire to obey all the commandments of God as stated in the Bible.
13. To desire forgiveness of sins by repentance and faith in Christ.
14. To use the gifts God has given and joyfully serve God as long as one shall live.
15. To be trained in the love and fear of the Lord.
16. To learn Bible facts and Bible truth.
17. To memorize Scripture verses.
18. To learn Christian songs.

Math

1. To understand that God is the only source of order.
2. To understand that God established the laws of order.
3. To understand that God commands man to be orderly.
4. To be aware that God has created all things with a numerical aspect and numbers are subject to the laws of God: However, mathematical theorems are only man's fallible observation of God's order and not to be equated with God's law.
5. To be aware of continuity of space.
6. To understand and use the resources God has given.
7. To understand facts in order to be good stewards in God's world.
8. To perform computations with understanding, accuracy, and efficiency.
9. To understand the concepts of numbers.
10. To understand measurement.
11. To understand and solve the fundamental operations.
12. To observe and discover patterns in numbers and the geometric world.
13. To master basic mathematical facts.
14. To be neat in all work.

Reading

1. To understand that the primary motivation for learning to read is to be able to read the Bible, God's Holy Word.
2. To understand that the Bible itself is the greatest piece of literature.
3. To develop Christian standards of judgment and discrimination in the selection and evaluation of reading material.
4. To enjoy reading for pleasure and as a tool for learning new information.
5. To cultivate skills essential to proficiency in oral and silent reading.
6. To acquire study skills.
7. To develop interest in many types of literature.
8. To develop appreciation of literature.
9. To develop the ability to read material of increasing difficulty, complexity, and depth.

Listening

1. To listen quietly to God's Word with respect.
2. To look at the person who is speaking.
3. To listen and respond to a whole statement or idea before proceeding or responding.
4. To follow instruction.
5. To develop an appreciation and evaluation of what others are saying so as to minister or respond to their needs.
6. To realize that man is responsible for his listening choices.

Handwriting

1. To gain knowledge of correct letter and word formation.
2. To develop proper spacing and neatness.
3. To develop and maintain skill in handwriting at all times.
4. To realize that handwriting enables man to have the Word of God in written form.

Spelling

1. To acquire the ability and desire to spell correctly at all times.
2. To have knowledge as to where and how to find correct spelling of words.
3. To develop skill in using basic spelling rules.
4. To have knowledge of the meaning and usage of commonly used words.

Language Arts

1. To know that God is the originator of languages, and that He communicates to man through language.
2. To develop speech that is glorifying to God.
3. To develop good grammar and enunciation.
4. To interpret and describe events in a meaningful way.
5. To develop the ability to speak to a group effectively.
6. To develop the ability to communicate thoughts precisely in written and oral form.
7. To increase one's ability to organize thoughts.
8. To develop a larger, more meaningful vocabulary.
9. To develop an understanding of the structure of language through a formal study of grammar.
10. To realize that man's speech reveals his inner attitudes.
11. To know that man is responsible to God for what he says.

Social Studies

1. To understand one's self as God's child living in God's world.
2. To understand human behavior and social relationships in terms of one's significance as created in God's image.
3. To understand the abnormal conditions of the world due to sin and how sin adversely affects all human behavior and social relationships.
4. To see one's relationship to other people in the light of Christian fellowship and stewardship.
5. To see history as the unfolding of God's plan to bring glory to Himself.
6. To see history in terms of God's purpose to judge sin and to redeem His people.
7. To develop social studies, reading, map and globe skills so as to become better acquainted with God's world.
8. To develop critical thinking skills.
9. To develop Christian attitudes and values in relation to responsible citizenship.
10. To be aware of the many types of career choices that are a part of the adult world.
11. To be aware that their one's choice of career must involve using the gifts God provides, for His glory.
12. To develop Christian attitudes and values toward the world of work.

Science

1. To understand that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe.
2. To understand that man is a finite creature in the universe.
3. To understand that the order of the universe represents God's continued providential control.
4. To increase knowledge and understanding of God's natural world.
5. To learn enjoyment, appreciation, and stewardship of God's world.
6. To acquire careful, logical, and investigative thinking.
7. To evaluate scientific technology from a Biblical perspective.
8. To learn about the pattern and order of nature as planned by God the Creator.
9. To develop God-given senses through scientific activities.
10. To understand that one's body is the "temple" of God, and that every believer has the responsibility to keep his body healthy so that he can serve the Lord properly.

Art

1. To understand that all are image-bears of God and possess God-given creative ability.
2. To recognize, explore, and develop the creative talents of all students.
3. To develop a feeling for the aesthetic.
4. To develop a positive Christian perspective of one's creative ability and how to use it to the glory of God.
5. To participate in various art experiences and art media.
6. To develop Christian love by sharing materials and working together congenially.
7. To see and appreciate the beauty of form, color, line, and composition of God's creation.

Physical Education

1. To know that God created the physical body.
2. To know that the body belongs to God and therefore, should be used for Him.
3. To know that God is concerned with health and health habits as evidenced by the laws to Israel.
4. To know that one is responsible to God to keep the body clean, neat, and under control.
5. To understand the body's needs of food, exercise, and rest.
6. To acquire laterality, directionality, and balance.
7. To participate in movement experiences that are fun and challenging.
8. To develop efficient hand-eye-foot coordination and rhythm.
9. To develop agility, balance, and coordination.
10. To acquire locomotor, non-locomotor, and manipulative skills.

Music

1. To make a joyful noise to the Lord, vocally and instrumentally.
2. To broaden and deepen the worship experience.
3. To learn the value of music in enriching the lives of others.
4. To appreciate and enjoy different types of music.
5. To respond through bodily movements: clapping, jumping, skipping, etc.
6. To have knowledge of and experience with melodic movement, rhythm, form of music, and harmony.
7. To have appreciation and knowledge of instruments.
8. To realize that whatever one does in music should help one to please God and delight more in Him.
9. To realize that God created man with the ability to produce and appreciate music.

PHILOSOPHY OF CURRICULUM

Westminster Christian School believes that each student should have access to instructional and library/research materials that enrich and support the educational programs of the school. It is the duty of the Curriculum Committee to provide a wide range of materials on all levels of difficulty with diversity of appeal and the presentation of differing viewpoints. One example can be found in science instruction, as we teach both the truth of creationism and the falsehood of evolution. The goal of instruction is to incorporate our faith and to use the Bible as the lens through which all curriculum is viewed. We seek to teach Biblical truths and to instruct students how to defend their faith.

It is our goal to provide high quality, relevant, seamless curriculum for all content areas and to ensure coherency and continuity across and between grade levels. As we seek to use high-quality and challenging curriculum components to best prepare our students for the next phase of their education, these goals may be achieved through the use of materials which come from both Christian and secular publishers.

Because of our Biblical approach, it is critical that each teacher, whose life is submitted to Christ and whose commitment is to incorporating Biblical truths into all aspects of instruction, be the driver of the curriculum. Westminster Christian School administration will provide on-going instructional leadership and professional development opportunities for all teachers in this critical area, which will in turn support learner-centered instruction for all students.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT PROGRAMS

Resource Services at Westminster exists to provide support to students needing varied instruction and to partner with parents of unique learners.

Elementary Tiered Programming Services

Programmed Instruction is coordinated with the program principal, classroom teacher and resource instructor. Programmed instruction in middle school and high school is accomplished during study halls, or with permission, in lieu of scheduled classes.

- SLANT or Wilson Language (IMSLEC accredited reading program designed for the dyslexic student)
- Lindamood-Bell Visualizing and Verbalizing- Conceptual imagery for comprehension and oral expression development
- Handwriting without Tears- Complete Handwriting curriculum
- I CAN LEARN Math (Fundamental Math, Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, Geometry)
- TouchMath-Math fluency development
- Math U Can See- Number reasoning, math reasoning and comprehension

Instructional Support is coordinated with the program principal, classroom teacher and resource instructor. Instructional support for Middle School and High School are scheduled during study hall, before or after school.

- ReadLive- Online Reading Fluency and Comprehension Building
- LexiaCore5- Online Literacy Instruction covering Six Areas of Reading, Spelling and Language
- Content area curricular support
- Communication support
- Strategic instruction specific to coursework

Organization and Study Skills Support is coordinated with the program principal, classroom teacher and resource instructor. At middle school and high school, it is scheduled during study halls, before or after school.

- Individual progress reviews
- Study skills training
- Organizational training

After School Homework Center is available to students, providing after school supervision for homework completion in a group setting. The supervising teacher will answer questions and assist with studying or projects at the student's request.

Supported Study Hall is available to Middle School students to provide direct instruction in organization and study skills, as well as accountability through progress report reviews and parent communications via ParentsWeb.

