



UPPER SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS 2025-2026

HARVESTCHRISTIANACADEMY

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Contents

INTRODUCTION	5
DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR	6
COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES	7
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	7
BIBLE DEPARTMENT	8
CORE 1 – INTRO TO THE BIBLE (GRADE 9 FIRST SEMESTER):	8
CORE 3 – THEOLOGY 1 (GRADES 10-12):	8
CORE 4 – THEOLOGY 2 (GRADES 10-12):	8
DAILY DISCIPLINES:	8
END TIMES:	8
LETTERS FROM A JAIL CELL:	9
BIG QUESTIONS:	9
MISSION MINDED:	9
APOLOGETICS:	9
SABBATH REST:	9
GOSPEL OF JOHN	9
ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT	10
ENGLISH I:	10
HONORS ENGLISH I:	10
ENGLISH II:	10
HONORS ENGLISH II:	10
ENGLISH III:	11
AP LANGUAGE:	11
ENGLISH IV:	11
AP SEMINAR:	12
AP LITERATURE:	12
HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS.....	12
HISTORY DEPARTMENT	13
WORLD HISTORY:	13
AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY:	13
AP WORLD HISTORY:	13
U.S. HISTORY:	13
AP U.S. HISTORY:	14
GOVERNMENT:	14
AP GOVERNMENT:	14
ECONOMICS:	14
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT	16
PHYSICS:	16

CHEMISTRY:	16
CHEMISTRY HONORS:	16
BIOLOGY:	16
HONORS BIOLOGY:	17
ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY (HONORS):	17
EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY:.....	17
INDEPENDENT SCIENCE RESEARCH:	17
NUTRITION BIOCHEMISTRY:.....	17
MATH DEPARTMENT	18
ALGEBRA I:	18
GEOMETRY:	18
HONORS GEOMETRY:	18
ALGEBRA II:	19
ALGEBRA II HONORS:.....	19
PRE-CALCULUS:.....	19
PRE-CALCULUS HONORS:	19
AP CALCULUS:	20
AP STATISTICS:	20
COLLEGE ALGEBRA:.....	20
FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT	21
SPANISH I:	21
SPANISH II:	21
SPANISH III:	21
SPANISH IV:	21
ELECTIVES.....	22
ART ELECTIVES.....	22
ARTIST ACADEMY I (DIGITAL ART I):	22
ARTIST ACADEMY I (DIGITAL ART II):	22
ARTIST ACADEMY III:	22
ARTIST ACADEMY IV:	23
CERAMICS I:.....	23
CERAMICS II:.....	23
DIGITAL ARTS I:.....	23
DIGITAL ARTS II:.....	23
ART OF FILM:	24
GRAPHIC DESIGN / PHOTOGRAPHY:.....	24
ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES.....	24
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES:.....	24
AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A- JAVA:	24
ENGINEERING I: ENGINEER YOUR WORLD- DESIGN & ANALYSIS:	25
ENGINEERING II ROBOTICS & MANUFACTURING:	25
ENGINEERING III INTRODUCTION TO MECHATRONICS:	25
VIDEO & MUSIC PRODUCTION:	25
GENERAL ELECTIVES.....	26
HEALTH AND LIFE:.....	26

INDEPENDENT STUDY:	26
INTRO TO BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP:	27
LIFE READY- HOME ECONOMICS:	27
SOCIOLOGY:	27
STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING:.....	27
MUSIC ELECTIVES	28
CHOIR/VOICE:.....	28
SYMPHONIC BAND:	28
STRINGS:	28
WORSHIP TEAM:	28
COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS	29

INTRODUCTION

This booklet is to assist students in planning a course of study for their high school years. It contains the requirements students must meet in order to graduate from Harvest Christian Academy (HCA). It also contains a brief description of each class offered.

The State of Illinois recognizes one type of diploma, with required courses and specific number of credits. HCA's high school diploma exceeds these state guidelines. HCA is designed to meet the educational needs of students who are planning to attend a four-year university and/or community college. Students who are considering attending the more selective colleges should consider taking the AP, dual credit, and/or honors classes. Students are encouraged to evaluate their current interests and future college plans when considering their course load at HCA.

One credit is earned for each semester of a successfully completed course. The following table shows the number of credits required for graduation from HCA.

Note: HCA's College Preparatory track is fully aligned with College Readiness Standards (ACT) and College Board Standards for College Success (SAT)

CREDIT REQUIRED FOR GRADUATION		
Courses	College Preparatory Track	
Bible	8 credits	
Math	6 credits	
Science	6 credits	
English	8 credits	
History	6 credits (must include US History and Economics/Government)	
Foreign Language	4 credits	
P.E.	1 credit	
Health	1 credit	
Computer/Fine Arts	3 credits	
Electives	8 credits	
Communications	1 credits	
Total Credits	52 credits	

Please note: courses are subject to be filled or dropped at the discretion of the administration.

