

Village Christian Academy



High School Course
Selection Guide
2018-2019

Course Selection Guide Handbook

This handbook is to assist students and parents in choosing what courses the student will take while enrolled at Village Christian Academy. This information will hopefully help avoid confusion and help guarantee the student is meeting all graduation requirements and making decisions to have a successful academic experience at Village Christian Academy. Choices made during the high school years will have a direct effect on future post-secondary plans and professional success. Please read the material carefully. Students and parents should discuss course selection and meet with the guidance counselor to ensure they are on the path to high school graduation. Planning is important, so make sure you are thorough in planning and selecting your high school course choices.

Course of Study

All students at Village Christian Academy follow the College/University Prep course of study. This diploma path will allow students to pursue a baccalaureate/four-year degree at a public or private college or university.

Graduation Requirements

1. The minimum number of credits needed for a student to graduate from VCA is 28 credits or 4 less credits than the maximum credits available during their high school career to graduate.
2. If a student does not pass a class with 60%, the class must be re-taken if needed for graduation.
3. A credit course, one for which credit toward high school graduation is awarded and which qualifies as part of the instructional day, must consist of at least 150 hours of instruction in a traditional schedule or 135 in the block schedule.
4. While a student at Village Christian Academy, completion of the courses outlined below are required for graduation and the courses must be taken at VCA. Once students have met the course graduation requirements listed below, senior students may be able to take courses offered at VCA outside of VCA (FTCC, NCVPS). Students transferring into VCA will not have course GPA's calculated for courses that are not also offered to VCA students in order to avoid an unfair academic advantage.

Content Area	# of credits needed, course specific
English	4 credits: English I, II, III, IV
Math	4 credits: Alg. I, Alg. II, Geometry, and one math higher than Alg.2. Note: Alg. 1 taken in the 8 th grade does not count towards the 4 math credits required.
Science	3 credits: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry or Physical Science
Social Studies	4 credits: World History, PEL, American History I and American History II or AP US History*
Foreign Language	2 credits: Both courses must be in the same language
Health/PE	1 credit: Health/PE
Bible	1 credit: for each year at VCA

5. A senior will not graduate if there is a delinquent account balance to include the senior fee.
6. Every student enrolled at VCA will take Bible each year. Transfer students from non-Christian or public schools will enroll in Bible 9 their first year at VCA regardless of grade placement.
7. All other courses taken are considered elective courses and will count toward the student's

GPA and the 28 credits needed to graduate.

8. Any college course taken during high school will be placed on the student's transcript as an honors credit. These courses will be calculated in the student's grade point average.
9. Seniors are required to take a minimum of six (6) on campus courses during their senior year.

Non VCA Courses

At VCA, we strive to challenge our students academically by providing them the opportunity to complete college level coursework through our local community college, Fayetteville Technical Community College, and through North Carolina Virtual Public School. Our students greatly benefit from college level exposure while still in high school. We are pleased to offer this opportunity to our students adhering to the following guidelines:

- Administration has final approval of all courses taken through FTCC, NCVPS or other Dual-Enrollment Community College programs.
- A school year is defined as June 1st through May 31st.
- Any cost for a non-VCA course will be paid by the student.
- Seniors are limited to 3 courses per semester and may not exceed 6 courses per year. This includes Summer Session I, Summer Session II, Fall and Spring Semesters.
- Juniors are allowed to take one FTCC course per semester for a total of 4 courses per year. This includes Summer Session I, Summer Session II, Fall and Spring Semesters. No more than 1 course can be taken in a given semester.
- Rising juniors and seniors are the only students allowed to take courses at FTCC or through NCVPS.
- Rising juniors may take courses during the summer following their completed Sophomore year.
- Juniors may not leave campus for FTCC courses unless there is a valid, extreme schedule conflict. Consideration will be given if the student's VCA schedule allows.
- ALL students and parents must agree that the grade received in the FTCC or NCVPS course will be added to the official transcript and calculated in GPA, including failing grades.
- All FTCC courses will receive honors credit when calculating the student's GPA. NCVPS AP courses will be weighted as an AP course if the AP exam is taken. If the AP exam is not taken, then honors credit will be given.
- Students **MUST** take all required courses for high school graduation at VCA. **No courses may be taken at FTCC or through NCVPS in replacement of taking the graduation required course at VCA.**
- If a senior student's schedule allows, on campus courses at FTCC may be approved.
- If there is a valid, extreme schedule conflict with the senior student's VCA schedule, on campus courses at FTCC may be approved.
- Students must be enrolled in the required total number of classes per year (i.e. juniors must be enrolled in 8 courses per year, seniors must be enrolled in 6 courses per year). Students cannot drop a FTCC or NCVPS course if it will take them below the required course total.

Summer Courses

Students who wish to take a course during the summer may do so by adhering to the following guidelines:

1. Course(s) must be approved by VCA Administration.
2. Students may take summer courses online or on campus if offered at FTCC or through other Dual Enrollment Community College programs.
3. Students **MUST** take all required courses for high school graduation at VCA. **No courses may be taken at FTCC or through NCVPS in replacement of taking the graduation required course at VCA.**
4. Each course will be added to the student's transcript. All FTCC courses will receive honors credit when calculating the student's GPA. NCVPS AP courses will be weighted as an AP course if the AP exam is taken. If the AP exam is not taken, then honors credit will be given.
5. Any AP course taken during the summer will count in the total number of AP courses a student is allowed to take during the upcoming school year.
6. Any cost for a non-VCA course will be paid for by the student.
7. A school year is defined as June 1st through May 31st.