Summer Academic Programming is available for a variety of content areas and skills for academic success.

Resource Support Services provided directly to students through individual or group instruction incurs a fee in addition to regular tuition.

Secondary School Programming Services

At the Secondary level, resource staff partner with classroom teachers and provide small group support structures inside/outside the classroom for students based on their diagnosed learning challenges. Additionally, teaching staff are provided with tiered intervention strategies to best support struggling learners in the classroom.

HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

General Course Information

Registration and Scheduling

A full-time student must be enrolled in a minimum of six courses, five of which must be courses taken at Westminster or a pre-approved dual credit institution. In the spring, parents may select student courses online through RenWeb. We will begin to use the requests to aid us in establishing the high school schedule. Once the schedule has been established, we will begin the process of scheduling meetings, in which we will finalize each student's schedule, as well as address any areas where a course might not have worked out. We do believe, however, that it is wise that parents also regularly review their student's progress toward the completion of graduation requirements. The guidance department will address questions, concerns, and special course requests made by parents and students.

Part-time students may enroll in classes as space and scheduling permits. A student who desires to participate in extra-curricular activities must be a full-time student at Westminster. In order to graduate and receive a diploma from Westminster, a student must be enrolled on a full-time basis during their senior year.

Assuming that deadlines have been met, registration and scheduling will be done on a first come/first serve basis. However, priority will be given in the scheduling process to seniors, then to juniors, etc. as it relates to courses needed for graduation requirements. Students register for the entire upcoming year in the spring. Full year courses may not be changed at the end of the semester unless there are extenuating circumstances; these circumstances must be reviewed by the administration and assessed as viable conditions for dropping or changing a course.

Course Prerequisites

Students should check course descriptions and the honors/AP criteria section for specific prerequisites. Most courses must be taken in sequence, and some, especially honors/AP courses, require prerequisites and/or teacher recommendations to be enrolled in the class.

Schedule Changes

Serious consideration should be taken when selecting courses for each year. Requests for scheduling changes after the deadline are not considered unless new and unexpected conditions occur. To request a change, a student must obtain a Change of Schedule form from the guidance counselor. This form requires approval from the following individuals: teacher, parent, guidance counselor, and principal, and must include an explanation for the request.

Approved schedule changes may be made through the first five days of the semester without a penalty. Any course dropped after this time will carry the grade of "WF" (withdrawal as failing) or "WP" (withdrawal as passing). These designations are based on whichever applies for the semester. Withdrawal after the fourth week of the semester will have a grade of "F" unless the student is withdrawing due to an extended medical illness and has submitted a written medical diagnosis from the student's physician.

Repeating a Course

Students may repeat, one time, either a one semester or a two-semester course that was previously passed with a grade of "C-" or lower. The class may be repeated to improve comprehension in the course content and to earn a better grade. Earning a better grade does not eliminate the first-grade. Both the first course grade as well as the second course grade are reflected on the student's transcript, and both grades will be factored into the GPA calculation.

Summer School and Correspondence Courses

Students must take all graduation-required courses at Westminster. If a student has failed a core class and the student's schedule does not permit him/her to re-take the class at Westminster, the student will re-take the course at another institution or through a Westminster approved course. It is the parent's responsibility to secure summer school information from their local school district and to verify with the guidance counselor that the make-up course conforms to the Westminster curriculum requirements. All summer school and correspondence tuition payments and fees are the parent's responsibility. An official transcript from the local school district or correspondence school must be requested by the parent to be sent to Westminster. This must be done immediately upon the completion of the summer school or correspondence course.

Dual Enrollment

Westminster offers students, who are in process of completing their high school graduation requirements and who have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and meet course prerequisites, the opportunity to enroll in courses at Elgin Community College, or other approved institution. This is available as long as those courses do not conflict with their high school course schedule. Application to ECC, tuition, fees associated with the desired course and transportation to and from the alternative campus are the responsibilities of the student's family. Academic coursework is weighted on a 5.0 GPA scale; non-academic coursework receives standard weighting. Dual credit can be applied to the Westminster student transcript upon satisfactory completion of a course if the student had prior written approval from the guidance counselor and the high school principal. Students who want to have the course work credited to their high school transcript are responsible for contacting the registrar of the appropriate college or university to make necessary arrangements. Credits earned through coursework at other institutions remain on the college transcript and may be transferred to another college at the college's discretion. Westminster students attending a college, as part of this dual educational opportunity, remain students of Westminster Christian School and are responsible for any expectations and standards applicable to regular full-time Westminster students.

Early Release

Westminster Christian High School offers students who are in the process of completing their high school graduation requirements and currently enrolled in a minimum five academic courses at Westminster, the opportunity for early release in order to enroll in ongoing educational experiences. Early release must be approved in advance by Westminster administration.

Academic and Grading Information

Grading System

A 93-100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F Below 60
A- 90-92	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

Semester Grades

The semester grade is calculated as follows: 85% of the cumulative semester grade is based on the student's classroom grade as laid out in the teacher's syllabus, the semester exam is then factored in at 15% of the cumulative semester grade.

Report Cards

Report cards are posted for each semester. Report cards are available for viewing on RenWeb each grading period. Students are expected to be aware of their ongoing grades, and parents are strongly encouraged to monitor academic progress on an ongoing basis. Daily grades, as well as semester grades, may be viewed using the school's online grading program.

For transcript information, please see transcripts under Guidance Information.

Weighted Grade Policy

Students receive weighted grades for GPA calculation and for computing the honor roll determination. Weighted grades reflect the nature and difficulty of the courses in the curriculum.

Honors Courses: Weighted at 4.5 (see Honors Expectations under course listings)

Courses designated as "Honors" courses shall receive a +.5 increase to the 4.0 grade point scale if taken at Westminster Christian High School. Honors credit received from another school for a course that is not available at Westminster is not used in the calculation for GPA. Honors weighting is applicable only to a grade of C- or higher.

AP Courses Weighted at 5.0

Students who opt to complete AP courses or academic coursework at an approved college and earn a minimum grade of "C" may receive both high school and college credit for the class. Students must be recommended to take advanced coursework. Recommendations imply that a student has the fundamental skills necessary to succeed in the rigor of college level coursework.

Academic courses denoted as college level receive a +1.0 increase to the grade point scale, as do academic courses taught at approved colleges. These courses afford students the opportunity to earn high school credit as well as college credit with the possibility of advanced college level placement. An advanced level course is equated in content and expectations to a freshman level college course.

Point Scale for GPA Calculation

The following point scale is used for GPA calculations:

	<u>4.0</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>5.0</u>		<u>4.0</u>	<u>4.5</u>	<u>5.0</u>
A	4.0	4.5	5.0	C	2.0	2.50	3.0
A-	3.67	4.17	4.67	C-	1.67	2.17	2.67
B+	3.33	3.83	4.33	D+	1.33	1.33	1.33
B	3.0	3.5	4.0	D	1.0	1.0	1.0
B-	2.67	3.17	3.67	D-	0.67	0.67	0.67
C+	2.33	2.83	3.33	E	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: In all grade calculations, each letter grade (e.g. B+, B, and B-) is considered separately.

Honor Roll

Those students meeting the outlined requirements accomplish designation to high honor roll, honor roll, or honorable mention status for each semester grading period. Students must carry at least five academic classes to be eligible for any honor roll.

High Honors: Grade average of "A-" (3.67) **or** Grade point average of 3.67 or higher.

Honors: Grade average of "B+" (3.33) **or** Grade point average of 3.33 or

Honorable Mention: Grade average of "B" (GPA 3.00) **or** Grade point average of 3.00 or higher.

Class Rank

Class rank is not reported by Westminster, with exception of the top 10% of the class.

Standards for Credit

Credit is issued by semester on the student's transcript. Each course is worth .5 credit per semester. A student who fails a course must repeat the semester to obtain credit. When absences exceed 12 class days, a grade of "F" will be entered for the semester. *Specific arrangements must be made in cases of extended illness.* If an extended illness is the major cause of exceeding the limit, special exemption will be considered based upon a written medical diagnosis and the student's history of making up work.

A student who fails the first semester of any yearlong course may be requested to drop that course for the year. Continuation may be considered only in consultation with the teacher, guidance counselor and principal.

Examinations and Tests

Final comprehensive semester exams are to be given in most core curricular courses (English, math, science, history, Bible, and foreign language) at the end of each semester, covering only that semester's work. All students are required to take first semester exams in classes that are two semesters in length. Students may be exempted from a second semester final exam in a class where the student's second semester average is a 93% (A) or higher. Students may be exempted from a first semester exam in classes that are one semester in length when the student's semester average is a 93% (A) or higher. Semester exams are to be counted in the semester average. Exams count as 15% of the semester grade. Semester exams are administered by each individual teacher during a scheduled time period and must be taken by the student only during this allotted time. The semester exam schedule is posted prior to exam week. Students will be required to remain in the classroom until the allotted time period has ended. Students may arrange with the teacher to stay longer. Exams for courses such as art, physical education, music, and computer are treated as a regular test and are administered during regular class periods prior to exam week.

