

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG



2024–2025

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Hill Country Christian School

PURPOSE

We educate, inspire, and prepare the next generation of leaders to impact the world for Christ.

MISSION

We partner with Christian families to impart truth, cultivate character and inspire service while preparing college bound students to think logically, communicate effectively, and impact the world with the love of Christ.

VISION

Hill Country Christian School will be a recognized leader among Christ-centered schools that aspire to deliver an excellent liberal arts and sciences education in the classical tradition.

Middle School Course Offerings

- All 6th-8th grade students are required to take eight courses each semester.
- Scheduling conflicts, course availability, and required prerequisites may impact a student's final schedule.
- Course enrollment and staff availability may impact course offerings. Consequently, Hill Country cannot guarantee that all courses will be offered every semester.

6th Grade

Required Courses:

Old Testament Survey (1 semester)
English 6
Fine Arts Elective: Art, Music, Photography, Theatre
History 6
Latin 6 (1 semester)
Math 6
Science 6
Study Skills and Strategies (1 semester)
Technology 6 (1 semester)
Study Hall (1 semester)
P.E. (1 semester)

7th Grade

Required Courses:

New Testament Survey (1 semester)
Civics/Texas History
English 7 or Pre-Honors English 7
Elective
Latin 7
Pre-Algebra A or Pre-Algebra A/B
Science 7
Technology Exploratories: Coding, Digital Design, Robotics, Video
Study Hall (1 semester)

Elective Courses:

Art
Musical Theatre
P.E.
Theatre Arts

8th Grade

Required Courses:

Christian Worldview and Leadership (1 semester)
Elective
English 8 or Pre-Honors English 8
Introduction to Logic (1 semester)
Latin I or Spanish I
Integrated Physics and Chemistry
Pre-Algebra B or Algebra I/Honors Algebra I
World Cultures
Study Hall

Elective Courses:

Art
Digital Design
Musical Theatre
P.E.
Theatre Arts
Intro to Engineering (full year)

Middle School Course Offerings

ENGLISH

English 6 (*full year*)

This course provides a systematic method of writing for effective communication through experience with single and multi-paragraph essays. Students are introduced to various modes of writing including expository, descriptive, and persuasive essays. A variety of reading experiences challenge students through exposure to classic literature. Additionally, students learn to think critically and deeply by analyzing literature through a biblical worldview lens. Students will memorize four complete poems, one per quarter.

English 7 (*full year*)

This course focuses on the mastery of essential communication skills including writing, reading, research, and speaking. Students continue to develop their skills in expository, persuasive, and creative writing. They recognize and interpret literary elements in order to better understand the author's purpose. Students read, analyze, and write various types of poetry. In addition, they begin to work with research skills, such as writing an effective thesis statement, using correct documentation, and interviewing.

English 8 (*full year*)

This course helps students refine previously learned skills and develop new skills to ensure a smooth transition to high school literature and writing. In collaboration with eighth grade history, this course focuses on expanding knowledge of different cultures through literature. Students refine their literary analysis and writing skills as they read and analyze novels through a biblical worldview lens. Students develop persuasive writing skills and are introduced to the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation process.

Pre-Honors English 7 (*full year*)

This course is available by application only. The following will be considered in the application process:

Previous year's English grade, CTP-5 score, teacher recommendation, and writing sample.

English 7 PreHonors uses an accelerated and enriched ELA curriculum for 7th grade students. Students spend the first semester of the course completing the 7th grade material and then move on to advanced texts. Students refine their literary analysis, discussion, and writing skills as they read and analyze novels, plays, and poetry through a biblical worldview lens. Students are introduced to the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation process and put these skills to practice as they work on in-depth writing assignments such as descriptive pieces, research papers, and creative writing. Additionally, students study poetry as a genre and practice meaningful analysis. Students memorize four complete poems, one per quarter.

8th Pre-Honors English (*full year*)

This course is available by application only. The following will be considered in the application process:

Previous year's English grade, CTP-5 score, teacher recommendation, and writing sample.

This course is an accelerated and enriched ELA curriculum for 8th grade honors students. Students spend the year studying novels from various cultures and time periods to develop a deeper perspective of the broader world in which we live. Students refine their literary analysis, discussion, and writing skills as they read and analyze novels through a biblical worldview lens. Additionally, students continue to practice the Modern Language Association (MLA) documentation process and put these skills to practice as they work on in-depth writing assignments such as narrative pieces, research papers, creative and persuasive essays. Students also commit two poems and two Bible passages to memory over the course of the year.