RECOMMENDED SCHEDULE				
<u>Grade 9</u>	<u>Credits</u>		<u>Grade 10</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Bible 9	2		Bible 10	2
English I	2		English II	2
Math	2		Math	2
Physical Education/ Health	2		History	2
Science	2		Science	2
Spanish I	2		Spanish II	2
Technology or Fine Arts	2		Technology or Fine Arts	2
Total Semester Credits	14		Total Semester Credits	14
<u>Grade 11</u>	<u>Credits</u>		<u>Grade 12</u>	<u>Credits</u>
Bible 11	2		Bible 12	2
English	2		Economics/Government	2
Math	2		English	2
Science	2		Math	2
U.S. History	2		Electives	2
Electives	4			
Total Semester Credits	14		Total Semester Credits	10

DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR

At HCA, students can graduate “with distinction” after successfully completing a prescribed number and type of courses, while at the same time earning a higher grade point average. Students need to complete the following requirements to graduate as a Distinguished Scholar:

- Math requirements must include Pre-Calculus or higher
- Science requirement must include at least three lab sciences
- Three full years in the same foreign language or two years of two different foreign languages
- A grade average of 3.7 or above upon graduation
- A Distinguished Scholar must also complete **one** of the following:
 - Two Advanced Placement (AP) courses and corresponding AP exams
 - Academic, transferable dual high school/college courses resulting in six college credits
 - One AP course and corresponding AP exam and academic transferable dual high school/college credit resulting in three college credits

As you read through this booklet, you will come across honors, advanced placement, and dual credit course descriptions. The following are the basic definitions of each:

- **Honors classes** are courses requiring greater effort and/or research. They are scored on a higher GPA scale of 5.0. No college credit is awarded for taking honors classes.

- **Advanced Placement (AP)** courses are selected from the College Board Advanced Placement program. They follow detailed syllabi which correspond to the AP course description guide. Outcomes are measured on a nationally recognized AP exam. Based on this assessment score, credit(s) may be issued by a college or university. These courses are scored on a higher GPA scale of 5.0.
- **Dual credit college courses** are classes that are taken either off campus at a college or university or are taken online and pre-approved by an accredited college or university. Successful completion of such a course satisfies an HCA credit and credit(s) from the college or university, and may be transferable. These courses are scored on a higher GPA scale of 5.0.

Note – The Senior Class Valedictorian must qualify as a Distinguished Scholar.

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES

Harvest Christian Academy offers a total of 24 potential college credits through our honors or dual credit courses that are all taught at HCA. Our expanding list of options includes:

- -AP English Literature – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP English Language – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP Human Geography – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP U.S. History – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP World History – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP Government – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP Precalculus- 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations
- -AP Calculus – 3 credits through Advanced Placement Examinations

Harvest Christian Academy also offers several online AP options as well.

HCA encourages junior and senior students who qualify to pursue online and early-release college credits through a dual-credit program. See the Guidance Counselor for further information.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Our Course Description Guide includes a GPA scale for each class to help you assess its difficulty:

- 4.0 indicates that the course is being taught on a regular high school level. Content and assessments are gauged for an average student.
- 5.0 indicates an honors course. Content is broader, the pace is quicker, and assignments and grading are more difficult.
- 5.0 indicates college-level AP and dual credit courses. Content is at a college level and pace. Students will experience advanced-level discussion and entry-level college reading and writing.

After reading this booklet, parents and students are encouraged to discuss their placement options with our Guidance Counselor.

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

CORE 1 – INTRO TO THE BIBLE (GRADE 9 FIRST SEMESTER):

Fall semester, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This first semester ninth-grade course will allow students to embark in an in-depth and extensive introduction to the Bible providing foundational skills and orientation to the study of the Scripture. We will learn about how the Bible came to be, the overall storyline of the Bible, how to study it and interpret it in your own and finally, we will learn how to apply it to your everyday life. We desire that our students will learn that God speaks to us through the Bible and if we want to know Him more, we need to know His word better.

CORE 2 – BIBLE STUDY METHODS (GRADE 9 SECOND SEMESTER):

Spring semester, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This second semester grade 9 course focuses specifically on Bible study methods. Students will demonstrate the ability to observe, interpret, and apply biblical passages using different bible study methods. This course will focus on the learning and use of those methods, to provide students with the opportunity to learn and dive deeper into scripture as they use their acquired skills.

CORE 3 – THEOLOGY 1 (GRADES 10-12):

Fall or Spring semester, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This is the first part of a two-part course that guides students towards a well-rounded understanding of the tenants of Christianity using a combination of the Bible, *Concise Theology* by J. I. Packer, and class discussion, students are equipped to discern meaning from the text and own their faith as they develop their ability to apply biblical-theological truth to all aspects of life.

CORE 4 – THEOLOGY 2 (GRADES 10-12):

Fall or Spring semester, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This is the second part of a course that will guide students to have a well-rounded, biblical understanding of the faith. We continue to use the resources and methods from Theology 1 to prepare students for personal independence in Bible study and to continue to develop their ability to apply biblical truth to their lives.

DAILY DISCIPLINES:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This class will grow students' knowledge in growing closer to God in their daily lives. Opportunities are given to practice the disciplines with a group of like-minded students.

END TIMES:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This class will lead students through the prophecies leading up to the Book of Revelation as well as the Book of Revelation itself. Old and New Testaments will be studied in this end times class.

LETTERS FROM A JAIL CELL:

Bible elective, grades 10-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

Get ready for a deep dive into the letters Paul wrote while in prison. We will become familiar with the text, audience, and meaning. Then, we will apply those insights to our lives today.

BIG QUESTIONS:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This class will discuss and find answers to the Big Questions we face in our life and culture. The Bible is used as a guide with input from opposing viewpoints and perspectives.

MISSION MINDED:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This class is all about missions. The history of the missionary movement and famous missionaries are the focus. The culminating project is the planning of a mission trip.

APOLOGETICS:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This class will answer important questions in an understandable way so that they can be shared with others. The questions are immeasurably big, but the answers can be held in your hands, put in your pocket, taken with you, and given to others when they need it most.