Academic Standing

Each student admitted to Westminster Christian High School is assumed to have the preparation, the ability, and the desire to achieve success at and to graduate from Westminster. However, some students do not make the progress necessary to accomplish these goals. As a school, it is our duty to work with parents and students by recommending special assistance (i.e. after school tutoring), by offering resource services and by providing academic counseling to assist the student in improving academic performance (additional costs may apply to some of these services). If the counsel and assistance do not lead to the necessary improvement, the student will be advised to seek an alternative educational placement.

Class Standing

Grade 9 must have completed grade eight.

Grade 10 must have accumulated seven credits in high school.

Grade 11 must have accumulated 14 credits in high school.

Grade 12 must have accumulated 21 credits and have plans to graduate within the year.

Transfer Credits

Students will begin classes only after all the necessary forms (applications, certificate of immunization, school records, etc.), testing, and fees have been presented. Students are placed in the grade most appropriate for them according to maturity, ability, achievement, and other factors. Credits for high school coursework for transfer students will be applied in accordance with following policies:

Transfer students will have their prior coursework evaluated for credit at Westminster at the time of enrollment.

Transfer credit for courses will be accepted providing the student received a passing grade from an approved instructional institution. Scholastic work accomplished through home-schooling will be evaluated on a case-by-case or upon receipt of an official transcript. All grades will be transferred to the Westminster grading scale by the most equitable method as determined by the administration. Grades from courses transferred to Westminster from accredited sources will be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA. Any home school courses transferred to Westminster will show grades on the transcript but will not be calculated into the student's cumulative GPA.

Transfer students are expected to take the number of Bible credits appropriate to the years enrolled at Westminster.

Guidance and Transcript Information

The focus of our guidance program is to help each student maximize the educational experience at Westminster Christian High School while giving direction and preparation for the next step in an educational or career path. A sequence of assistance and information for parents and students is planned from the freshman year through the senior year to assist in high school course work selection, career evaluation, college selection, and success in school.

Areas in which the guidance department students and families include the following:

- *Course planning, registration, and scheduling (each student and his/her parents are required to meet annually with the guidance counselor for educational counseling as well as for course placement)*
- *Graduation progress*
- *Transcripts and recommendations letters (please allow 7-10 business days for processing)*
- *Scholarships and financial information*
- *College application process*
- *Career awareness*
- *Advanced Placement and dual enrollment options with Elgin Community College and other local colleges.*
- *Standardized testing*

Additional information and helpful documents are available at

<https://www.westminsterchristian.org/academics/high-school/guidance-department/>.

Transcripts

Transcripts may be requested through the guidance office by using the online request form found on our website at <https://www.westminsterchristian.org/academics/high-school/transcript-requests/>.

College Visitations

Juniors and seniors are encouraged to visit several colleges prior to making their final college placement decision. In order to effectively determine which college is appropriate, it is wise to visit the school, spend time in the college classroom, and meet with faculty, administration, and students of the college. Students in their junior year are permitted up to four college visitation days, and seniors are permitted up to five college visitation days. None of these visitation days is counted against the class attendance requirements.

Juniors and seniors who plan to make a college visit will comply with the following policies:

- *Prior to the visit, the parent should call the attendance line to inform the school about the college visit.*
- *The student is expected to have completed all assignments upon returning to Westminster.*

Standardized Testing Information

Standardized Testing by Grade

The following standardized tests are administered annually:

- Freshmen: PSAT - This test serves as a tool for assessment of the student's progress. It is a practice test for the SAT College Board Exam.
- Sophomores: PSAT - This test serves as a tool for assessment of the student's progress. It is a practice test for the SAT College Board Exam.
- Juniors: PSAT - This test serves as a tool for assessment of the student's progress. It is a practice test for the SAT College Board Exam and is the qualifying test for the National Merit Scholarship competition.
ACT - Juniors are recommended to register for and take the ACT college entrance exam. (See below.)
- Seniors: ACT - This test provides information regarding the student's progress. It also serves as a tool for evaluating the academic program at Westminster. Seniors are strongly encouraged to take the ACT before graduation. The SAT is also recommended. Colleges and universities require prospective students to submit scores from one of these two tests when applying for admission.

Special Accommodations for Testing

Students who seek to attain special testing services and/or accommodations for either the ACT, SAT or PSAT tests must satisfy the following requirements:

- *The student must have a current evaluation on file, which has been done within the last three years. This evaluation must include a diagnosis for eligibility for special services.*
- *An IEP or a 4IS plan must be in the student's permanent record file at the time the request is made.*

Please keep in mind that the process of requesting an eligibility status for special testing services may take many weeks, and must be initiated by the parents of the student.

College Board Code Number: The ACT and SAT require the Westminster code on the registration form.
Our code: 141774

Extracurricular Activities

The purpose of extracurricular activities is to develop the gifts God has given to students as well as to instill school spirit and allow opportunity for fellowship outside of the classroom. It is important to remember that the curricular program takes precedence over the extracurricular. Failure to represent Westminster within the framework of Biblical values will result in the loss of extracurricular privileges.

Westminster Christian School is a member of the Illinois High School Association (IHSA). We follow IHSA policies by monitoring student-athletes' academic status. These standards demonstrate that academic achievement takes precedence over athletic participation. Academic progress will be monitored continually, using the Westminster guidelines outlined below, to ensure that each participating athlete maintains good academic standing. Each week by noon on Thursday, teachers will be responsible to report grades for student-athletes to the athletic director. The athletic director will inform the athlete and his/her parents on Friday if there is a change in the student's eligibility. Students who are ineligible will not be permitted to participate in a athletic contest. IHSA Ineligibility is defined that each athlete shall be doing passing work (60% +) in 5 classes in order to be eligible. If a student completes work (test, quiz, homework, etc.) that has the potential to adjust a student's eligibility status, the teacher will be given 2 full days to grade and record the work. The teacher will notify the athletic director of a change in the grade status; the athletic director will then notify the parents, student, and coach. All eligibility requirements for extracurricular activities are specifically noted in the Athletic Handbook.

Art Club

This club is open to all high school students and is designed to further explore art tools, techniques, and expression in an informal setting. This allows students to experience art making above-and-beyond what the classroom experience can provide. The club meets twice a month throughout the year.

Bible Studies

Studies are organized by students and faculty and are held before/after school and during lunch; scheduling varies dependent on student interest and faculty availability.

Cheerleading/Pep Squad

The purpose of the cheerleading squad is to promote attendance at athletic events and to encourage school spirit. They cheer and perform at basketball games and school spirit assemblies.

Choral Groups

This is a choral opportunity outside of the classroom; students may audition for our ensemble group, Blues & Barbers, which performs at fine arts nights and at local community functions. Students meet once per week after school.

Community Outreach

This club is responsible for organizing projects and engaging the school community in participation of community service in the greater Elgin area. Students in this club will also learn to provide oversight to small groups and prayer groups on the school campus.

Crossroads

Crossroads Kids Clubs exist to provide after school evangelistic club opportunities to elementary children in local public schools. Junior and senior students travel to an area school one day per week to lead and teach as part of the club staff.

Future Teachers Club

This club is open to sophomores, juniors, and seniors who are interested in teaching as a career. Members meet regularly, usually during lunch, to learn the various facets of teaching. During the spring term, members will have the opportunity to participate in a two-day, hands on teaching experience at Westminster.

Instrumental Groups

Westminster offers two instrumental ensembles: *Jazz Express* is an ensemble for the experienced jazz musician. Students do need to audition for this group which meets once per week from 7-7:40 a.m. *Jazz Warriors* is an ensemble for new jazz students or those looking to learn more about jazz. Students meet once per week from 7-7:40 a.m.

National Honor Society

The National Honor Society is a national organization established to recognize outstanding high school students. The objective of the Westminster Christian High School Chapter, which is open to qualified juniors and seniors, is to create an enthusiasm for scholarship, to stimulate a desire to render service, to promote leadership, and to encourage the development of character in its students.

Outdoor and Environmental Club

This club cultivates students' appreciation of creation. Students learn how to care for and enjoy God's world. The club involves students in a variety of outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, skiing, rock climbing, bike riding, as well as "clean up" days.

Science Olympiad

The Science Olympiad is an international non-profit organization that is devoted to providing opportunities for high school students to explore science outside of the daily classroom. Members of this club prepare for regional tournament competition that consists of a series of individual and team events. There is a strong balance between the various science disciplines and science applications.