Course for Credit

A course credit, one for which credit toward high school graduation is awarded and which qualifies as part of the instructional day:

- must consist of a minimum of 135 clock hours of instruction in a block schedule;
- must be directed by a teacher.

One (1) unit of credit will be awarded for the course upon successful completion.

Repeating of a Course

Students are not allowed to repeat a course unless he or she has previously failed the course.

Promotion

In order to receive a passing grade for a course, the student must not miss more than 13 class periods during each course during the school year. They must also adhere to the following grade promotion standards:

- For promotion from grade (9) to grade (10) a student must pass a minimum of six (6) courses. One of these courses must be English I.
- For promotion from grade (10) to grade (11) a student must pass a minimum of thirteen (13) units of course credit in grade nine (9) and grade ten (10) cumulatively. Two of these courses must be English I and English II.
- For promotion from grade eleven (11) to grade (12) a student must pass a minimum of twenty (20) units of course credit in grades nine (9), ten (10), and eleven (11) cumulatively. Three of these courses must be English I, English II, and English III.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

VCA will follow the lead of The State Board of Education in modifying the transition plan for the new grade point averaging process effective in 2015. Freshmen in 2015 will be using a ten-point scale as well as a new weighting system that will allow one extra quality point for all college level courses, including AP courses for a maximum of five quality points for a course. Honors classes will carry .5 additional

weight for a maximum of 4.5 quality points for a course. Beginning in 2015 all upperclassmen, including grades 10-12, will use the current weighting system, but will transition to a 10-point grading scale.

Grade Point Average (GPA) is vital that students develop a good student work ethic early in their academic career. All courses taken at Village Christian Academy are calculated in the student’s grade point average. The first year in high school sets ones grade point average (GPA) for the next three years. Students need to appreciate the importance of those early grades and understand that GPA’s do not move quickly. Honors classes and AP classes are weighted.

For students entering high school as freshmen in August, 2015, the classes are weighted as follows:

- Standard Classes = 4 point “A”
- Honors Classes = 4.5 point “A”
- *AP Classes = 5 point “A”

Weighing of Grades

Course grades are weighted for the purpose of calculating the student’s Grade Point Average (GPA).

Students entering high school as freshmen in August, 2015 will receive credit for the purpose of calculating their grade point average as shown on the table below:

Weighing Grades Chart

	A	B	C	D	F
Standard Courses	4	3	2	1	0
Honors Courses	4.5	3.5	2.5	1.5	0
AP Courses	5	4	3	2	0

Grades are assigned using the following scale:

A= 100-90 B= 89-80 C= 79-70 D= 69-60 F= 59 and below

Every course that a student takes during high school at VCA is calculated into their GPA. It is VCA’s policy to record all courses, even courses failed.

Grade Point Average (GPA) Calculation

The student’s grade point average (GPA) is calculated by adding up the quality points a student receives and dividing by the number of possible credits. The quality points are assigned using the weighing of grades chart. Below is a sample of a GPA calculation:

		<u>Freshmen</u>
English 1 Honors	93	4.5
PEL	85	3.0
Spanish I	96	4.0
Earth Science H	77	2.5
Bible 9	100	4.0
PE/Health	70	2.0
Geometry H	92	4.5
Choir	88	+ 3.0
		27.5/8 = 3.44 GPA

Transfer Students

Students transferring into VCA who have been promoted under their previous school's standards will retain their pre-transfer grade level. Transfer students must then meet VCA promotion standards for subsequent grade level promotion.

If a student transfers to VCA with a letter grade the following numerical grade will be assigned:

A= 95 B= 85 C= 75 D= 65 F= 55

In order to be the valedictorian or salutatorian at VCA a student must attend VCA during his or her junior and senior years.

Transfer student's graduation requirements will be based upon when they entered the ninth grade.

Honors Courses

The overall purpose of Honors courses is to provide a more rigorous curriculum to the student where the curriculum and instruction is expanded and special activities focus on both the depth and breadth of the course content. Teachers have high expectations for the student with classes having required reading lists, advanced writing assignments, and independent study/projects. Additional activities might be included such as enrichment activities or follow-up assignments. Honors courses are available if the student possesses the appropriate pre-requisite courses and grades and chooses to participate in a more rigorous course of study.

Advanced Placement Courses

Advanced Placement Courses expose high school students to college-level courses. Students may study challenging courses of study in a variety of subjects. In order to enroll in an AP course, the student must possess the appropriate prerequisite courses and grades and choose to participate in a more rigorous course of study. AP exams are administered in the spring of each school year and students taking an AP course are required to take the AP exam for that course. Colleges and universities may grant course credit, placement, or both based upon the scores on the exams. If the student fails to sit for the exam, the quality point will be revoked.

Ninth grade – No AP courses

Tenth grade – can take one AP course during the school year*

Eleventh grade – can take up to a total of three AP courses during the school year*

Twelfth grade – can take up to a total of four AP courses during the school year or more with administrative approval*

*Recommended criteria for entrance into AP coursework includes a grade of "93" in a prerequisite or related coursework, and/or teacher or principal recommendation. If a student wishes to take more AP courses than the number recommended, they must have administrative approval and the student and parent must sign a waiver. A school year is defined from June 1st through May 31st.

GPA Calculation to determine Valedictorian and Salutatorian

Valedictorian and Salutatorian are selected the week of graduation after all senior grades are finalized. The student with the highest cumulative GPA is awarded Valedictorian and the student with the second highest cumulative GPA is awarded Salutatorian. If there is a tie for Valedictorian a numeric average will be used to determine the Valedictorian and the runner up will become Salutatorian.