SABBATH REST:

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

The theme of Sabbath is woven throughout the whole of Scripture, from the beginning of the beginning through the final chapter of Revelation. But what exactly is Sabbath? Is it just a day off to sleep in or is there more to this commanded holy day? This course looks at the origin of and multiple purposes for the Sabbath and seeks a practical application of how we can stop working, trust the Lord, and rest.

GOSPEL OF JOHN

Bible elective, grades 9-12, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0 OR Pass/Fail

This elective is a verse-by-verse study of the Gospel. John uses the creation narrative and themes as a backdrop to defend his claim that Jesus is the Son of Man and the long-awaited Messiah. Explore the signs, witnesses, and I AM statements in context of this letter written to Jews and Gentiles in the Greco-Roman world as John asks them, and us, to believe and live.

ENGLISH & LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

ENGLISH I:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course fulfills two of the four writing intensive requirements for graduation. Freshmen will learn mechanics and usage of grammar in a writing context. This course utilizes the writing process model to integrate literature studies, written reports, and reading responses. Students will become more secure in their reading comprehension, writing, and analysis skills. Literary texts may include Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express* and William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*.

HONORS ENGLISH I:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course fulfills two of the four writing intensive requirements for graduation, Freshmen will learn mechanics and usage of grammar in a writing context. This course utilizes the writing process model to integrate literature studies, written reports, and reading responses. Students will become more secure in their reading comprehension, writing, and analysis skills. Additionally, this course focuses on advanced writing and grammar, rhetoric, and literature analysis in preparation for joining advanced placement. Literary texts may include John Knowles' *A Separate Peace*, Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and Sandra Cisneros's *House on Mango Street*.

Prerequisites for this course are 80% in the previous English course, teacher recommendation, and PSAT scores.

ENGLISH II:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This World Literature course fulfills two of the four writing-intensive requirements for graduation. In this continuation of English I, students will write literary analysis essays, practice public speaking, and engage in class discussions. Students will examine and integrate grammar and literature as they deepen their writing skills. Literary texts may include Miller's *The Crucible*, Stevenson's *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, Shelley's *Frankenstein*, and Shakespeare's *Macbeth*.

The completion of or demonstrated competency from English I is a prerequisite for this course.

HONORS ENGLISH II:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course fulfills two of the four writing-intensive requirements for graduation. Sophomores will learn mechanics and usage of grammar in a writing context. The study of vocabulary will be intensified as writing becomes more formal. This course utilizes the writing process model to integrate literature studies, written reports, and reading responses. Students will become more

secure in their reading comprehension, writing, speaking, and analysis skills. Literary texts may include Miller's The Crucible, Stevenson's Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, Shelley's Frankenstein, Farewell to Manzanar by James D. Houston and Jeanne Wakatsuki Houston and Shakespeare's Macbeth.

Prerequisites for this course are 80% in the previous English course, teacher recommendation, and PSAT scores.

ENGLISH III:

Full year, 2 credits. GPA scale = 4.0

Students will explore American literature, focusing on literary movements, philosophies, and backgrounds of major writers. This course is especially useful to college-bound students as they learn to write for various audiences and purposes, including an in-depth research paper. Students will read a variety of texts, including poetry, essays, speeches, and novels. This course fulfills one of the four writing-intensive courses required for graduation. Literary text may include Ray Bradbury's Fahrenheit 451, F. Scott Fitzgerald's The Great Gatsby, Neal Shusterman's Scythe, and Wes Moore's memoir The Other Wes Moore.

AP LANGUAGE:

Full year, available to qualifying juniors or seniors, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course prepares students to pass the AP English exam in language. Students will explore various styles of writing from historical documents to full-length classic novels to poetry from various eras, including World, American, and British literature. A heavy emphasis will be placed on essay writing and critical analysis. This course fulfills one of the four writing-intensive courses required for graduation. It is fast-paced and aligned with the requirements of the College Board for the AP exam in May. Students taking this class are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisites for this course are 90% in English, English teacher recommendation, and PS 80 or SAT scores.

ENGLISH IV:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale= 4.0

Students will explore British literature, focusing on literary movements, philosophies, and backgrounds of major writers. This course is especially useful to college-bound students as they learn to write for various audiences and purposes, including college application essays, resume writing, and literary analysis essays. Students will read a variety of texts, including poetry, essays, speeches, and novels. This course fulfills one of the four writing-intensive courses required for graduation. Literary texts may include Beowulf, Chaucer's Canterbury Tales, Orwell's 1984 and Animal Farm, and Lewis's Screwtape Letters.

The completion of or demonstrated competency from English I and English II are a prerequisite for this course.

AP SEMINAR:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale= 4.0

This course will prepare students for the AP Seminar Test in May. AP Seminar is an interdisciplinary course that encourages students to demonstrate critical thinking, collaboration, and academic research skills on topics of the student's choosing. Students will read and view rigorous sources to synthesize material into oral presentations, essays, and team products.

Prerequisites include a 90% in English, English teacher recommendation, and PSAT or SAT scores.

AP LITERATURE:

Full year, available to qualifying seniors, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course prepares students to pass the AP English exam in language. Students will explore various styles of writing from historical documents to full-length classic novels to poetry from various eras, including World, American, and British literature. A heavy emphasis will be placed on essay writing and critical analysis/ This course fulfills one of the four writing-intensive courses required for graduation. It is fast-paced and aligned with the requirements of the College Board for the AP exam in May.