Student Council

Student Council is the approved representation of the student body to the administration. Members of this council are responsible for planning some of the larger all-school social events as well as being a representation of the student body to the faculty and administration. Student Council is composed of students who are elected by their class to represent them in the governing council. Each class has two representatives on the council. In addition to class representatives, there are three officers in the Student Council: A president and vice-president, elected by the student body; and a secretary-treasurer who is appointed by Student Council members. See section on Student Council.

Theatre

Participation in dramatic productions provides an opportunity for students who want to be part of a theatre production at the high school level. Students are encouraged to use their artistic gifts to be a part of the annual play held in the fall and the high school musical presented in the spring. Auditions are held for acting parts. In addition to acting, students are needed to assist with set design, costuming, lighting, and production.

Warrior Prayer Army - High school students meet once per week, during lunch, to share prayer requests and pray for the needs of our students, school and community.

Westminster Shield (School Newspaper)

The student staff and editors of the Westminster Shield will collaborate to produce a monthly newspaper highlighting school news and feature articles relevant to students' interests. The staff will work under the guidance of a faculty adviser as they produce the paper. No experience is necessary, but students seeking editorial positions must have completed the Journalism course.

Worship Team

This group is for high school student leaders who are passionate about worshipping God and glorifying Him through music. Students do need to audition and interview for this group and meet once weekly before school.

Interim

The period between Christmas break and second semester is an opportunity to study subjects not typically taught in a regular classroom setting. Courses are academic, practical or service oriented. Other interim options include internships, mission trips, backpacking trips and art exploration in Europe. Registration for interim occurs in the fall. Classes include a morning and an afternoon session. Students receive .25 credit per year of participation. This credit does show on the transcript but does not count toward graduation requirements. Interim is part of Westminster's curricular program and is calculated into student attendance days. Therefore, students are expected to participate in these courses.

Internet Access

In agreement with our educational mission and for enhancing the high school educational program, internet access is available to students in grades 9-12. Students must agree to abide by all Westminster policies regarding appropriate usage of the internet. Students must have a signed internet policy usage form on file in order to use the school's internet network.

Senior Class Information

College Preparation

Because colleges have different entrance requirements, it is important that students check the specific requirements of individual colleges (and universities). While the Westminster college preparatory curriculum meets entrance requirements for a large number of colleges, some competitive colleges will expect additional work such as honors courses and long-term study in specific areas. Students are encouraged to evaluate their career interests and/or college major when designing their four-year experience at Westminster Christian High School.

Graduation Participation Standards

Students are expected to complete all applicable graduation requirements, and remain in good standing in order to be eligible to receive a diploma from Westminster. Students must attend full-time for both semesters of their senior year at Westminster Christian High School in order to graduate. Participation in graduation activities is a privilege earned by meeting Westminster standards.

Only full-time students who have completed all Westminster academic requirements by senior exam days in May and considered in good behavioral standing may participate in graduation and graduation related activities (senior parent dinner, senior trip, and commencement). Any requested deviation from this standard is made in writing to the administration. Seniors eligible to graduate are required to attend all commencement activities including rehearsal and commencement. Failure to attend rehearsal could result in restriction from participation in commencement.

Valedictorian and Salutatorian

To be eligible for either Valedictorian or Salutatorian, a student must attend all four years at Westminster (freshman through senior) and must complete the suggested college preparatory curriculum.

The Valedictorian is the senior with the highest cumulative GPA at the conclusion of seven semesters. The Salutatorian is the senior with the second highest cumulative GPA at the conclusion of seven semesters. If grades earned during the eighth semester demonstrate deficiency of achievement or performance, the school administration may apply additional in-progress calculations and assessments.

In the event that two or more seniors have the same cumulative GPA at the conclusion of seven semesters, the honors of valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined by applying the following criteria in rank order.

1. Of the four years of high school experience, the student with the greater number of credits from Westminster Christian High School is declared the valedictorian.
2. If the honors of valedictorian and salutatorian are still not able to be determined, the students' transcripts will be reviewed for the identification of upper level, honors, AP, or college/university level classes. The senior with the greater number of upper level, honors, AP, or college/university level classes will be declared the valedictorian.
3. If the honors of valedictorian and salutatorian are still not able to be determined, the students' recorded scores on the ACT and SAT will be reviewed. The senior with the highest recorded ACT or equivalent SAT score will be declared the valedictorian.
4. If the honors of valedictorian and salutatorian are still not able to be determined, the high school faculty will review the students' records and determine a valedictorian.

Graduation Honors and Awards

Graduating seniors who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.67 (Highest Honors) or 3.33 (Honors) through the end of the seventh semester will be distinguished at commencement by wearing honor cords.

The following is a list of distinctions and awards given to graduating seniors:

Graduating with Honor: High Honors, Honors, Honorable mention

Character Awards: Joshua Award, Solomon Award, Daniel Award

Department Awards: Bible, Fine Arts, Language Arts, Foreign Language, Mathematics, Science Physical Education, Social Sciences, and Technology

Other Distinctions: IHSA Scholastic Achievement, Rotary Scholar, Elgin Sports Hall of Fame, National Honor Society, Timothy Scholarship Award

Student Council Information

Running for a position in Student Council is a privilege Westminster Christian High School students earn by establishing a pattern of honorable behavior throughout the school year. Candidates for position of leadership should be examples of mature and Godly behavior. Each candidate must have a minimum GPA of 2.3. They are expected to be role models both in and out of the classroom.

Qualifications for the position of President and Vice-President

President:

- The candidate for Student Council President is elected during the spring from the junior class.
- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- Minimum one year experience on Student Council
- Must have been involved in a minimum of two extracurricular activities
- Must have a strong Christian testimony

Vice-President:

- The candidate for Student Council Vice-President is elected during the spring from either the junior or sophomore class.
- Minimum GPA of 3.5
- Minimum one year of experience on Student Council
- Previously involved in a minimum of one extracurricular activity
- Must have a strong Christian testimony

Course Information

The listing of course selections aids students and parents in selecting courses for high school. Both student and parents should be involved in the selection process since wise course selections are essential to preparation for ongoing education. The guidance counselor meets with each family to offer course placement advice. Following the list of course selections is a tentative four-year planning page. This sheet assists in long range planning of course selections. As students and parents plan the four-year high school career, it is imperative to plan so that all required credits are in place. Failure to do so could delay graduation. When planning courses for the upcoming school year, the guidance counselor meets with students and parents to review course prerequisites and teacher recommendations. An email alert is sent when schedules are available for viewing and printing online. Any mistakes, omissions, or oversights must be corrected within the first five days of the quarter. No voluntary schedule changes are made after the first five days of school.

Because of the complexities of arranging teacher schedules and balancing class sizes, the school reserves the right to adjust any student's schedule at any time to better serve the entire student body. Information in this guide is subject to change based on enrollment, faculty availability, and other considerations. Westminster Christian School reserves the right to withdraw a course for any reason when it becomes impractical to offer it as scheduled.

Honors and AP Course Information and Prerequisites

Honors level courses are designed to challenge students whose reading and writing skills are well developed and are able to move into class work that is based primarily on critical thinking as applied to the comprehension of new content knowledge, the synthesis of ideas, and the presentation of conclusions through a variety of communication media. Honors level courses are paced assuming that remediation of basic and general skills in class is unnecessary. Assignments and assessments in honors courses are graded with this assumption in mind and therefore require a commitment to detail and completeness. Honors placement is not guaranteed throughout a student's high school career. All criteria will be reassessed each year.

Honors English Criteria:

- Earns and maintains an A average in general English coursework or a B average in honors English coursework
- Demonstrates strong self-motivation, discipline, and work ethic through the consistent completion of course work
- Demonstrates analytical and evaluative skills
- Presents ideas logically and persuasively in written and spoken word
- Identifies and summarizes key points and responds critically to the text
- Composes strongly organized essays
- Consistently incorporates correct grammar and mechanics
- Students will be evaluated for mastery of the content on their Measures of Academic Progress (M.A.P.)

Honors Science Criteria:

- Possess strong problem solving skills
- Make connections leading to further exploration and discovery
- Draw conclusions based on data interpretation
- Willingly and actively contribute to a positive learning environment through discussion and listening
- Earn and maintain a B average or higher in the previous science course
- Students will be evaluated for mastery of the content on their Measures of Academic Progress (M.A.P.)