Schedule Change Statement

To avoid problems caused by schedule changes, the student should complete and follow your Registration Worksheet/Four-year academic plan. Carefully analyze the consequences before requesting to drop or change a course. Parent permission must accompany any request for a schedule change. Schedules may not be changed after **August 22, 2018**, at 3:00 in the afternoon.

Course Descriptions

English/Language Arts

English I

Prerequisite: None

English I is a comprehensive course which includes the study of literature, writing techniques, vocabulary development and grammar. A research paper is given as a required exercise. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and analysis of themes and characters.

English I - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in previous English

In addition to all of work in English I, students have an additional major literature work per quarter. The course includes additional literary projects as well as writing assignments.

English II

Prerequisite: English I

English II focuses primarily on literature and composition with bi-weekly vocabulary quizzes. The literary content covers elements from short stories, essays, dramas, and poetry, as well as, novels from various literary periods and a variety of authors and poets. Students will be introduced to literary elements of each genre and then be required to synthesize and critique reading assignments, and in turn, write their own reactions and responses in various literary compositions and essays.

English II - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in English I

In addition to the work in English II, the work required from an honors English student is not limited to outside reading alone. Honor students will be asked to delve deeper into the classroom novels and explore literary elements, elements of plot, setting, and characterization, and themes of the novels through essays, projects, papers, or class discussion.

English III

Prerequisite: English II

This course stresses continued reading improvement, development of vocabulary skills, grammar review, and the skills needed for effective writing in academic and vocational situations. Literature studies center on American works. Research skills include the use of primary and secondary sources, the writing of a term paper, and annotating reports and short papers.

English III - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in English II

In addition to the work in English III, some additional reading is required. Extra projects and papers are required.

AP Language

Prerequisite: 93 in English II-H

Through analytical readings of prose and through their own writing, students experience the aspects of rhetoric and syntax, which highlight the styles of great writers. Students study prose models and develop a personal style of their own in both expository and creative writings. Types of writing emphasized are essays, reports, summaries, personal narratives, and a research paper based on critical analysis of classic world, American, and British writers. At the completion of this course, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their scores and the requirements of the college of their choice.

English IV Essentials

Prerequisite: English I, English II, and English III

English Essentials is designed for students who would benefit from a thorough review of skills necessary to enter college. Students will concentrate on four strands: academic writing, usage of vocabulary definitions, grammar associated with the SAT/ACT, and critical reading.

English IV – Honors - British Literature

Prerequisite: 90 in English III

Students will study the literary works from the different British literary periods. Honor students will be asked to delve deeper into the classroom novels and explore literary elements, elements of plot, setting, and characterization, and themes of the novels through essays, projects, papers, or class discussions.

AP Literature and Composition-British Lit.

Prerequisite: 93 in English III-H

This is an advanced course designed for the students who are serious about analyzing and critiquing literature. In addition to covering the course material for British Literature, students will use several other textbooks to teach them how to systematically analyze and interpret a variety of prose, poetry, and essays from various time period and authors. At the completion of this course, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their scores and the requirements of the college of their choice.

BIBLE EDUCATION

Bible 9- Biblical History

Prerequisite: None

VCA understands that not all students coming into high school have been given a biblical education. So in order to help with this transition we offer an introduction to biblical history course that gives each student, no matter their background, the opportunity to compare and contrast ancient history to the Bible (the what's, when's, where's, and why's) in order to receive basic biblical knowledge. It will give each student an overall understanding of the Bible so that they are better prepared for our high school environment when it comes to the Word of God and that they will learn to "*fix these words of mine in [their] hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on [their] hands and bind them on [their] forehead*" (Deuteronomy 11:18).

Bible 10- Contemporary World Issues

Prerequisite: None

Bible 10 is designed to prepare sophomores for the next step in their transition to adulthood. Using Summit Ministries' Understanding of the Times as the core curriculum, students will learn to recognize the dominant contemporary issues of today, how to critically evaluate these worldviews, and why a biblical worldview is essential for a life outside of the Christian bubble. They will also learn to defend a biblical worldview and how to apply it to contemporary issues in a secular atmosphere. Sophomores will be challenged and prepared to remain faithful to Christ and the Word of God no matter the pressure they will face in their future education and personal lives so that they can live out the command Christ gave in Matthew 5:16, "*let our light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

Bible 11- The Heroes of Old

Prerequisite: None

The major focus for this course is to understand the character of God, whereas the minor focus will be that of exegetical study – specifically the backgrounds of authorship, text, and audience. Students will grasp these two focuses by studying each book of the Bible as well as several biblical characters from Genesis to Revelation. It takes what they will have learned in 9th grade Bible (biblical history) and 10th grade Bible (apologetics) and be able to see it through the individual lives of biblical heroes in order to receive as Paul states in Philippians 4:9, "*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.*" This in turn will transition them into their senior year where they will take on a more practical approach to their faith.

Bible 12- Faith in Action

Prerequisite: None

Theory can only go so far until practical application becomes necessary. Bible 12 offers VCA seniors the chance to take what they have learned and what they believe and put it into practice. Each student will learn about how every day Christians have and still are reaching out to their communities, cities, and countries, the events that have changed the world, and Christian programs that have affected the lives of

millions. They will also be charged with creating their own program/ministry, which they will in fact carry out in our community before the year's end. We at VCA want to do as James 2:17 states, "*In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action is dead.*"

MATHEMATICS

All math students are required to own a TI83 calculator or higher. Calculators are also used in some science and business classes.