Middle School Course Offerings

FINE ARTS

6th Grade Fine Arts Exploratories

Students spend one quarter on each of the four concentrations:

Art 6

Students are introduced to the Art Elements and Principles of Design through a variety of media and techniques. The Art Elements & Principles of Design guide students while developing skills in the areas of art appreciation, art history, art production, and art criticism. Students grow in their appreciation of art, the beauty of God's creation, and the Creator.

Music 6

This course is designed to introduce students to a timeline of music composition and composers through the eras. Students listen to a variety of music and think critically, making sound observations about what they hear. Students dig into the elements that make up all music, explore and create rhythm, and learn to play the ukulele.

Photography 6

Students learn basic principles of composition and exposure in photography as they gain familiarity using digital cameras.

Theatre 6

Students begin by exploring vocal, physical, and creative warm-ups used in the study of theatre. Other areas of exploration include pantomime, improvisation, duet and group scenes, and monologues. Students perform in a showcase at the end of the course.

Art (1 semester)

This course explores visual expression through fine art in a wide range of techniques and media in forms such as drawing, painting, printing, and sculpture. The Art Elements & Principles of Design guide students to explore personal interests while developing skills in the areas of art appreciation, art history, art production, and art criticism. Students explore innovative ways to create artworks from classical/traditional studio art to contemporary studio art. Finding their "Artistic Voice" is encouraged and explored greatly in addition to problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

Musical Theatre (1 or 2 semesters)

This course is available by audition only and requires teacher approval.

This course is designed to expand the actor's imagination and artistry through collaboration and by exploring acting, vocal, and choreography skills while rehearsing and performing a musical theatre production. During the fall semester students perform a variety of pieces for a musical theatre showcase. In the spring semester, students perform a full musical production.

Theatre Arts (1 or 2 semesters)

Students develop vocal, physical, and creative warm ups used in the study of theatre. Other areas of exploration include pantomime, improvisation, duet and group scenes, monologues, and theatrical design. Students participate in the cast or crew of one production each semester.

Middle School Course Offerings

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Latin 6 (*1 semester*)

This course provides a basic introduction to Latin vocabulary with an emphasis on English derivatives, classical mythology, and Roman culture.

Latin 7 (*full year*)

This is a beginner's Latin course and requires no previous experience with Latin. Students build a foundation in Latin vocabulary and grammar and sharpen their language skills through regular translation exercises. A study of the Roman town of Pompeii provides students with the opportunity to explore many aspects of Roman life and culture.

Latin I (*full year, 1.0 high school credit*)

This course, a continuation of Latin 7, expands students' knowledge of basic Latin vocabulary and grammar. Students engage in regular translation exercises and study the history and culture of Roman Britain and Egypt.

Spanish I (*full year, 1.0 high school credit*)

This introductory course covers vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and verb tenses (present, future and preterite of the indicative) to prepare students to use the language practically. Students are expected to communicate, read, and write in the Spanish tenses they learn.

MATHEMATICS

Math 6 (*full year*)

This course meets the 6th grade math goals and objectives, including fractions and decimals, algebraic expressions and equations, area and volume of two- and three-dimensional objects, integers and the coordinate plane, and statistical measures and displays. Learning techniques include repetitive, systematic, and progressive application of these concepts.

Pre-Algebra A (*full year*)

Placement made by math committee

This course prepares students for the study of algebra. The course covers basic operations, simple and multi-step equations, factors, exponents, integers, decimals, percentages, fractions, ratio, probability, proportion, area, perimeter, volume, and data displays.

Pre-Algebra B (*full year*)

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra A

This course covers basic operations, order of operations, evaluating algebraic expressions of up to three variables, involving integer exponents, solving first and second degree equations in one variable, graphing linear equations in slope-intercept form, computing the slope of a line from a graph, memorizing formulas, computing the volume of solids with bases that are composite shapes, and computing the surface area of right solids.

Middle School Course Offerings

Pre-Algebra A/B (*full year*)

Placement made by math committee

This course prepares students for the study of algebra. The course covers basic operations, equations, factors, exponents, linear equations, graphing, area and volume, working with integers, decimals, percentages, fractions, perimeter, inequalities, and basic geometric relationships.