In addition to the above criteria:

- Honors Chemistry placement: students must have a B or higher average in Algebra 1 and Geometry.
- Honors Physics 1 placement: students must have a B or higher average in Algebra 1.
- AP Physics placement: students must have completed Algebra 2 and have a B or higher in Chemistry.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses

AP is a program of college-level courses offered in high schools. The focus of these courses is on engaging discussion, problem solving, critical thinking, and writing. Each course is designed to culminate at the end of the school year with the students sitting for the AP Exam that corresponds with the course they have taken. Students may be able to receive credit from their college or university of choice based on the score that they obtain.

Students enrollment in AP courses is subject to the same criteria as our honors coursework, but with the understanding that a teacher recommendation is required. Since these classes will be taught at a college level, it is imperative that students be ready to think, engage, and approach the material with a level of maturity and commitment greater than that of even an honors course. Additional prerequisites are in parentheses.

AP Courses at Westminster include:

- AP Biology (“B” or higher in English and/or teacher recommendation)
- AP Calculus AB (Pre-Calculus with a B average and/or teacher recommendation)
- AP English Literature and Composition
- AP Physics (Algebra 2 and teacher recommendation)
- AP Spanish Language and Culture (Spanish 3 with “B” or higher and/or teacher recommendation)
- AP United States History (U.S. History and/or teacher recommendation)

Leveled Diploma Tracks

We offer a multi leveled diploma track program. Program levels include a High School Diploma, College Preparatory Diploma, & Scholars Diploma. The High School Diploma track allows a student to complete all necessary requirements in order to receive a high school diploma in the State of Illinois, and can only be pursued by specific administrative approval after parental meetings that include the appropriate diagnostics and documentation as outlined by the school. The College Preparatory Diploma track, more rigorous than the High School Diploma, should be completed by any student seeking college admission following graduation. Finally, the Scholars Diploma is the most rigorous diploma track available. This track demands the highest level of commitment and sets students who receive this diploma apart as having challenged themselves to the most rigorous course of study available.

Graduation requirements from each of these leveled diploma track can be found below*:

Core Requirements:	High School Diploma	College Preparatory Diploma	Scholars Diploma
Bible	3.0	3.0	3.0
Computer Sci/Business	0.5	0.5	0.5
Fine Arts	0.5	0.5	0.5
Humanities	0.5	0.5	0.5
Health	0.5	0.5	0.5
Language Arts	4.0	4.0	4.0
Math	3.0a	3.0b	4.0
Science	2.0	3.0	4.0
Social Science	2.0	3.0	3.0
World Language	0	2.0	2.0
Additional Electives	6.0	4.0	4.0
Total Credits:	22	24	26c

a: this includes a minimum of Algebra 1 & Geometry

b: this includes a minimum of Algebra 1, Geometry & Algebra 2

c: a Scholars Diploma includes a minimum of 8 courses at the honors level or higher with no semester grade lower than a C-, as well as a minimum unweighted GPA of 3.5.

*Considerations have been made for the class of 2018 & 2019 that make the Scholars diploma attainable for students in these classes. Information should be discussed with the Guidance Office if you are a member of one of these graduating classes wishing to pursue the Scholars diploma.

HIGH SCHOOL COURSES BY DEPARTMENT

BIBLE

- Following Jesus
- Ethics
- New Testament Epistles
- Doctrines of Salvation
- Understanding the Times

COMPUTER SCIENCE/BUSINESS

- Business
- Computer Skills and Application
- Programming 1
- Programming 2
- Robotics
- Web Design

FINE ARTS

- Ceramics 1
- Ceramics 2
- Chorus
- Drawing
- The Foundations of Art
- Fundamentals of Design
- Graphic Art
- Instrumental Band
- Painting
- Photography
- Theater 1
- Theater 2
- Yearbook

HUMANITIES

- Psychology
- Sociology

LANGUAGE ARTS

- Freshman Literature & Composition
- Honors Freshman Literature & Composition*
- Sophomore Literature & Composition
- Honors Sophomore Literature & Composition**
- Junior Literature & Composition
- Honors Junior Literature & Composition*
- Senior Literature & Composition
- AP English Literature & Composition**
- Creative Writing[†]
- Journalism[†]

MATHEMATICS

- Algebra 1
- Geometry
- Honors Geometry*
- Algebra 2
- Honors Algebra 2*
- Discrete Math
- Probability and Statistics
- Trigonometry*
- Pre-Calculus*
- AP Calculus AB**

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

- Health
- Physical Education
- Personal Fitness

SCIENCE

- Physics 1
- Honors Physics 1*
- Biology
- Honors Biology*
- AP Biology**
- Chemistry
- Honors Chemistry*
- Anatomy and Physiology
- AP Physics**

SOCIAL SCIENCE

- World History
- U.S. History
- American Government
- Economics
- AP United States History**

WORLD LANGUAGE

- Spanish 1
- Spanish 2
- Spanish 3
- AP Spanish Language and Culture**

STUDY HALL

- Study hall
- Teacher/Intern Assistant

* Indicates an honors class

**Indicates a college credit course

[†] Indicates a course that does not fulfill a graduation requirement for that specific subject area

(NOTE: Please refer to “Diploma Tracks” for graduation requirements)

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS BY ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT

(Not all courses are offered each year.)

Courses designated by asterisks * are weighted courses. If the course has a single asterisk preceding the title, the course is weighted as 4.5 on a 4.0 scale. If the course has a double asterisk**, the course is weighted as a 5.0 on a 4.0 scale.

Bible

Students are required to complete three years in Bible including one year of Following Jesus and one year of Understanding the Times.

Following Jesus

Course Description: An exploration of what it means to be a follower of Jesus, this course will introduce students to *who* Jesus is, *what* Jesus demands from his followers, and *how* Jesus empowers those who trust in Him to fulfill His calling.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 9-12; fulfills grade 9 Bible requirement

Prerequisite: None

Ethics

Course Description: This course bases the Triune God of the Bible and His Law as the only ethical and moral standard. Students will explore the 10 commandments and their applications in the book of Deuteronomy as well as how the Law does the following: shows us our need as sinners, drives us to Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of the Law in the Gospel and instructs Christians about what it looks like to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills grade 10/11 Bible requirement

Prerequisite: Following Jesus

New Testament Epistles

Course Description: This course explores the following: how the Apostle Paul communicates and applies the message of the Gospel in the book of Romans, how the Apostle James presses the claim of the Gospel in calling us to action as Christians, and how the Apostle Peter addresses the Gospel as the source of hope and strength in the midst of persecution and suffering.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills grade 10/11 Bible requirement

Prerequisite: Following Jesus

The Doctrines of Salvation

Course Description: This course is devoted to students learning the following areas of theology in a systematic (topical) manner: *Theology Proper* – this is the doctrine of God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; *Anthropology* – this is the doctrine of human beings made in God's image and the implications of the fall of man into sin; *Soteriology* – this is the doctrine of salvation in Christ with its various aspects such as regeneration, conversion, justification, and sanctification; *Eschatology* – the doctrine of the end times and the hope that we have as Christians.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to 10-12; fulfills grade 10/11 Bible requirement

Prerequisite: Following Jesus

Understanding the Times

Course Description: Understanding the Times is a course in apologetics. Through careful examination of a host of worldviews, religions, and philosophical perspectives, it teaches students to know how to present Christianity with conviction and intelligence in the world, and to be ready to respond effectively to any queries which may be made of them about the truth claims of Christianity.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 12; fulfills grade 12 Bible requirement

Prerequisite: Following Jesus

Computer Science/Business

Business

Course Description: This course begins by looking at a Biblical model of leadership. Throughout the course students will gain an understanding of ethics, management, entrepreneurship, organizational structures, marketing and decision making. Students will also explore managing finances, both business and personal.

One Semesters/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Computer Skills and Application

Course Description: This course reviews and introduces students to the use of basic computer skills to gain familiarity with the Windows 2013 environment. Students will review and learn basic computer application such as word processing, spreadsheets, database and presentation software.

One Semesters/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Programming 1

Course Description: This course introduces students to the basic concepts of programming and problem solving. Students will create real world-applications using the following: input/output operations, program structure, data types, arithmetical operations, functions, loops, conditional statements and other related topics.

One Semesters/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Programming 2

Course Description: This course is designed to build on the understanding of programming language and structure. Students will be introduced to Object Oriented Programming with an emphasis on program design.