Algebra I

Prerequisite: None

Algebra I is the study of algebraic concepts including operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and application of linear functions and relations, and an introduction to non-linear functions.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra I

The study of Geometry includes two and three-dimensional shapes, geometric vocabulary, reasoning and proofs, lines, triangles, polygons, circles, congruency, similarity, area, volume, coordinate geometry, transformations and trigonometry. Students will move from an inductive approach to deductive methods of proof in their study of geometric figures. Algebra is integrated throughout the course and applied to geometric shapes.

Geometry - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in Algebra I

This course is similar to Geometry but with more depth. Students are given more advanced problems, especially word problems that require them to use their reasoning and critical thinking abilities. There is also a greater emphasis on writing proofs, proving Theorems and applying algebra to geometric concepts. Students are extended in topics such as coordinate geometry and trigonometry where more advanced material is studied. Students in this course need to be able to apply mathematical concepts to new and different problems.

Algebra II

Prerequisite: Algebra I & Geometry

Algebra II continues the study of advanced algebraic concepts including functions, polynomials, rational expressions, and complex numbers, systems of equations and inequalities and matrices. Emphasis will be placed on practical application and modeling.

Algebra II - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in Algebra I & 90 in Geometry H

Algebra II Honors provides a review and extension of the concepts taught in Algebra I. Like Algebra II, Algebra II Honors includes algorithmic-based problems but it will place a heavier emphasis on application problems, otherwise known as "word problems". A more rigorous pacing is required.

Advanced Functions

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Help students acquire a solid foundation in algebra and trigonometry, preparing them for other courses. It will show students how algebra and trigonometry can model and solve real-world problems and enable them to develop problem-solving skills, while fostering critical thinking. Topics include equations, inequalities, mathematical modeling, functions and graphs, and trigonometry.

Pre-Calculus - Honors

**Prerequisite: 90 in Algebra II-H or
Advanced Functions**

Pre-calculus provides students an honors level study of advanced functions, analytic geometry, data analysis, and trigonometry in preparation for calculus. Applications and modeling will be included throughout the course of study.

Probability and Statistics – Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in Algebra II-H/Algebra II

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of Statistics and Probability. Students will develop strategies for collecting, organizing, analyzing and drawing conclusions from data. In addition, probability will be studied through simulations and hands-on activities. The course will focus on applying concepts to real world problems. A TI -83 calculator is required.

AP Calculus

Prerequisite: 93 in Pre-Calculus

This course follows the College Board of Curriculum to develop the students' understanding of the concepts of calculus (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives, and integrals) and provides experiences with its methods and applications. The course encourages the geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expressions of concepts, results, and problems. At the completion of this course students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP Statistics

Prerequisite: 93 Probability & Statistics

This course provides instruction in four broad conceptual themes: Exploring Data, Sampling and Experimentation, Probability and Simulation, and Statistical Inference. While arriving at the correct numerical answer is important, there is a greater emphasis on reading, analyzing, thinking critically and writing clearly to explain your answers. This is a conceptual based course and requires mathematical maturity and quantitative reasoning ability. A TI-83/84 calculator is required. AP style questions are used on assessments.

SCIENCE

Earth Science

Prerequisite: None

This course concentrates on the physical world around us. It covers the weather and climate, astronomy, rocks and minerals, inside the earth, and the earth's waters. Much observation is involved in this course. Students learn to read weather maps, track storms, identify minerals, etc. At the conclusion of this course students will have a better understanding of the effects of nature on our planet.

Earth Science - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in previous Science

This course covers the same material as standard Earth science. Students will have additional books and/or articles for outside reading dealing with various course concepts. Assessments are more comprehensive.

Biology

Prerequisite: Earth Science

This course will introduce the student to the basic structure and function of living organisms. It will include an introduction to the following areas: chemistry of life, cell structure and function, genetics, organism classification, microbiology, botany, zoology, ecology and evolution. This course will give the student a greater appreciation of God's creation and His divine plan.

Biology - Honors

Prerequisite: 93 in Earth Science/8th grade A average and completed Algebra I

This course is a more in-depth study of the same topics discussed in general biology. This course is designed for students who are highly motivated and have strong independent learning/studying skills.

Physical Science**Prerequisite: Earth Science and Biology**

This course will build a rich knowledge base to provide a foundation for the continued study of science. Laboratory and literary investigations integrate the following topics in chemistry and physics: structure of atoms, structure and properties of matter, motion and forces, conservation of energy, matter and charge

Chemistry - Standard**Co-requisite/Prerequisite: Algebra II**

The chemistry course encourages students to continue their investigation of the structure of matter along with chemical reactions and the conservation of energy in these reactions. Inquiry is applied to the study of the transformation, composition, structure, and properties of substances.

Chemistry - Honors**Co-requisite/Pre-requisite: 90 in Algebra II**

In addition to all work in Chemistry Standard, a more in-depth study of the same topics is covered. The topics addressed are at a more comprehensive level. The course is designed for students who are highly motivated and have strong independent learning/study skills.

Physics - Honors**Prerequisite: 90 in Algebra II and previous Science**

Physics, the most fundamental of the natural sciences, is quantitative in nature and uses the language of mathematics to describe natural phenomena. Inquiry is applied to the study of matter and energy and their interaction. The following topics are “uncovered” in this curriculum: conservation of mass and energy, conservation of momentum, waves, and interactions of matter and energy.

Anatomy and Physiology - Honors**Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry**

This course is a rigorous course designed to allow highly motivated students to conduct an in-depth study of the function and structure of the human body. Students are expected to work more independently completing two to three additional research projects.