Prerequisites for this course are 90% in English, teacher recommendation, and PSAT/SAT scores.

HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNICATIONS

Full year, available to qualifying seniors, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This required course is designed to help students build communication skills that will aid them in both academic and professional settings. Students will learn the art of public speaking, improving their ability to confidently present ideas to an audience. Through the study of rhetoric, students will understand how to use persuasive language effectively. In addition, the course will focus on speech analysis, allowing students to critically evaluate famous speeches. They will also develop strong interviewing skills to help them succeed in future college and job interviews. This class is ideal for students who want to improve their verbal communication and leadership abilities.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

WORLD HISTORY:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course will provide a solid understanding of world history. It will enable students to better understand and evaluate the world and time in which they live by having a fundamental understanding of the past. This course will also cover major events and trends from ancient civilizations to the Cold War era. Within this chronology, this course will look at the history of culture, politics, diplomacy, society, education, economics, and more. Special emphasis is placed on biblical principles of history as they are related to God's plan for individuals and nations.

AP HUMAN GEOGRAPHY:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

GCS is a combination of physical and cultural geography. Physical features of the world are studied, including landforms, climate, natural resources, and ecosystems. The interrelationships between people and their environment are also explored, focusing on culture, economics, politics and God's working within that geographical sphere. Furthermore, the influence of geography on events of the past and present are analyzed.

AP WORLD HISTORY:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

In AP World History: Modern, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from 1200 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: humans and the environment, cultural developments and interactions, governance, economic systems, social interactions and organization, and technology and innovation.

U.S. HISTORY:

Full year, required, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Students will examine events, people, places, culture and historical themes from the Reconstruction to the present. Focus will be on the political, economic, and social events and issues. Students are expected to use critical thinking skills, analyze historical documents, and complete projects detailing important topics in U.S. History. Taught from a biblical perspective, the emphasis is not only on learning our country's history, but also on how students, as citizens, can learn how to influence this nation and culture for Jesus Christ.

AP U.S. HISTORY:

Full year, required alternative, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course is an advanced U.S. History course in preparation for the AP exam. Analyzing documents, mastering factual information, and writing critical essays are stressed throughout the course. Emphasis will be placed on key themes mandated by the College Board such as American diversity, American identity, culture, demographic changes, economic transformations, environment, globalization, politics and citizenship, reform, religion, slavery and its legacy, and war and diplomacy. There is significant research and outside reading expected. Students taking this class are required to take the AP exam.

Prerequisites include a "B" (3.0) cumulative grade point average and a teacher recommendation.

GOVERNMENT:

One semester, required course for seniors, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

This course will study the U.S. Government at the local, state, and federal levels. Citizenship, the political process, and a Christian's responsibility to country are covered and examined from a biblical viewpoint. Students will be encouraged to involve themselves in the political process. The state-required exam regarding American patriotism and representative government will be administered in this course.

AP GOVERNMENT:

One semester, required alternative, 1 credit, GPA scale = 5.0

This course will prepare students for the AP Government College Board Test. U.S. Government at the local, state, and federal levels will be studied. Citizenship, the political process, and a Christian's responsibility to country are covered and examined from a biblical viewpoint. Students will be encouraged to involve themselves in the political process.

Prerequisites include a "B" (3.0) cumulative grade point average and teacher recommendation.

ECONOMICS:

One semester, required for seniors, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

Social Science Economics is concerned with the way society as a whole and individuals choose to employ its limited resources which have alternative uses to produce goods and services, for present and future consumption. In making these choices, we are deciding which wants or needs to fulfill; because everyone has wants and needs economics applies to everyone.

The course is designed as a survey course to give students a basic understanding of economic principles. The course is organized to introduce students to both micro and macroeconomics. Throughout the course, personal financial principles will be taught in regard to income, credit, investing, and budgeting. The design of this course is two-fold: one it will provide students with

an education that will be useful in their day to day lives, and secondly it will also provide a framework off which to work in higher education.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

PHYSICS:

Lab science, full year, required, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Physics is the foundation of all other sciences because it gives us a profound look into how matter and energy interact in the physical world. In this course, students will engage and practice physics concepts in the lab, while asking questions about the physical world. This will help students develop an ability to critically think and in turn, create concrete and abstract models of physics ideas.

Prerequisites: Algebra II

CHEMISTRY:

Lab science, full year, required, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course is mathematical as well as conceptual in nature, with detail being vital to results. Students will learn how chemical processes and reactions can be both beneficial and detrimental to life. Labs are designed to develop lab technique and self-discipline. Students should have a basic background in Algebra I and must be able to use their graphing calculator effectively. This course will prepare students for the Anatomy and Physiology Honors course.

CHEMISTRY HONORS:

Lab science, full year, required, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course is mathematical as well as conceptual in nature, with detail being vital to results. Students will learn how chemical processes and reactions can be both beneficial and detrimental to life. Labs are designed to develop lab techniques and self-discipline. Students should have a basic background in Algebra I and must be able to use their graphing calculator effectively. This course will prepare students for the Anatomy and Physiology Honors course.

BIOLOGY:

Lab science, full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Biology is a very broad science that covers a variety of topics about the world around us. This course will give students the wonderful opportunity of exploring what comprises life on Earth and how that ties into not just who we are as people, but who God is as Creator. As we touch on many known biological concepts, such as genetics and taxonomy, students will gain a diverse understanding of life processes and how they all function together. Dissection may be part of the curriculum and while participation is highly recommended it is not required.