One Semesters/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Programming 1

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Robotics

Course Description: This college preparatory course is designed to introduce students to the basics of design, building and the control of robotic systems. Students will use Robot C to program virtual and physical robots to navigate obstacles, use sensors, and pick up objects. Students will also program vex remote controllers to respond to user input.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Programming 1

Open to grades 9-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Web Design

Course Description: In this course, students will learn the core design principles required to create and develop webpages. Students will explore web design standards and criteria for evaluating the quality of websites as well as analyzing web page layout and effective navigation. The course will begin by teaching the basics of HTML, including CSS, and conclude by using Dreamweaver to create original websites.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12; fulfills computer/business requirement

Fine Arts

Ceramics 1

Course Description: Through a studio experience, this course investigates the scientific aspect of clay and glaze. Students will learn the four basic methods of hand built construction and be introduced to the pottery wheel.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Ceramics 2

Course Description: This course contains three components: lectures reviewing the scientific involvement of clay and glazes, review and mastery of the four basic methods of hand built construction, review and mastery of wheel thrown techniques. Students will use studio time to complete required projects.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Ceramics 1

Chorus

Course Description: This course is designed to encourage students to develop their musical abilities through singing in a choral setting. Through intentionality and Biblical integration, students will gain greater understanding and skill in the areas of harmonic value, pitch, tone, sight-singing, ear training, and communicating Biblical principles through the art of music. Ultimately, through singing in a group of peers, participating under instruction and creating music together, students will have the opportunity to build into something which is greater than any individual can create by his or her own effort, which is the beautiful process of creating choral music all for the praise and glory of God.

One or Two Semesters/Credit: .5 (per semester)

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Drawing

Course Description: An introduction to basic drawing is presented in this course. The studio experience focus is on the following: the use of various mediums, drawing techniques, elements and principles of design, visual vocabulary, critical thinking skills, art criticism, and art history.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

The Foundations of Art

Course Description: This course explores the visual experience through various tools, techniques, and mediums from a studio perspective. Students will create projects that focus on studio art making in ceramics, drawing, design, painting, photography, design, and graphic arts to visually communicate and understand the fundamentals of visual expression.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Fundamentals of Design

Course Description: Fundamentals of Design gives the students an opportunity to explore the elements and principles of design. Through a studio experience, students use a variety of mediums and techniques to understand the concept of design. Students also investigate how design is incorporated into daily life.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Graphic Art

Course Description: This course is an introductory class in graphic design. Students use the elements and principles of design in each project. The course is divided into three sections: application, production, and technical skills. Course projects will have real life application. Students learn the design process beginning with a concept and following it through to production. Technical skills that are explored include: key lining, paste-up, layouts, typesetting, camera-ready art, illustration, computer graphics and the printing process.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 10-12

Instrumental Band

Course Description: This course is designed for students who would like to experience fun and growth in instrumental music. Requirements will include participation in high school concerts and occasional community performances. Any instrument is welcome to participate, including strings.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Ability to read musical notation, play an instrument

Open to grades 9-12

Painting

Course Description: This painting course explores the history of painting and the various mediums such as watercolor, acrylic, oil, and India ink that encompass it. An emphasis on color mixing and painting techniques is covered in a studio experience.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Photography

Course Description: This course explores the visual and technical skills needed to produce art through photographic medium. Students will apply learned skills through the shooting, digital editing and printing of photographs. Field trip experience will provide basic knowledge of the dark room process.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Theatre 1

Course Description: This course focuses on developing the student as an actor, stage manager, and playwright. Students will discover the many-faceted world of theatre and their place within it. Students will have the opportunity to perform a monologue at the end of the semester. Through their studies and performances, students will learn the value of theatre. Students will grow in their knowledge of theatre and its implications for their individual performances. They will learn how their Heavenly Father has created them as aesthetic, emotional, and social creatures and the way theatre allows them to express that nature.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Theatre 2

Course Description: This course focuses on developing the student as an improv player, actor, and director. Students will discover how to play theatre games and what makes group mind (actor unity) possible. The class will work to create unity through teamwork before moving into scene work. Through a Shakespeare adaptation students will apply their knowledge of props, set and costuming to make their scene come alive. After students perform their scenes from A Midsummer Night's Dream, the entire class will come together for a full one act play. Throughout the semester students will complete theatre work hours to help make Westminster productions a success.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Theatre 1

Yearbook

Course Description: This is a yearlong course giving students a working knowledge and practical application of Jostens Yearbook Program. Students will plan, organize, design, and produce the high school yearbook utilizing the following: creating a ladder diagram, applying graphic design principles, creation of custom layout designs, identifying a production schedule, developing photographic skills, and growing in communication as well as leadership.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Humanities

Psychology

Course Description: This course is a basic introduction to the discipline of psychology from a Christian perspective. Focus will include behavior and mental processes of humans and animals and the major theorists who have impacted this field of study.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 10-12

Prerequisite: None

Sociology

Course Description: Sociology is the study of what shapes and influences people in industrialized societies. It examines culture, economics, politics, anthropology and psychology to discern and determine the patterns and parameters that inform and form people. Sociology explores the inner workings of the groups, as well as the classes and structures of industrialized societies. It equips students to develop meaningful responses to the nearly endless ways that humanity has sought meaning apart from God.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Language Arts

Freshman Literature and Composition

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to nurture understanding and appreciation for literature. Various authors and pieces of literature from different time periods and different cultures are studied to expand students' knowledge of the worlds around them. In using literature as a vehicle for Biblical integration, students study secular works from a Christian worldview. Additionally, vocabulary development and writing instruction in a variety of genres are integral components. In this course, emphasis will be placed upon students writing creatively and critically, drawing from personal experience, literary inspirations, and research. Another key component involves students collaborating to bring literary characters and themes to life through the use of technology.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Prerequisite: None

Open to grade 9, fulfills grade 9 English requirement

Honors Freshman Literature and Composition*

Course Description: The course focuses on deeper literary analysis and advanced writing skills. Honors students must be independent, voracious learners. Moreover, an honors student should be responsible, organized, engaged and self-motivated as he or she seeks to be a reflective, active participant in the classroom. The purpose of this course is to nurture an understanding and appreciation for literature. Various authors and pieces of literature from different time periods and different cultures are studied to expand students' knowledge of the world around them. In using literature as a vehicle for Biblical integration, students study secular works from a Christian worldview. Additionally, vocabulary development and writing instruction in a variety of genres are integral components. In this course, emphasis will be placed upon students writing creatively and critically, drawing from personal experience, literary inspirations, and research. Another key component involves students collaborating to bring literary characters and themes to life through the use of technology.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grade 9, fulfills grade 9 English requirement

Prerequisite: See honors course information on page 36

Sophomore Literature and Composition

Course Description: This course focuses on literature by great American authors such as Hawthorne, Miller, Fitzgerald, and Bradbury. Students are instructed in the art of critical reading and asked to respond to literature through writing and speaking. Students will discover themes and messages presented by each author studied and examine connections between them, as well as comparing and contrasting them with Biblical truth. Students study vocabulary, grammar, and writing within the context of the literature and complete a variety of writing and speaking assignments.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 10; fulfills grade 10 English requirement

Prerequisite: Grade 9 English

Honors Sophomore Literature and Composition*

Course Description: This course focuses on literature by great American authors such as Hawthorne, Miller, Cisneros, Fitzgerald, and Bradbury. Students are instructed in the art of critical reading and asked to respond to literature through writing and speaking. Students will discover themes and messages presented by each author studied and examine connections between them, as well as comparing and contrasting them with Biblical truth. Students study vocabulary, grammar, and writing within the context of the literature and complete a variety of essays in the different genres of writing. Students selected for the honors section are expected to be self-motivated and capable of reading more complex material and responding to the literature and ideas with interesting and fresh ideas.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grade 10; fulfills grade 10 English requirement

Prerequisite: See honors course information on page 36

Junior Literature and Composition

Course Description: This course is structured to build upon the literature, composition, grammar, vocabulary, and other communication skills addressed at the sophomore level. The literature studied focuses on several influential authors throughout history, including Miller, Potok, and Golding. Works by these authors are utilized to instruct students in the art of critical reading while strengthening their abilities to respond to literature through writing and speaking. Students will discover themes and messages presented by each author studied and examine connections between them, as well as comparing and contrasting them with Biblical truth.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 11; fulfills grade 11 English requirement

Prerequisite: Grade 10 English

Honors Junior Literature and Composition*

Course Description: This course is structured to build upon the literature, composition, grammar, vocabulary, and other communication skills addressed at the honors sophomore level. The literature studied focuses on several influential authors throughout history, including Shakespeare, Miller, Potok, Golding, and Hansberry. Works by these authors are utilized to instruct students in the art of critical reading and strengthen their abilities to respond to literature through writing and speaking. Students will discover themes and messages presented by each author studied and examine connections between them, as well as comparing and contrasting them with Biblical truth. Students selected for the honors section are expected to be active participants, engaged, self-motivated, and capable of reading more complex material and responding to the literature and ideas with interesting and original insight.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grade 11; fulfills grade 11 English requirement