AP Chemistry**Prerequisite: 93 average in Chemistry and Biology**

This course is equivalent to a two semester college chemistry course. Topics include atomic and molecular structure descriptive inorganic and organic chemistry, stoichiometry, thermodynamics, chemical kinetics, electrochemistry, the chemistry of aqueous solutions, and basic techniques of qualitative analysis. At the completion of this course students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP Biology**Prerequisite: 93 average in Honors Biology****Co-requisite: Algebra II and Chemistry**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a two semester college biology course. AP biology is recommended for those students who are highly motivated and have a strong interest in science. Topics of study include biochemistry, cells, cellular processes, genetics, evolution, organism classification, organism structure/function and ecology. This course includes a lab component which is equivalent to those of a college biology lab. At the completion of this course students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP Environmental Science**Prerequisite: 93 average in Biology****Co-requisite: Chemistry and Algebra II**

Advanced Placement Environmental Science is equivalent to a one semester college course that includes the following major topics: the origin and structure of the Universe, the interdependence of Earth Systems,

human population dynamics, renewable and nonrenewable resources, air, water and soil quality, global changes and their consequences, and environmental decision making. At the completion of this course, students will be required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History

Prerequisite: None

This course provides challenging opportunities for students to explore the origins of world civilizations and to examine the impact of non-western cultures on the global society. The effects of events on individuals; social, political interaction, and technological development are stressed throughout the course. Specialized projects provide the student with a more extensive examination of the events, which have influenced the development of the world.

World History - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in previous History

In addition to the work and topics in World History, discussion will be done at a more comprehensive level and there are at least three additional books, materials and seminars students must attend.

Civics and Economics (PEL)

Prerequisite: World History, American His. I & II

Through the study of civics and economics, students will acquire the skills and knowledge necessary to become responsible and effective citizens in an interdependent world. This is a survey course that gives students the needed practical understanding of civic participation and government as well as a study of the basic economics that affect their lives as consumers and citizens. Special emphasis is given to NC state government.

Civics and Economics (PEL) - Honors

Prerequisite: 90 in World History, American His. I & II

In addition to the work and topics in Civics and Economics (PEL), topics are discussed at a more comprehensive level and there are additional readings and seminars for the student to complete and participate.

American History I: The Founding Principles

Prerequisite: World History

This course will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. Students will study the historical, intellectual origin through colonization to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution, its consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. This course will study the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how this conflict led to the Civil War, its consequences, including Reconstruction.

American History I: The Founding Principles-H Prerequisite: World History-H and 90 in previous histories.

This course will begin with the European exploration of the new world through Reconstruction. Students will study the historical, intellectual origin through colonization to the Revolutionary and Constitutional eras. Students will learn important political and economic factors that contributed to the development of colonial America and the outbreak of the American Revolution, its consequences of the Revolution, including the writing and key ideas of the U.S. Constitution. This course will study the establishment of political parties, America's westward expansion, the growth of sectional conflict, how this conflict led to the Civil War, its consequences, including Reconstruction. In addition to the work and topics in American

History I, topics are discussed at a more comprehensive level and there are additional readings and seminars for the student to complete and participate.

American History II: The Founding Principles **Prerequisite: World History and American History I**

This course will guide students from the nineteenth century time period through the early 21st century. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to the present. The course will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society, movement toward equal rights, the role of the United States as a major world power.

American History II: The Founding Principles-H **Prerequisite: World History-H, American History I-H, and 90 in previous histories**

This course will guide students from the nineteenth century time period through the early 21st century. Students will examine the political, economic, social and cultural development of the United States from the end of the Reconstruction era to the present. The course will trace the change in the ethnic composition of American society, movement toward equal rights, the role of the United States as a major world power. In addition to the work and topics in American History II, topics are discussed at a more comprehensive level and there are additional readings and seminars for the student to complete and participate.

AP US History **Prerequisite: 93 in World History-H and American History I-H**

This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in the chronology of American History with emphasis on the 20th century. Students will analyze and interpret primary sources, documentary materials, maps, pictures, and graphs. Essay examinations and analytical research papers are required. At the completion of this course, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP European History **Prerequisite: 93 average in AP Gov't or World History - H**

Political and diplomatic, intellectual and cultural, social and economic topics are examined. Students trace the development of these categories through several chronological periods. Extensive reading, projects, research papers, and class discussions assist the student in tracing the development of these categories through history. At the completion of this course, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP Government **Prerequisite: 93 in W History-H; Co-requisite: PEL - H**

This course is the study of the governmental institutions affecting the structure and function of the American federal system. Students examine the relationship among the three branches of government and evaluate Constitutional issues focusing on the freedoms of American citizens. At the completion of this course, students are required to take the Advanced Placement Test and may receive college credit based upon their courses and the requirements of the college of their choice.

AP World History **Prerequisite: 93 in W History-H**

AP World History provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish I

Prerequisite: None

This course introduces students to Spanish language and culture. It will educate students about the importance of having bilingual skills that will allow them to be an integral part of the multicultural landscape that is emerging all over the United States. The emphasis of this class will be on communication, a major component of learning a foreign language. This course will be based on establishing communication by listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Through communication, students will be able to understand the language and the different cultures that share the same language. This will happen in a progressive manner, listening for comprehension, being able to produce oral language, reading authentic material and finally creating written ideas. Students will learn Bible verses in Spanish and look at topics relevant to missionaries in Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish II

Prerequisite: Spanish I

The primary focus of Spanish II is to develop your ability to understand native and written Spanish and to increase your skill at expressing yourself in basic situations. Listening, comprehension and reading are the bases for the sound acquisition of a foreign language. The emphasis of this course will be on communication, a major component of learning a foreign language. This class will be based on establishing communication by listening, reading, speaking, and writing. Through communication, students will be able to understand the language and the different cultures that share the same language. This will happen in a progressive manner, listening for comprehension, being able to produce oral language, reading authentic material and finally creating written ideas. Students will learn Bible verses in Spanish and look at topics relevant to missionaries in Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish III - Honors