Algebra I (*full year, 1.0 high school credit*)

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra B or Pre-Algebra A/B

This course is organized around families of functions with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Students learn to represent families of functions in multiple ways: as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations.

Honors Algebra I (*full year, 1.0 high school credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 90+ in Pre-Algebra B or Pre-Algebra A/B

Honors students interact with the same topics but on a deeper level of understanding. They must complete extra homework problems for each assignment. The interaction with these extra problems fosters a broader level of understanding of the material so that when these students take quizzes and tests, they are prepared for the more difficult problems that they must complete.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P.E. 6/7/8 (*1 or 2 semesters*)

This course is designed to promote physical fitness and athletic development. Students develop motor skills as well as knowledge of rules and strategies for a variety of sports. Students compete in individual and team activities.

SCIENCE

Science 6 (*full year*)

As students develop a rich knowledge of science and the natural world, they become familiar with different modes of scientific inquiry, rules of evidence, ways of formulating questions, ways of proposing explanations, and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world. Students learn to propose explanations based on evidence derived from their work. This course exposes students to a variety of sciences, including chemistry, physics, earth, astronomy, and life science.

Science 7 (*full year*)

This course gives students an overview of life science, which includes the molecules of life, the structure and function of a cell, the history of genetics, biotechnology, ecology, classification, and the history of the Earth. The course is hands-on to allow students to formulate hypotheses and get a better understanding of how science works through an inquiry-based approach to learning.

Middle School Course Offerings

Integrated Physics and Chemistry *(full year)*

This course provides a foundation for the study of chemistry and the study of physics. The chemistry portion explores properties and states of matter, atoms and molecules, the periodic table, chemical bonding, reactions, solutions, acids, and bases. The physics portion explores motion, forces, work, power, machines, energy, mechanical and electromagnetic waves, and an introduction to electricity.

Intro to Engineering *(full year)*

This course provides students with an opportunity to try various pathways within engineering. It connects students to careers in high demand. Through connections to careers and real-world problems, students imagine, discover, and practice the range of paths and possibilities they can look forward to in high school and beyond. Students will explore engineering design, modeling, and computer science.

SOCIAL STUDIES

History 6 *(full year)*

This course reinforces and builds upon the student's knowledge of early American history with special emphasis on the major events and personalities between 1815 and the present. Through the development of geography and map-reading skills, the use of comparison, cause and effect, and in-depth readings of four major American documents, students learn how the past impacts our current lives and future. Students gain an appreciation for how God has revealed Himself and His attributes over time through the events, characters, and locations studied. Additionally, students thoughtfully consider how to pair their understanding of liberty with the practice of civic responsibility.

Civics/Texas History *(full year)*

Civics develops an understanding of governing authorities and civic responsibility, as well as a portrait of America from its foundation, defining the ethics and values of the Founding Fathers. Students study the Constitution and Bill of Rights, compare and contrast the federal and state governments, and learn how our founding principles support American values and uphold our freedoms. Texas History examines the geographical make up of Texas and its effect on the early native Texans, as well as the exploration and eventual colonization of the state. Students learn about the contentious relationship with Mexico and the eventual independence and statehood. The history of the state is evaluated and discussed from the Civil War to modern-day challenges and opportunities.

World Cultures *(full year)*

This course establishes a fundamental understanding of four diverse cultures. Religion, family, government and economics, education, customs and traditions, and modern history are studied. Students learn how people live, relate, and govern themselves in these cultures and how they differ from those in the United States. A comparative study of the cultures' base religions and Christianity provides an understanding of the impact of religion, or lack thereof, on culture.

Middle School Course Offerings

TECHNOLOGY

Technology 6 *(1 semester)*

This course provides students with instruction on time management and organizational skills while becoming familiar with educational technology applications including digital literacy, word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations, and Google Apps for Education.

Study Skills and Strategies *(1 semester)*

Establishing and practicing effective study skills and strategies is foundational to academic success in Upper School. This course enables students to practice organizational skills, set and meet learning goals, read and take notes from textbooks, listen and take notes during lecture, utilize visual aids and graphic organizers, and prepare for and take tests, as well as develops other skills and strategies for success in the classroom.