Prerequisite: See honors course information on page 36

Senior Literature and Composition

Course Description: This course focuses primarily on British Literature through various historical periods. Students will explore works of key authors from British literary movements and use these works as a basis for the development of their own writing and speaking skills. Students will examine various literary styles and techniques as well as think critically to evaluate the various themes of the works studied. Students will also engage in literary criticism as they evaluate short stories, novels, and poetry of the given eras that are studied. Authors and poets studied may include: Shakespeare, Milton, Dickens, Lewis, and Orwell, among others.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 12; fulfills grade 12 English requirement

Prerequisite: Grade 11 English

AP English Literature & Composition**

Course Description: AP English Literature and Composition is designed to give students a challenging intellectual experience as they prepare for college-level study of literature. Students will read a variety of texts that will expose them to different styles, authors, and literary techniques as they prepare for both college and the AP test. Students will examine the writer's use of language and its effects upon the reader's experience. Structure and themes of the works will also be considered through the course of the semester. Students will also work to develop their own skill as a writer through several written assignments in a variety of styles. AP English Literature provides an honors-level option in place of Senior Literature and Composition.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grade 12

Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Creative Writing 1

Course Description: Creative Writing 1 teaches students the various skills necessary for producing creative works of fiction, non-fiction, and poetry. Students will work on various projects over the course of the semester to build a collection of work, some of which may be submitted for publication. Students will use a workshop format and also conduct peer review of one another's work to provide experience in evaluation of various writing styles.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Creative Writing 2

Course Description:

Creative Writing 2 will build on the skills practiced in the first semester of Creative Writing 1 in order to further develop student writing and encourage students to pursue publication and a wider audience for their works. Students will work with non-fiction, fiction, and poetry styles, both reviewing skills from Creative Writing 1 and practicing more advanced writing techniques. Students will also develop a significant work over the course of the semester, as they compile their choice of a collection of short stories, a collection of essays, or a novella. Examples of professional works in each style will be examined as mentor texts.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Creative Writing 1

Journalism

Course description:

Journalism teaches students how to write in Associated Press style for publication. Students will work in a variety of journalistic styles appropriate for newspaper, magazine, and electronic media writing. Students also learn various skills important to journalists, including observation skills and interviewing techniques. Students will be responsible for meeting deadlines and assignment criteria. Students will focus on using their talents to glorify God in the media. Journalism is a prerequisite for any student seeking an editorial position with the Westminster Shield school newspaper.

One Semester/Credit: .5 (per semester)

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Mathematics

Algebra 1

Course Description:

Algebra 1 includes instruction in the following topics: signed numbers, integer exponents, solving equations, and systems of two linear equations in two unknowns. It also includes graphs and equations of linear functions, scientific notation, ratio, percent, variation problems, and unit conversion. The course focuses on systematic problem solving and challenges students in the abstract thought process.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 9

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Geometry

Course Description:

This course is designed to solidify and enhance geometric concepts introduced in previous courses, to introduce new geometric concepts, and to teach students to apply algebra concepts in a geometric setting. Concepts include, but are not limited to the following: lines and angles, triangles, quadrilaterals and circles, area, and volume. Throughout these topics, formal and informal proof is explored including two column, paragraph, and flow proofs. Projects are incorporated in the second semester.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Honors Geometry*

Course Description:

This course is an in depth study designed to solidify and enhance geometric concepts introduced in previous courses, to introduce new geometric concepts, and to teach students to apply algebra concepts in a geometric setting. Concepts include, but are not limited to the following: lines and angles, triangles, quadrilaterals and circles, area, and volume. Throughout these topics, formal and informal proof will be explored including two column, paragraph, and flow proofs. This course differs from the regular geometry course in the depth of discussion and discovery students will engage in during the course. Projects are incorporated in the second semester.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 with a teacher recommendation

Algebra 2

Course Description:

This course provides a curriculum that builds on the algebraic concepts covered in Algebra 1. Students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include: functions, relations, and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; and advanced polynomial functions. Students also cover topics relating to rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Honors Algebra 2*

Course Description:

This course is a comprehensive honors course that broadens and extends algebraic concepts covered in Algebra 1 and prepares students for advanced-level courses such as pre-calculus and calculus. Students are challenged to work toward a mastery of computational skills, to deepen their conceptual understanding of key ideas and solution strategies, and to extend their knowledge in a variety of problem-solving applications. Course topics include conic sections; functions, relations, and their graphs; quadratic functions; inverse functions; advanced polynomial functions; rational functions; radical functions; exponential and logarithmic functions; and sequences and series.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 with a teacher recommendation

Discrete Math

Course Description:

This course takes topics learned in Algebra 1 and 2, as well as Geometry, and integrates them in order for students to explore a variety of real-life problems and their solutions. Discrete math is highly recommended for any students looking to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts, as well as those hoping to pursue further study in the mathematical/computer sciences. Topics will include number theory, set theory, counting and probability, matrices, graph theory, and logic.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Probability and Statistics

Course Description:

This course is designed to give students the skills needed to collect, understand and analyze data. Students will explore how to assign probability to everyday occurrences, assess the validity of statistical arguments, and use data and mathematical modeling to draw conclusions about real-world scenarios. This course will give students a solid foundation for college-level statistics courses. Topics will include experimental design, data organization, probability distributions, hypothesis testing, and correlation.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Trigonometry*

Course Description:

This course deepens and broadens understanding of trigonometry introduced in Geometry. Required for the student who plans to progress to Pre-Calculus and encouraged for any student who may pursue math or science after graduation from high school. Topics covered include trigonometric ratios and functions; inverse trigonometric functions; applications of trigonometry, including vectors and laws of cosine and sine; polar functions and notation; and arithmetic of complex numbers, as well as an introduction to the concept of limit.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Open to grades 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Pre-Calculus *

Course Description:

This course is a comprehensive honors course that combines previous study of algebra, geometry, and functions into a preparatory course for calculus. The course focuses on the mastery of critical skills and exposure to new skills necessary for success in subsequent math courses. Integrating and deepening mathematical ideas to build a solid foundation for problem solving. Topics include functions (linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical, polynomial, and rational); polar coordinates; vectors; conic sections; and introduction to limits.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Open to grades 11-12

AP Calculus AB**

Course Description:

This is a course in single-variable calculus that includes techniques and applications of the derivative, techniques and applications of the definite integral, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. It is equivalent to at least a semester of calculus at most colleges and universities. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout the course. Students taking this course must have completed a solid foundation of mathematical courses that include algebra, geometry, trigonometry, analytic geometry, and elementary functions. Students are familiar with the properties, graphs, algebra, and language of linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric, inverse trigonometric, and piece-wise defined functions.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Open to grades 11-12

Physical Education

Health

Course Description:

This course instructs students on having a healthy foundation, which includes what health is, influences on your health, and taking charge of your health. As the year progresses, various aspects of health will be discussed including: mental and emotional health, healthy and safe relationships, nutrition and physical activity. Students will take part in an online CPR course and at the end of the semester students will also learn concepts dealing with abstinence education, specifically endocrine and reproductive health, sexually transmitted diseases, the world view and Biblical view of abstinence, dating and marriage, a video, "Life's Greatest Miracle" and a pastor's perspective of abstinence education.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Physical Education (Team Sports)

Course Description:

This course is based on playing some team sports and learning about different individual fitness opportunities. Activities will include: basketball, fitness stations, Tae Bo/aerobics, floor hockey, team handball, fitness (walking/jogging/relays, fitness practice and assessment), and Nerf baseball.

One Semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Personal Fitness

Course descriptions:

This course will focus on educating students as to the importance of lifetime physical fitness through aerobic exercise, flexibility training, and strength training. Emphasis will be placed on the assessment and maintenance of physical fitness to improve health and performance.