HONORS BIOLOGY:

Lab science, full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

Biology is a very broad science that covers a variety of topics about the world around us. This course will give students the wonderful opportunity of exploring what comprises life on Earth and how that ties into not just who we are as people, but who God is as Creator. As we touch on many known biological concepts, such as genetics and taxonomy, students will gain a diverse understanding of life processes and how they all function together. Dissection may be part of the curriculum and while participation is highly recommended it is not required.

ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY (HONORS):

Lab science, full year elective for juniors and seniors, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This honors course offers an in-depth study of the structure and function of the eleven systems of the human body, along with an examination of disease and disorder as they relate to these systems and homeostasis. This course is intensive in vocabulary and critical thinking so good studying skills are required. Some laboratory time will be included with an emphasis on dissection.

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY:

Fall semester for juniors and seniors, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

This course examines the physiological effects of exercise on the body. Students will investigate information essential to constructing an effective exercise program and analyze the resulting impacts on bodily function.

INDEPENDENT SCIENCE RESEARCH:

Fall semester for juniors and seniors, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

In this class, students will research a scientific topic of their choice by writing a literature review. Then they will perform research, analyze the data, and present their findings at a research symposium in the spring. (This is not a Lab Science)

NUTRITION BIOCHEMISTRY:

Spring semester for juniors and seniors, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

Students in this course will explore key biochemical pathways of the things we consume (eat and breathe) every day, and then link these findings to medical conditions and the student's daily eating habits. Students will also learn the chemistry behind cooking and flavors, allowing them to be more competent and creative in the kitchen.

Prerequisite: Chemistry

MATH DEPARTMENT

Note – For admittance to a four-year college or university, no less than Algebra II/Trigonometry is recommended. To qualify for Distinguish Scholar, a student must take Pre-Calculus.

Students will be required to earn a 70% or better in a class in order to progress to the next level of mathematics. If a student earns lower than a 70% they will be required to show proficiency by taking: 1) an approved summer school course 2) an approved on-line course 3) an equivalent community college course or 4) a public school summer course. If a student does not earn a 70% or better first semester of an advanced class, they will be moved to the regular class at the semester.

ALGEBRA I:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This is a first-year algebra course. Topics include the number systems; algebraic symbols and formulas; arithmetic operations with algebraic expressions; equations and inequalities; coordinate systems and mathematical graphing; systems of equations; factoring; algebraic fractions; exponents and radicals; quadratic equations; and elementary probability and statistics concepts. A graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI 84) will be used.

Prerequisite: Pre-algebra with 70% or better

GEOMETRY:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This is a course in Euclidean geometry, using both inductive and deductive reasoning. It includes an informal introduction to solid geometry. Students are expected to learn through discovery by conducting investigations and constructions by hand or with computer software. Topics include congruency, similarity, parallel lines, circles, polygons, constructions, areas, volumes, and coordinate geometry. A graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) will be used.

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I with a 70% or higher.

HONORS GEOMETRY:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

Students enrolling in Geometry Advanced should expect to move at an accelerated pace as well as in a more mathematically sophisticated manner than they would in Geometry.

This is a course in Euclidean geometry, which includes proofs by deductive reasoning. Topics include congruency, similarity, parallel lines, planes, circles, polygons, constructions, areas, surface areas and volumes of solids, and coordinate geometry. A graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84) will be used.

Prerequisite: First year Algebra I with an 80% or higher and either high achievement scores or teacher recommendation.

ALGEBRA II:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course includes the advanced topics from the first two semesters of algebra handled in greater depth. New topics include linear systems in three dimensions; rational, exponential, radical, and polynomial functions; matrices; logarithms; inverse operations, and complex numbers. A graphing calculator (TI-84 Plus CE) will be used regularly.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Geometry

ALGEBRA II HONORS:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This course includes the advanced topics from the first two semesters of algebra handled in greater depth. New topics include linear systems in three dimensions; rational, exponential, radical, and polynomial functions; matrices; logarithms; complex numbers, inverse operations, and trigonometric functions. A graphing calculator (TI-84 Plus CE) will be used regularly.

Prerequisite: Geometry or Honors Geometry with 85% or higher

PRE-CALCULUS:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This calculus preparation course is designed for students who have completed two years of algebra and a year of geometry. Emphasis will be placed on modeling real-world situations using polynomials, exponent, and trigonometry functions. Students enrolling in this class should expect to work at a rigorous pace to prepare for Calculus.

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to master parametric equations, sequences and series, and limits in order to prepare for Calculus. There is an assumption that students have mastered Algebra II topics. A TI-84 Plus CE is required.

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra II with 85% or better, or Algebra II with 90% and teacher recommendation.

PRE-CALCULUS HONORS:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

This calculus preparation course is designed for students who have completed two years of algebra and a year of geometry. Emphasis will be placed on modeling real-world situations using polynomials, exponent, and trigonometry functions. Students enrolling in this class should expect to work at a rigorous pace to prepare for Calculus.

This course is designed to give students an opportunity to master parametric equations, sequences and series, and limits in order to prepare for Calculus. There is an assumption that students have mastered Algebra II topics. A TI-84+ Silver Edition is required.

Prerequisite: Advanced Algebra II with 85% or better, or Algebra II with 90% and teacher recommendation.

AP CALCULUS:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

Students have the opportunity to obtain college credits by completing the College Board Course and taking the AP test in May. Challenging topics such as instantaneous rate of change, velocity, acceleration, and areas under curves will be covered and related to the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Students are expected to be self-disciplined and invest time in order to master this very “fundamental” theorem. A TI-84+ CE calculator is required.

Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus with 90%, or Advanced Pre-Calculus with 80% or better and consent of the instructor.

COLLEGE ALGEBRA:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 5.0

In this course, students will review skills learned in Algebra 2 and then deepen their knowledge of previously learned algebra skills at a collegiate level. Students will study the real and complex number system, arithmetic operations with polynomials, special products and factoring. Students will explore linear, exponential, quadratic, and logarithmic functions and their graphs while applying algebra skills to problems in theoretical and real-world situations. A TI-83 or TI-84 calculator is required.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

SPANISH I:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Spanish I is an introductory course for students with little or no experience learning the Spanish language. An emphasis is placed on learning basic vocabulary words and grammar concepts. These skills are practiced through a variety of activities, including games, songs, worksheets and classroom projects. Reading and writing skills are introduced and practiced frequently.

SPANISH II:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course continues the methods used in Level 1 and is designed to further develop the students' communicative skills using thematic vocabulary units and real-life situations. Audiovisuals and readings are used to reinforce speaking, listening, reading, writing and grammar skills.

Prerequisite: Spanish I

SPANISH III:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Students will continue to develop reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills as well as learn new grammar and vocabulary. Students are also expected to apply more advanced grammatical structures. The emphasis is on communication in the target language. Students are encouraged to speak Spanish with their peers and teacher. Audio-visual materials and readings in the target language are used to enhance comprehension.

Prerequisite: Spanish II

SPANISH IV:

Full year, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

This course helps students refine their skills in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Spanish. Students learn new vocabulary and grammar as well as review previously learned grammatical concepts. A variety of reading materials will be used to highlight cultural material as well as grammar and vocabulary. Students are expected to interact with each other and with the teacher in Spanish. Audio-visual materials are used to enhance comprehension.

Prerequisite: Spanish III and consent of instructor.

ELECTIVES

ART ELECTIVES

ARTIST ACADEMY I (DIGITAL ART I):

Fall semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This course is an introduction to the digital tools and applications used to create art and photography in a variety of professional fields. This class serves to expose the student to different artistic disciplines while growing them in their visual communication skills. The Adobe suite is used along with Wacom Cintiq Pros and powerful iMac systems to empower the student to create artistic works with digital components seamlessly.

ARTIST ACADEMY I (DIGITAL ART II):

Spring semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This course continues to explore digital tools and applications to create art and photography in a variety of professional fields. Students will learn different artistic disciplines while growing in their visual communication skills. The Adobe suite is used along with Wacom Cintiq Pros and powerful iMac systems to empower the student to create artistic works with digital components seamlessly.

Prerequisite: Digital Art 1

ARTIST ACADEMY II:

Fall Semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This is the first of a two-year curriculum designed by industry professionals on the following topics: Concept Art, Visual Development & Keyframe Art, Animation, Comic Book Illustration, Editorial Cartooning & Film Storyboards. These new curriculums are designed into various 4 - 12-week sections of curriculum and implemented throughout the two years. This class is designed to allow students to begin growing skills & acquire knowledge within the above listed professions. These class projects allow for continued portfolio-building projects as well as preparation for their Art Academy Year 4 portfolio class.

ARTIST ACADEMY III:

Fall Semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This is the second of a two-year curriculum designed by industry professionals on the following topics.

Concept Art, Visual Development & Keyframe Art, Animation, Comic Book Illustration, Editorial Cartooning & Film Storyboards. These new curriculums are designed into various 4 - 12-week sections of curriculum and implemented throughout the two-year period. This class is designed to allow students to begin growing skills & acquire knowledge within the above listed professions. These class projects allow for continued portfolio-building projects as well as preparation for their Art Academy Year 4 portfolio class.

ARTIST ACADEMY IV:

Fall Semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This is the final Artist Academy class and allows the student to produce self-designed projects for a portfolio or just for themselves. They have a minimum of 4 projects to complete and will participate in various exercises throughout the semester with their fellow artist academy students.

CERAMICS I:

Fall semester, elective, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

This course covers the fundamentals of working in clay. Students will learn the different techniques of hand building using pinch, coil and slab. They will also learn the basics of throwing clay on the wheel and how to use glazes for high and low firing, plus different finishing techniques. They will develop their own creativity and style while working in this medium.

CERAMICS II:

Spring semester, elective, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

This course covers advanced techniques in ceramics. Students will continue with hand building and wheel work in Ceramics II. They will be able to further develop their skills, improving on what they have learned in Ceramics I.

DIGITAL ARTS I:

One semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This course is an introduction to the digital tools and applications used to create art and photography in a variety of professional fields. This class serves to expose the student to different artistic disciplines while growing them in their visual communication skills. The Adobe suite is used along with Wacom Cintiq Pros and powerful iMac systems to empower the student to create artistic works with digital components seamlessly.

DIGITAL ARTS II:

One semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

This course continues to explore digital tools and applications to create art and photography in a variety of professional fields. Students will learn different artistic disciplines while growing in their visual communication skills. The Adobe suite is used along with Wacom Cintiq Pros and powerful iMac systems to empower the student to create artistic works with digital components seamlessly.

Prerequisite: Digital Art 1

ART OF FILM:

Fall Semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

Traditional/Digital - Developing sequential storytelling skills for film, tv, comics, advertising, etc. This class is focused on pursuing the specific skill set to create storytelling in projects such as storyboards, keyframe paintings and filmmaking. It will introduce students to Adobe Premiere and challenge their composition skills as they tackle working on camera angles and learning how to use visual language to speak to producers and directors through film sequences.