Prerequisite: Spanish II

In this class, the skills of understanding, speaking, reading and writing Spanish begin to develop at a higher level. Students will have already learned to pronounce and use the basic sounds, intonations and patterns of the language. They will master a limited set of structural and lexical objectives to be used in common daily conversational situation. They will also gain an intermediate knowledge of contemporary Spanish culture as they participate in language activities to develop competence. Reading will be emphasized and the texts will be “real world” samples of passages of materials from the textbook and other sources. The entire course is conducted in Spanish. Students are expected to speak only Spanish once they enter the classroom and until the class ends. A variety of methods will be employed to help the students strengthen their skills further: drilling, a continual review of vocabulary, listening exercises, Spanish texts, writing assignments (letters, e-mails, journals, essays, etc.), presentations, skits and other conversational activities. Students will learn Bible verses in Spanish and look at topics relevant to missionaries in Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish IV – Honors

Prerequisite: Spanish I, Spanish II and Spanish III-H

(NOTE THIS COURSE IS 100% SPANISH-SPEAKING) This is an intensive course designed for highly motivated students to improve competency and gain proficiency in Spanish. Students write compositions in Spanish and develop their speaking skills at an advanced level by making recordings. Students are expected to become competent in reading and in understanding spoken Spanish using authentic sources. A concise review of grammar and extensive vocabulary are addressed throughout the year. Course content might best reflect interests shared by the students and the teacher, e.g., the arts, current events, literature, culture, sports, etc.

Latin I**Prerequisite: None**

The course introduces basic Latin vocabulary, inflections, and grammar as it applies to reading and translating simple Latin sentences. Special emphasis is placed in building English derivatives and vocabulary. Roman culture, art, history, law, and government are also explored to help build an appreciation of the ancients' effects on modern American society.

Latin II**Prerequisite: Latin I**

Students continue to build vocabulary and start studying more complex grammar. Through their study of Latin, students reinforce and further their understanding of English. They expand their study of Roman history as they begin reading simpler texts written by ancient authors.

Latin III - Honors**Prerequisite: Latin I and Latin II**

Students continue building vocabulary and studying more complex grammar. Through their study of Latin, students reinforce and further their understanding of English. They expand their study of Roman history as they begin reading simpler texts written by ancient authors.

Latin IV - Honors**Prerequisite: Latin I, Latin II and Latin III-H**

Students continue building vocabulary and studying more complex grammar. Through their study of Latin, students reinforce and further their understanding of English. They expand their study of Roman history as they begin reading original texts written by ancient authors.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**Health and PE****Prerequisite: None**

This course will enable students to gain knowledge and skills about healthful living topics important to their age levels. The following broad healthful living topics areas of the focus of instruction: The nature of health, health risks, health education, stress management, abstinence, nutrition and weight management, personal fitness, games and sports. VCA PE uniform required.

Strength and Conditioning I**Prerequisite: None**

During this course, students will learn the appropriate techniques in weightlifting. The following lifts are emphases: bench press, dead lift, squats, power clean and military presses. Proper lifting techniques are taught for each lift. Weight room safety is instructed and enforced. VCA PE uniform required.

Strength and Conditioning II**Prerequisite: Strength and Conditioning I**

During this course, students will learn the continuation of appropriate techniques in weightlifting. The following lifts are emphases: bench press, dead lift, squats, power clean and military presses. Proper lifting techniques are taught for each lift. Weight room safety is instructed and enforced. VCA PE uniform required.

Strength and Conditioning III**Prerequisite: Strength and Conditioning II**

During this course, students will practice the continuation of appropriate techniques in weightlifting. The following lifts are emphases: bench press, dead lift, squats, power clean and military presses. Proper lifting techniques are taught for each lift. Weight room safety is instructed and enforced. VCA PE uniform required.

Strength and Conditioning IV**Prerequisite: Strength and Conditioning III**

During this course, students will practice the continuation of appropriate techniques in weightlifting. The following lifts are emphases: bench press, dead lift, squats, power clean and military presses. Proper lifting techniques are taught for each lift. Weight room safety is instructed and enforced. VCA PE uniform required.

TECHNOLOGY ELECTIVES

Computer Applications I

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to help students master advanced skills in the areas of word processing, database management, spreadsheet, telecommunications, desktop publishing, and presentation applications. Emphasis is on data communications, Internet and email; as well as skill development in the integration of software applications, ethical issues pertaining to information systems, and information technologies careers. Communication skills and critical thinking are reinforced through software applications.

Computer Applications II

Prerequisite: Computer Applications I

This course introduces the fundamentals of computer systems and the role of information processing in today's world environment for students. An overview is presented of information systems, systems development, operating systems and programming, web design, coding, networking and telecommunications, and the internet.

Digital Media I - Honors

Prerequisite: Computer Applications I and II

This course provides a broad-based foundation in the digital media field. An emphasis is placed on the fundamental concepts of audio and video design, various digital media technologies, non-linear editing, product development and design, and career development. Communication, mathematical, and critical thinking skills are strengthened throughout the course.

Digital Media II – Honors

Prerequisite: Computer Applications 1 and II, Digital Media I-H

This course provides an increased focus in the digital media field. An emphasis is placed on the detailed concepts of audio and video design, various digital media technologies, non-linear editing, product development and design, and career development. Attention is further focused on different job skills and abilities of the digital media career fields. Communication, mathematical, and critical thinking skills are strengthened throughout the course.