One semester/Credit: .5

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 9-12

Science

Physics 1

Course Description: Physics 1 is a survey of God's physical creation. Students experience many of the phenomena of nature as they practice the methods of science. Students are introduced to the laws and concepts that are the foundation of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as being further instructed in the scientific process. Topics include scientific inquiry, motion and force, work, energy, electricity, heat, temperature, waves, matter, atoms, bonding and chemical reactions.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Open to grade 9; fulfills grade 9 science requirement

Honors Physics 1*

Course Description: Students experience many of the phenomena of nature as they practice the methods of science. Students are introduced to the laws and concepts that are the foundation of biology, chemistry and physics, as well as being further instructed in the scientific process. Topics include: scientific inquiry, motion and force, work, energy, electricity, magnetism, heat, temperature, waves, matter, atoms, bonding and chemical reactions. The material will have a definite math emphasis and its application to data interpretation. A greater depth of material coverage as well as real life Christian application will be stressed in all units.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Requires a grade of "B" or higher in Algebra 1

Open to grade 9; fulfills grade 9 science requirement

Biology

Course Description: Biology is an introductory course into the study of life and living organisms. Biology introduces students to the foundations of living organisms, their habits, their anatomy and physiology, and their purpose in God's creation. Students are exposed to cells and their processes, heredity, creation, evolution, and intelligent design, as well as different microbes. All of this is done to encourage their knowledge of their personal environment, as well as the wonder of all of God's creations.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 11-12; fulfills grade 11 science requirement

Honors Biology*

Course Description: An inquiry-centered, laboratory course in Biology. The course stresses the nature of life processes in greater depth. Students will be guided through the scientific process and examine all levels of biological organization from molecules and cells to populations and ecosystems.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Chemistry

Open to grades 11-12; fulfills grade 11 science requirement

AP Biology**

Course Description: AP Biology has extensive content in biochemistry, biochemical genetics, and cellular physiology. Considerable talent and interest in science are necessary for success in this college-level course. The equivalent of the core course for college biology majors, this course prepares the student for the college-level biology examination administered by the Advanced Placement Program. Success on this exam may entitle the student to college credit, advanced college placement or both.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)
Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Open to grades 11-12; fulfills grade 11 science requirement

Chemistry

Course Description: This course of study is designed to challenge students through active learning. The course material covers the following: the proper use of chemistry equipment and techniques, elements and compounds, gases, thermodynamics, the structure of matter, the periodic table, math used in chemistry, the metric system, and a core of chemical foundations used in technology today. The course develops the concepts of chemical bonds and intermolecular forces, balanced equations and stoichiometry, and the proper use of the scientific method. The course further enhances process skills, critical thinking skills, and fosters positive attitudes towards science as a whole. It provides students with a view of God's laws as they govern our world and personal lives.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills grade 10 science requirement

Prerequisite: Physics 1 or Honors Physics 1

Honors Chemistry*

Course Description: This course is a more in depth exploration, which focuses on labs, note taking and class discussions. Because of the nature of the course, critical thinking is employed as we explore God's laws and how they are used to benefit our society and glorify our Creator. Students will study chemistry equipment and techniques, elements and compounds, gases, thermodynamics, the structure of matter, the periodic table, math used in chemistry, the metric system, and a core of chemical foundations used today. The course develops the concepts of chemical bonds and intermolecular forces, balanced equations, stoichiometry, and the proper use of the scientific method.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grades 10-12; fulfills grade 10 science requirement

Prerequisite: See honors course information on page 36

Anatomy & Physiology

Course Description: This full-year laboratory course is designed to acquaint the student with general anatomy and physiology presented through a Christ centered perspective. It is meant to engage students and make them functionally literate in the language and images of the human form. The structure and function of the body's systems will be investigated using microscope investigations, laboratory exercises, and extensive dissections designed to give the student hands on experience with different tissues and organ systems. Major topics will include histology, the body's organs and organ systems, homeostasis, health, development, injury/pathology, disease diagnosis and treatment, medical imaging, drug action, and a culminating trip to a local university's cadaver lab. Students will be expected to complete case study investigations and apply their understanding of the human body. This course will help prepare students interested in medicine, nursing, research, EMT, physical therapy, pharmacy, sports training, and their related fields of study including art (human form), psychology, and/or anthropology.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1

Open to grade 12

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry and teacher recommendation

AP Physics**

Course Description: This is a highly algebra-based, introductory college-level physics course that explores topics such as Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. Through inquiry-based learning, students will develop scientific critical thinking and reasoning skills. Students explore principles of Newtonian mechanics (including rotational motion); work, energy, and power; mechanical waves and sound; and introductory, simple circuits. The course is based on six Big Ideas, which encompass core scientific principles, theories, and processes that cut across traditional boundaries and provide a broad way of thinking about the physical world.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)

Open to grade 12

Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Social Science

World History

Course Description: World History is a survey of the major cultural, political, intellectual, and economic ideas that have shaped humanity through the ages, beginning with the civilizations of ancient Mesopotamia and continuing to the present day. It examines Western as well as non-Western history and uses. In addition to the course text, period and original documents to draw conclusions about the nature of human achievement in the umbra of the sovereign design and vision of God. World History encourages students to view history through a Biblical lens, to see it as an unfolding picture of God's work in the human adventure.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 10-11; fulfills grade 10 social science requirement for 2017-2018 school year only

U.S. History

Course Description: Beginning with the pre-colonial Indian migrations and continuing to the religious and ethnic disputes that marked the close of the twentieth century, this course takes students through the major intellectual, political, economic, and religious ideas and events that have made America what it is today. Using primary and secondary source documents and the Biblical canon, this course encourages students to study and consider America's history from a Biblical standpoint, and to better appreciate the intersections of sacred and secular that have shaped the nation through the time that God has given it.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: None

Open to grade 11; fulfills grade 11 social science requirement
This course will be offered again in the 2018-2019 school year

American Government

Course Description: The study of American government is designed to teach students the workings of the American government and the Constitution, and instill in them their responsibilities toward God, one another, and their country as citizens. While the course focuses on the federal government, students are exposed to state and local government as well. Students will be challenged to see the need for Christians to be involved in all aspects of government.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: U.S. History and World History

Open to grade 12; fulfills .5 of grade 12 social science requirement

Economics

Course Description: The study of economics is designed to provide students with a basic understanding of the U. S. economic system, classical and Keynesian economics, as well as to challenge them to identify and accept their responsibilities toward God and their fellow man. While the course focuses on the American system of economics, students are introduced to other common theories that are presently in use in the world today. Students will experience hands on investing and the factors which influence the stock market.

One Semester/Credit: .5
Prerequisite: U.S. History

Open to grade 12; fulfills .5 of grade 12 social science requirement

Prerequisite: None

Open to grades 10-12

AP United States History**

Course Description: AP United States History is an accelerated course that is meant to be the equivalent of a freshman college course and can earn students college credit. It is a two-semester survey of American history from the pre-Columbian Native Americans through President Obama's administration. Students should learn to assess historical materials, their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability and importance and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. The purpose of AP U.S. History is to obtain systematic factual knowledge about the American experience and to develop the analytical skills necessary for a higher level of understanding. This course involves students in the analysis and interpretation of primary sources, including documentary material, maps, statistical tables, and pictorial evidence of historical events.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)
Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Open to grades 11-12

World Language

Spanish 1

Course Description: The goal of Spanish 1 is to lay a foundational knowledge of the Spanish language for both oral and written communication. The curriculum focuses on vocabulary, key grammatical concepts, and exposure to the culture. Students participate by listening and speaking primarily in Spanish. Active participation through listening, speaking and writing is necessary for success.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: None

Open to grade 9-11; fulfills partial graduation requirement

Spanish 2

Course Description: This course builds upon the knowledge learned in Spanish 1 and focuses on continuing to build vocabulary and grammatical skills along with more fluent reading and writing skills; oral communication in the Spanish language is expected. The curriculum also integrates cultural understanding. Homework involves more creative thought and analysis.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Spanish 1

Open to grades 9-12 fulfills graduation requirement

Spanish 3

Course Description: The goal of Spanish 3 is to help students become proficient readers, writers and speakers of the Spanish language. Complex grammatical structures are introduced, including the subjunctive and command verb forms. Students are expected to take notes independently and to participate through both oral and written activities, including short essays in Spanish.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1
Prerequisite: Grade of "B" or higher in Spanish 2

Open to grades 10-12

AP Spanish Language and Culture**

Course Description: This course will follow the core curriculum recognized by the College Board which states: "The three modes of communication (Interpersonal, Interpretive, and Presentational) defined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the twenty-first Century are foundational to the AP World Languages and Cultures courses." The AP Spanish Language and Culture course stresses communication (understanding and being understood by others) by the application of interpersonal, interpretive, and presentation abilities in real-life situation. This consists of vocabulary application, command of language, communication strategies, and cultural knowledge.

Two Semesters/Credit: 1 (Weighted Scale)
Prerequisite: See AP course information on page 36

Open to grades 11-12

Study Hall

Study Hall

Course Description: This period is used for the completion of assigned homework and/or for quiet study. It is recommended that all freshmen include a study hall in their schedule. Students are limited to one study hall per semester.

One or Two Semesters/Credit: None

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: None

Teacher/Intern Assistant

Course Description: This is a practical internship course that students may take in place of their study hall and is designed to team a staff/faculty member with a student expressing interest in exploring a career within the staff member's area of expertise. The student is assigned to and mentored by one staff member. The student may be responsible for administrative duties such as copying materials and grading but will also perform functions directly related to the occupational role. This may include instruction or business development or technical support. No credit is given for this course. The mentor and student are encouraged and welcome to meet to determine their own goals and objectives of this opportunity.

Two Semesters/Credit: None

Open to grades 9-12

Prerequisite: Guidance Counselor and Principal recommendation