Prerequisite: Digital Art 1

GRAPHIC DESIGN / PHOTOGRAPHY:

Spring Semester, 1 credit, GPA scale 4.0

Graphic Design - This class will focus on beginning to understand Adobe Software and its use in designing layouts for various projects. It focuses on the value of balanced design, text hierarchy, tagline development and manipulating existing imagery and design to suit existing brands. Students will also create self-promoting brand elements.

Photography - Composing, Shooting, and Retouching your Photos. No DSLR cameras are required. Camera phones are the only requirement. This class will focus heavily on quality composition, lighting, and digital photo adjustments designed to grow the photographer in their knowledge of file creation for both print and digital mediums. They will use Adobe Photoshop to edit and improve their own photos as well as professional images.

Prerequisite: Digital Art 1

ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES**AP COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES:**

Full year, elective, 1 credit each semester, GPA scale = 5.0

AP Computer Science Principles is an introductory college-level computing course that introduces students to the breadth of the field of computer science. Students learn to design and evaluate solutions and to apply computer science to solve problems through the development of algorithms and programs. They incorporate abstraction into programs and use data to discover new knowledge. Students also explain how computing innovations and computing systems—including the internet—work, explore their potential impacts, and contribute to a computing culture that is collaborative and ethical.

AP COMPUTER SCIENCE A- JAVA:

Full year, elective, 1 credit each semester, GPA scale = 5.0

AP Computer Science A is an introductory college-level computer science course. Students cultivate their understanding of coding through analyzing, writing, and testing code as they explore concepts like modularity, variables, and control structures.

ENGINEERING I: ENGINEER YOUR WORLD- DESIGN & ANALYSIS:

Full year, elective, 2 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

First year Engineering introduces students to at least seven distinct areas of the engineering field. We cover mechanical, computer, chemical, civil, structural, aviation, manufacturing engineering and consumer product design. The discovery process takes place through extended projects such as pinhole cameras, skyscrapers, coffee, music, simple computers, and aerial imaging. Problem solving, creativity, patience, perseverance, and open mindedness are all major components for success. Work is done in large and small teams, and pairs.

Prerequisite: Complete or concurrent enrollment in Geometry.

ENGINEERING II ROBOTICS & MANUFACTURING:

Full year, elective, 2 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

Engineering 2 builds on the disciplines and experiences of Engineering 1. In this course, we dive deeper into how machines and processes are automated. 3D CAD design, simulation models, and large-scale robotics are key components (we will participate in First Technology Challenge). This course also incorporates our Manufacturing Incubator, which exposes students to the processes of manufacturing, as well as Lean Manufacturing principles in a small team environment. Interaction with industry professionals is a regular part of the class.

Prerequisite: Engineering 1 is required; Algebra 2 passed or concurrent enrollment.

ENGINEERING III INTRODUCTION TO MECHATRONICS:

Full year, elective, 2 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

Mechatronics is the intersection of automation and machine-human interaction. Students will code and design simulations that reflect industrial operations. Expectations for machine language, spatial geometry, applied statistics are very high. Successful students will receive certification as a robot operator/programmer through Yaskawa Co.

Prerequisite: Engineering 2 is required; Pre-Calculus passed or concurrent enrollment; Computer Science and Statistics are recommended

VIDEO & MUSIC PRODUCTION:

Full year, elective, 1 credit each semester, GPA scale = 4.0

The HCA Production class offers high school students an engaging introduction to the intersection of music and technology. Designed to accommodate a range of musical backgrounds, from beginners with no prior experience to advanced instrumentalists and self-taught musicians, this course provides practical training in live music production. Students will develop skills in managing and enhancing live performances, focusing on events such as school chapels, concerts, Java Jam, theater productions, and assemblies. This program fosters a hands-on, collaborative environment where students gain both technical expertise and artistic insight.

YEARBOOK:

Full year, elective, 1 credit each semester, GPA scale = 4.0

Students accepted as members of the annual staff will be responsible for running a small business by creating, designing, producing and marketing a limited-edition annual book. The design and production involve creative use of technology programs to capture important school events and memories. Some after-school commitments will be required. This course may count for either a fine arts credit or technology credit.

GENERAL ELECTIVES

HEALTH AND LIFE:

One semester: required, 1 credit. GPA scale = 4.0

This course will cover human growth and development in spiritual, mental, social, and physical health. This course will cover units that are directly applicable to student life now and will equip them with the knowledge and information to build a solid foundation for their future. As they learn about nutrition, physical activity, disease, tobacco, alcohol, and life management they will be challenged to build biblical convictions in all areas of total health. The course will also focus on consumer knowledge and safety education, including CPR instruction, first aid for obstructed airways, injury prevention, and disease prevention and control. Students will grow in the understanding that their bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit, and will develop an attitude of praise, knowing they are fearfully and wonderfully made.

This dynamic health course provides high school students with essential knowledge and skills for lifelong well-being as they grow in the understanding that their bodies are a temple of the Holy Spirit and are wonderfully made. The class covers a range of topics, and the curriculum emphasizes the interconnectedness of physical, mental, social health in a spiritual context. Units covered include Human Body Systems, Human Ecology, Cancer Awareness, Human Reproduction, CPR/ First Aid, Injury Prevention, Physical Fitness and Mental Health just to name a few. By the end of the course, students will have a comprehensive understanding of health topics that affect their lives and the lives of others. They will develop critical thinking skills to make informed health decisions, promote wellness in their communities, and foster a comprehensive approach to health.