ARTS EDUCATION

High School Concert Choir I

Prerequisite: None

In this course, students will be expected to memorize and perform various musical selections for all required concerts, festivals, and competitions. Sight-singing and aural skills training will be included in this course. Students will be expected to purchase necessary concert attire and pay for any fees related to festivals and/or other competitions. All concerts, festivals, and competitions are mandatory. If needed, additional rehearsals may be added outside of regular class time near performances. Attendance is extremely important for this class and a large portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

High School Concert Choir II

Prerequisite: High School Concert Choir I

In this course, students will be expected to memorize and perform various musical selections for all required concerts, festivals, and competitions. Sight-singing and aural skills training will be included in this course. Students will be expected to purchase necessary concert attire and pay for any fees related to festivals and/or other competitions. All concerts, festivals, and competitions are mandatory. If needed,

additional rehearsals may be added outside of regular class time near performances. Attendance is extremely important for this class and a large portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

High School Concert Choir III – Honors

Prerequisite: High School Concert Choir II

In this course, students will be expected to memorize and perform various musical selections for all required concerts, festivals, and competitions. Sight-singing and aural skills training will be included in this course. Students will be expected to purchase necessary concert attire and pay for any fees related to festivals and/or other competitions. All concerts, festivals, and competitions are mandatory. If needed, additional rehearsals may be added outside of regular class time near performances. Attendance is extremely important for this class and a large portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

High School Concert Choir IV - Honors

Prerequisite: High School Concert Choir III

In this course, students will be expected to memorize and perform various musical selections for all required concerts, festivals, and competitions. Sight-singing and aural skills training will be included in this course. Students will be expected to purchase necessary concert attire and pay for any fees related to festivals and/or other competitions. All concerts, festivals, and competitions are mandatory. If needed, additional rehearsals may be added outside of regular class time near performances. Attendance is extremely important for this class and a large portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

Ladies Honors Choir Ensemble

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation

In this course, students will be expected to memorize and perform various advanced musical selections for all required concerts, festivals, and competitions. Advanced sight-singing and aural skills training will be included in this course. Students will be expected to purchase necessary concert attire and pay for any fees related to festivals and/or other competitions. All concerts, festivals, and competitions are mandatory. If needed, additional rehearsals may be added outside of regular class time near performances. Attendance is extremely important for this class and a large portion of the student's grade is based on participation.

Drama

Prerequisite: None

In this course students will have the opportunity to explore the world of theater and film. Emphasis will be placed on improvisation and acting. Students will be expected to create and perform in the Fall and Spring Drama Showcases. Students will also be expected to assist with all school plays and musicals.

Art I

Prerequisite: None

This course is designed to reinforce and build on knowledge and skills developed at the elementary and middle school levels. This course emphasizes the study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary, use and care of art tools and equipment, art criticism, art history and safety in the art room. This course provides students with opportunities to explore various art media, processes, procedures, theories and historical developments.

Art II

Prerequisite: Art I

This course builds on the student's technical skills and foundation of knowledge developed in Art I. The study of the elements of art and principles of design, color theory, vocabulary and use and care of arts tools and equipment continues in Art II. Various art processes, techniques, procedures, and theories are presented in a problem-solving manner, which allows for independent choices and personal solution to problems. In Art II the approach to art experiences is less experimental and based more on informed student choices. Students gain knowledge and understanding of past and present art forms, through the study and research of a variety of artists, artworks, cultures, and historical periods.

Art III - Honors

Prerequisite: Art II, Teacher Recommendation

This course is a studio art course that provides a more in-depth approach to the study of art processes and techniques, aesthetic issues, art criticism, art appreciations and art history. Students form artistic goals, developing appropriate work habits, and consider art careers. Knowledge of the arts in relation to culture, history, other disciplines, and careers is promoted through visual, verbal, and written means. Art history, criticism, and aesthetics are studied in conjunction with selected artworks leading to the development of a personal philosophy of art. Students produce an in-depth study of various media and assemble a portfolio based on technical quality, artistic concept, personal style, independent direction, and individual purpose.

Art IV - Honors

Prerequisite: Art III Honors, Teacher Recommendation

Art IV Honors is an advanced level honors course requiring an in-depth knowledge of art processes, media, styles, history and aesthetics. As an advanced honors level course, assignments may include a required reading list, writing assignments, independent research study projects, art appreciation activities and a portfolio of advanced student work. Essential materials are supplied. Students may be asked to supply special project materials.

BUSINESS ELECTIVES

Principles of Business and Economics

Prerequisite: Algebra I

This introductory course covers the principles and concepts that become the foundation for future study of business and economics. It emphasizes basic business principles, personal finance concepts, management concepts, and the current environment for business in a multi-national marketplace. Communication skills and basic mathematical skills are reinforced in this course.

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES

Yearbook I

Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation and Advisor Interview

Students selected to the *Excalibur* staff are part of a team which publishes a history book of VCA during the school year. A 30 day jump start curriculum is used to introduce Yearbook I staff to the interview and copy writing process, elements of photography and selecting photos, online design (including photoshop) and advertising sales. All students are graded first quarter on the completion of the curriculum and achievement in ad sales. Yearbook I students may be added to the editorial team based on selection by the advisor during the school year.

Yearbook II

Prerequisite: Yearbook I and Advisor Approval

Students selected to the *Excalibur* staff are part of a team which publishes a history book of VCA during the school year. A 30 day jump start curriculum is used to reinforce Yearbook II staff with the interview and copy writing process, elements of photography and selecting photos, online design (including photoshop) and advertising sales. All students are graded first quarter on the completion of the curriculum and achievement in ad sales. Yearbook II students may apply and interview for upcoming editorial positions at the end of the year (April). Additional responsibilities are assigned based on any editorial position.