7th Grade Technology Exploratories

Students spend one quarter on each of the four concentrations:

Exploring Coding

Students use algorithms and logical thinking as they explore basic coding skills.

Exploring Digital Design

Students learn principles of design and gain familiarity with photo editing and desktop publishing software.

Exploring Robotics

This is a lab-based course that uses a hands-on approach to introduce basic concepts of robotics while integrating science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Exploring Video

Students are introduced to the skills of video creation and manipulation.

Digital Design *(1 or 2 semesters)*

Students work with applications such as Adobe Creative Suite, editing and manipulating photos and creating posters and spreads for magazines and yearbooks. Additionally, they gain familiarity with a DSLR camera, learning and practicing principles of exposure and composition.

THEOLOGY/RHETORIC

Old Testament Survey *(1 semester)*

This course examines the writings of the Old Testament within their historical and theological contexts. Sixth grade students examine the backgrounds, outlines, and themes of major books and sections of the Old Testament in light of the metanarrative of Scripture, centered in the person of Christ, and the core doctrines of the Christian Faith “*once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3).

Middle School Course Offerings

New Testament Survey (1 semester)

This course examines the writings of the New Testament within their historical and theological contexts. Seventh grade students examine the backgrounds, outlines, and themes of each book in light of the metanarrative of Scripture, centered in the person of Christ, and the core doctrines of the Christian Faith “*once for all delivered to the saints*” (Jude 3).

Christian Worldview and Leadership (1 semester)

In partnership with the Imago Dei Leadership Forum, *In Whose Image?*, this capstone theology course helps students affirm their faith and identity in Jesus Christ while equipping them to love and serve other people as image-bearers of God.

Introduction to Logic (1 semester)

This course introduces students to the basics of proper reasoning, with a focus on Aristotelian deductive, formal logic. Students are presented with the various forms of proper logical reasoning, then guided through a study of deductive reasoning, including: proper definitions, categorizing statements, building and testing arguments, charting statement relationships, and ultimately determining the validity of the arguments. In addition, the students are introduced to skills needed to identify the flawed arguments (fallacies) found so frequently by the media through commercials, newspapers, editorials, etc.

High School Course Offerings

- Students are required to enroll in eight courses each semester.
- The required courses listed are for the majority of students in each grade level. Additional course offerings allow students to pursue educational opportunities in their areas of passion and gifting.
- Course selections should be made based on the required credits for graduation, a student's college/career interests, and the required prerequisites. Asterisk denotes Pass/Fail courses.
- Course enrollment and staff availability may impact course offerings. Consequently, Hill Country cannot guarantee that all courses will be offered every semester.

Freshmen

Required Courses:

English:	Classical Literature or Honors Classical Literature
Foreign Language:	Latin I, Latin II, Spanish I, or Spanish II
Mathematics:	Algebra I or Honors Algebra I, Geometry or Honors Geometry
Science:	Biology or Honors Biology
Social Studies:	World History I
Theology/Rhetoric:	Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ (1 semester) and Logic (1 semester)

Additional Course Offerings:

Engineering Design and Analysis	Robotics
Introduction to Studio Art	Study Hall*
Journalism	Technical Theatre
Musical Theatre Performance	Theatre Performance
Performance Training for Athletes*	Worship Leadership
Performance Training for Non-Athletes*	Yearbook
Photography 1, 2	

Sophomores

Required Courses:

English:	Western Literature or Honors Western Literature
Foreign Language:	Latin I, Latin II, Honors Latin III, Spanish I, Spanish II, or Honors Spanish III
Mathematics:	Geometry or Honors Geometry, Algebra II or Honors Algebra II
Science:	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry
Social Studies:	World History II or AP European History
Theology/Rhetoric:	The Epistles of Paul (1 semester) and Speech (1 semester)

Additional Course Offerings:

Advanced Studio Art	Performance Training for Non-Athletes*
Engineering Applications of Computer Science	Photography 1, 2
Engineering Design and Analysis/UT Engineering	Robotics
Graphic Design	Study Hall*
Introduction to Studio Art	Teacher Aide*
Journalism	Technical Theatre
Musical Theatre Performance	Theatre Performance
Office Aide*	Worship Leadership
Performance Training for Athletes*	Yearbook

High School Course Offerings

Juniors

Required Courses:

English:	American Literature or AP English Language & Composition
Mathematics:	Algebra II or Honors Algebra II
Science:	Physics or AP Physics 1
Social Studies:	U.S. History or CCU U.S. History
Theology/Rhetoric:	Apologetics (1 semester) and Debate (1 semester)

Additional Course Offerings:

Advanced Studio Art	Introduction to Studio Art
Anatomy & Physiology/CCU A&P	Journalism
AP Art and Design	Latin I, II
AP Biology	Musical Theatre Performance
AP Calculus AB or BC	Performance Training for Athletes*
AP Computer Science Principles	Performance Training for Non-Athletes*
AP Drawing	Photography 1, 2
AP Latin	Pre-Calculus/Honors Pre-Calculus
AP Spanish Language & Culture	Psychology/CCU Psychology
Engineering Applications of Computer Science	Robotics
Engineering Design and Analysis/UT Engineering	Spanish I, II
Entrepreneurship	Statistics
Graphic Design	Study Hall*
Honors Latin III	Technical Theatre
Honors Spanish III	Test Prep*
Independent Study*	Theatre Performance
Internship*	Worship Leadership
	Yearbook

High School Course Offerings

Seniors

Required Courses:

English:	Advanced Western Literature or AP English Literature & Composition
Social Studies:	Economics (1 semester) or AP Macroeconomics (full year) Government/CCU Government (1 semester) or AP Government & Politics (full year)
Theology/Rhetoric:	Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy (1 semester) Foundations of Academic Research/Honors Senior Thesis (1 semester or full year) or Honors Senior Thesis Engineering Capstone

Additional Course Offerings:

Advanced Studio Art	Introduction to Studio Art
Anatomy & Physiology/CCU A&P	Journalism
AP Art and Design	Latin I, II
AP Biology	Musical Theatre Performance
AP Calculus AB or BC	Performance Training for Athletes*
AP Computer Science Principles	Performance Training for Non-Athletes*
AP Drawing	Photography 1, 2
AP Latin	Pre-Calculus/Honors PreCalculus
AP Spanish Language & Culture	Psychology/CCU Psychology
Engineer Applications of Computer Science	Robotics
Engineering Design and Analysis/UT Engineering	Spanish I, II
Entrepreneurship	Statistics
Graphic Design	Study Hall*
Honors Latin III	Technical Theatre
Honors Spanish III	Test Prep*
Independent Study*	Theatre Performance
Internship*	Worship Leadership
	Yearbook

High School Course Offerings

ENGLISH

Classical Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

In this course, reading selections begin with creation and conclude with the expansion of the Roman Empire in the first century, including classical Greek literature and drama, creation myths, and fairy tales from around the world, Roman mythology, and, finally, the modern novel *Lord of the Flies*. Students write a guided MLA research paper and shorter essays. In addition, work includes literary vocabulary and creative projects throughout the school year.

Honors Classical Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in English 8 or 85+ in Pre-Honors English 8, CTP-5 stanine of 7 in Reading Comp. and Writing Concepts & Skills, and department recommendation

In this honors course, reading selections begin with creation myths from around the world (Enuma Elish), fairy tales, classical Greek literature and drama (*Oedipus Rex* and *Antigone* by Sophocles), Medieval texts like *Beowulf*, and conclude with Victorian classics (*Frankenstein*) and the modern novel (*Lord of the Flies*). In addition, students spend sufficient time with Shakespearean texts and commit an extended soliloquy to memory. Alongside the literature, students explore the history, religion and philosophies of the time period in order to best understand and discuss the author's purpose. In addition to studying literature, students review writing conventions and produce three formal papers, including an extensive career research paper. Students engage in class discussions and work on public speaking skills through presentations.

Western Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

The literature for this course encompasses an overview of classic texts of the European Middle Ages, as well as modern interpretations of this time period. Students read texts such as *Everyman*, *The Canterbury Tales*, Dante's *Inferno*, and *The Time Machine*, all the while discussing what it means to be Christians in our world's societal structures. Students write journal assignments, compose creative responses modeled on the original texts, and submit formal essays and essay outline assessments. Oral rhetorical presentations take on greater significance as the year progresses.