INDEPENDENT STUDY:

One semester, elective, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

This course is available only to juniors and seniors and it centers on the preparation for transition towards a career in art or a college art program. Specific instruction is directed towards portfolio development, scholarship application, and art website creation and exhibition preparation. Additionally, students will engage in independent art creation under the direction of the teacher.

INTRO TO BUSINESS & ENTREPRENEURSHIP:

One semester, 1 credit, GPA scale = 4.0

Intro to Business will dive into the four major categories of business; marketing, finance, accounting, and management. Students will have an opportunity to create a LinkedIn profile, practice industry interviews, a resume, and a final group project where students can start an entrepreneurship venture.

LIFE READY- HOME ECONOMICS:

One semester, 1 credit. GPA scale = 4.0

Students in Life Ready will step into a boot camp for adulthood! Prepare yourself to tackle the most practical class you will ever take. Life throws a number of challenges your way, so we will prepare you to accomplish such tasks as basic cooking, child development, home management and repair, basic automotive maintenance, sewing, basic budgeting, and simple first aid. Many topics will be covered by professionals in their respective fields to help gain a deeper understanding of the skills necessary to succeed in life. Students should expect hands-on opportunities with skills they can take home and apply during college and beyond!

SOCIOLOGY:

One semester, 1 credit per semester, GPA scale = 4.0

The purpose of this sociology course is to provide students with a chance to examine human social interaction and the ways in which individuals are influenced by other people and society. Students will learn how to become more reflective of themselves, their community, and their society. Sociology focuses on special topics such as: groups, culture, socialization, deviance and inequalities (gender, social class, race, ethnicity). This class will explore these areas through sociological readings and engaging in discussion and simulation. Upon completion of this course, students should gain a better understanding of themselves and their place in the social world.

STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING:

One semester, 1 credit per semester, GPA scale = 4.0

This elective course is designed for high school students interested in improving their overall fitness, athletic performance, and understanding of strength and conditioning principles. Students will engage in a comprehensive program that includes resistance training, cardiovascular conditioning, flexibility, and nutrition education. Students will learn fundamental lifting techniques, how to program their own workouts, goal setting and achieve healthy habits. All participants that play a sport will be provided with programming to help improve strength and skill towards their specific sport. By the end of class students will have gained physical strength, higher confidence levels and the ability to compete at a higher level of competition for their sport.

TEACHER ASSISTANT:

One semester (or full-year for juniors and seniors only), no GPA scale given, no credit.

Requirement: approval from the guidance department and/or High School Principal; must have an average grade of B- or above; must be willing to assist the teacher in the performance of fundamental classroom duties, which may include small group assistance. This elective is ideal for the student who is considering teaching as a career.

MUSIC ELECTIVES**CHOIR/VOICE:**

Full year, elective, 2 credits, GPA Scale = 4.0

This course is designed for students who want to take their singing to the next level. This is accomplished by increasing their musical understanding of vocal performance in community through studying a variety of musical styles and healthy vocal technique. Our rehearsals prepare the students for multiple performances throughout the year such as Java Jam, the Christmas concert, Spring concert, Spring Contest, and school assemblies. It also helps if they'd like to take the worship team elective.

SYMPHONIC BAND:

Full year, elective, 2 credits, GPA scale = 4.0

Students in this course will practice advanced skills in tone production, note reading, and ensemble playing through the use of various drills, scales, and concert pieces. Music is selected from a variety of periods and styles, including both sacred and secular pieces. This course has three scheduled performances a year: Grandparent's Day, Christmas Concert and Spring Concert.

WORSHIP TEAM:

Full year, elective, 1 credit each semester, GPA scale = 4.0

Worship Team focuses on the core principle that worship is ascribing worth to God. Students are trained in practices rooted singing and playing to and about God. Drawing inspiration from Harvest Bible Chapel's Vertical Worship, students learn the skills necessary for authentic worship. Each week, student-led worship teams take on the responsibility of leading worship in our HCA chapel services, gaining hands-on experience as worship leaders and deepening their understanding of this vital ministry.

COLLEGE ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

This chart provides general guidelines for college admission to assist you in course selection and planning. When possible, contact the college to determine specific requirements needed for admission, as we do not claim to represent all colleges/universities.

	HCA Graduation Requirements in Academic Areas	Community Colleges and Vocational Schools	State Universities In Illinois	Out-of-state Universities, Private Universities and Colleges	Highly Selective Universities and Colleges
ENGLISH	4 years	4 years	4 years Emphasis on written and oral communication and literature	4 years	4 years
MATH	3 years	2-3 years	3 years Algebra I Geometry Algebra II (Trigonometry in some programs)	2-4 years Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Trigonometry	4 years recommended through Calculus
SCIENCE	3 years	2-3 years	3 years Recommended areas: Biology Chemistry Physics	2-4 years Recommended areas: Biology Chemistry Physics	4 years Recommended areas: Biology Chemistry Physics
SOCIAL SCIENCES	3 years including U.S. History Government Economics	2-3 years	3 years Emphasis on History and Government	2-4 years	3-4 years Emphasis on History Government Economics
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	2 years	0-2 years	2 years at some schools	2-4 years at some schools	3-4 years
FINE ARTS MUSIC TECHNOLOGY	1 year of tech 1 optional year of fine arts	0-2 years	2 years	2-4 years at some schools	2-4 years at most schools