Yearbook III (Honors)

Prerequisite: Yearbook II and Advisor Approval

Students selected to the *Excalibur* staff are part of a team which publishes a history book of VCA during the school year. Yearbook III students are expected to assist in teaching the 30 day jump start curriculum and serve as mentors to YB I and YB II. Yearbook III students may apply and interview for upcoming

editorial positions at the end of the year (April). Additional responsibilities are assigned based on any editorial position. Yearbook III students will receive Honors Credit.

Yearbook IV (Honors)

Prerequisite: Yearbook III and Advisor Approval

Students selected to the *Excalibur* staff are part of a team which publishes a history book of VCA during the school year. Yearbook IV students are expected to assist in teaching the 30 day jump start curriculum and serve as mentors to YB I and YB II. Additional responsibilities are assigned based on any editorial position. Yearbook III students will receive Honors Credit.

Forensics I

Prerequisite: None

This course teaches a wide range of competitive public speaking skills including extemporaneous speaking, original oratory, humorous and dramatic interpretation, duo interpretation, storytelling and prose-poetry interpretation. Skill development includes advanced techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, and projection. Students begin to analyze pieces of literature, create orations, and evaluate performances.

Forensics II

Prerequisite: Forensics I

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Taught in the course is a wide range of competitive public speaking skills including extemporaneous speaking, original oratory, humorous and dramatic interpretation, duo interpretation, storytelling and prose-poetry interpretation. Skill development includes advanced techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, and projection. Students begin to analyze pieces of literature, create orations, and evaluate performances.

Forensics III - Honors

Prerequisite: Forensics II

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Taught in the course is a wide range of competitive public speaking skills including extemporaneous speaking, original oratory, humorous and dramatic interpretation, duo interpretation, storytelling and prose-poetry interpretation. Skill development includes advanced techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, and projection. Students begin to analyze pieces of literature, create orations, and evaluate performances. Other requirements are participation on the mock trial team, and a public-speaking related paper per semester to receive honors credit.

Forensics IV - Honors

Prerequisite: Forensics III Honors

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Taught in the course is a wide range of competitive public speaking skills including extemporaneous speaking, original oratory, humorous and dramatic interpretation, duo interpretation, storytelling and prose-poetry interpretation. Skill development includes advanced techniques in diction, articulation, enunciation, and projection. Students begin to analyze pieces of literature, create orations, and evaluate performances. Other requirements are participation on the mock trial team, and a public-speaking related paper per semester to receive honors credit.

Journalism I

Prerequisite: None

Students study techniques of journalistic writing, layout, the organization of the newspaper staff, and the history of American journalism. Students also survey the mass media, photography, television and radio reporting. Students also produce the *Knightline*, VCA's school newspaper during the school year.

Journalism II

Prerequisite: Journalism I

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Students study techniques of journalistic writing, layout, the organization of the newspaper staff, and the history of American

journalism. Students also survey the mass media, photography, television and radio reporting. Students also produce the *Knightline*, VCA's school newspaper during the school year.

Journalism III – Honors

Prerequisite: Journalism II

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Students study techniques of journalistic writing, layout, the organization of the newspaper staff, and the history of American journalism. Students also survey the mass media, photography, television and radio reporting. Students also produce the *Knightline*, VCA's school newspaper during the school year. Students at this level take on Editor responsibilities to include story ideas, review and editing, assigning tasks.

Journalism IV – Honors

Prerequisite: Journalism III

This course is a continuation of the skills taught in the previous course. Students study techniques of journalistic writing, layout, the organization of the newspaper staff, and the history of American journalism. Students also survey the mass media, photography, television and radio reporting. Students also produce the *Knightline*, VCA's school newspaper during the school year. Students at this level take on Editor responsibilities to include story ideas, review and editing, assigning tasks.

Geography and World Religions

Prerequisite: None

This course emphasis is given to the five themes of geography with special emphasis on cultural geography, as it incorporates a Christian worldview.

Life Skills and Success 101

Prerequisite: None

Student will work through the book "7 Habits of Highly Successful Teens". This course focuses on providing new high school students with the skills necessary to be successful during secondary and post-secondary educational careers. Course content will place emphasis on the acquisition of study, note-taking, interview, time management, organizational, and test-taking skills. Other skills include conducting research, utilizing technology, media, and problem-solving strategies.

Teacher Cadet – 12th Grade

Prerequisite: None

The Teacher Cadet course is considered an introduction and orientation to the teaching profession. The curriculum includes simulations and other "hands-on" activities designed to promote interest in the teaching field. All students are required to observe and participate in classrooms at the elementary, middle school, or high school levels. Students enrolled in this course will receive a grade of pass or fail.

SAT Preparation

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Co-requisite: Algebra II

SAT Preparation is a course designed to sharpen skills necessary for successful completion of the SAT Examination as students prepare for college. Students will be exposed to a variety of practice questions, video lessons, and hints for the SAT throughout the course. Students will take six official full length practice exams by the end of the course and complete numerous SAT example problems in math, reading, and grammar. Students will receive instant feedback and adaptive recommendations using the online test and practice problems.

Study Hall

Study Hall is a structured time for students to complete homework and assignments during the school day. Students may enroll in Study Hall if they are also enrolled in a minimum of 3 Honors level courses or a minimum of 2 AP courses. Study Hall is a Pass/Fail course. Study Hall is only available for 10th-12th grade students.

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