Honors Western Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in Classical Lit or 85+ in Honors Classical Lit, PSAT EBRW score of 500+, and department recommendation

This honors course encompasses classic texts of the European Middle Ages, highlights from works of the Renaissance, as well as modern classics from the late Modern Era. Students keep dialectical journals, write creative responses modeled on the original texts, compose a research paper, and submit formal essays and essay outline assessments. Oral rhetorical presentations take on greater significance as the year progresses.

American Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This course engages students in the issues and values of a rich cultural heritage. Students hear the voices of Americans of an earlier generation and recognize their relevance to current political and aesthetic concerns. They engage, with a biblical worldview, issues and values that have emerged in the twentieth century and affect American life and culture. Students recognize the suffering, beauty, and achievements of early Americans as they read integral works like *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *Fahrenheit 451*.

High School Course Offerings

AP English Language and Composition (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 90+ in Western Lit or 85+ in Honors Western Lit, PSAT/SAT EBRW score of 500+ or ACT English score of 22+

Students are not required to take the AP English Language & Composition exam to receive course credit.

This language and composition course aimed at high school juniors teaches students the skills to create evidence based, analytical, argumentative essays through writing, revising, and editing again. Emphasis is placed on the synthesis of information, the citation of reliable sources, and the evaluation of support materials for the arguments presented. Most of these texts relate to our additional American literature readings from classic American novelists, short story authors, and poets. Students engage, with a biblical worldview, the issues and values that have emerged in the twentieth century and affect American life and culture.

Advanced Western Literature (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

In this course, the literary selections range from Shakespeare to modern English and European novels and dramas. The emphasis is on an understanding of the nature of man, the origin of sin, and the resulting human relationships with which we “work out our salvation.” Students understand the history of the English language as well as its application to college and workplace expression and effective communication of the truth of Christ. Work includes critical text analysis, advanced writing skills, and modeled writing.

AP English Literature and Composition (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 90+ in American Lit or 85+ in AP English Language, SAT EBRW score of 500+ or ACT English score of 22+

Students are not required to take the AP English Literature & Composition exam to receive course credit.

This is one of the capstone literature and composition courses with an emphasis on preparing the student for college level work and the AP exam. Literary selections range from Shakespeare to modern works of literature, concentrating on texts of literary merit. Student discussions focus on the nature of man, the origin of sin, human relationships, and human flourishing as they read integral works like *Hamlet*, *Great Expectations*, *Heart of Darkness*, *Death of a Salesman*, and *All the Pretty Horses*. In addition, students study short stories, and poetry and be given a choice reading project that includes two approved books by the same author, culminating in a 10-15-page analytical research paper. Strong emphasis is placed throughout the course on critical reading, textual analysis, the art of conversation, and writing for understanding.

Journalism (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This full-year high-school elective course introduces students to the history and practice of print and broadcast journalism. Students examine the evolution of journalism in America—from the lonely pamphleteer on the street corners of colonial America to digital media’s instant and worldwide dissemination of “news.” Using landmark Supreme Court cases as well as stories from the current news cycle, students will analyze ethical dilemmas in journalism through a biblical worldview. Over the course of the year, students will learn: the mechanics of writing informative, fact-based copy for print and broadcast media; the basics of conducting interviews; the principles of investigative journalism; and how to produce a digitally shot news-magazine segment—from script to screen. Ultimately, with an appreciation of the Founding Fathers’ vision of the press as the lifeblood of a functioning democracy, students will engage in the art and craft of journalism as it was intended to be practiced.

High School Course Offerings

FINE ARTS

AP Art and Design (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Two years of HCCSA high school Studio Art and portfolio review

This college level art course offers the choice of a 2D Design portfolio or a 3D Design portfolio. Both portfolios investigate the formal and conceptual issues relating to the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. The 2-D Design portfolio may include graphic design, digital imaging, collage, mixed media, painting, drawing, photography, etc. In the 3D Design portfolio, students must demonstrate an understanding of depth and space, volume and surface through figurative or nonfigurative sculpture, ceramics, plaster, assemblage, fiber arts, etc. This course culminates in a digital portfolio, which is submitted to the College Board for evaluation. AP portfolios are assessed in two main areas: quality in a student's work and the sustained investigation of an inquiry, shown through experimentation with materials, processes, and ideas. Students will need to work outside of the classroom, maintain a sketchbook, and participate in ongoing group and individual critiques. Transfer students can be considered for the course by submitting a portfolio of five of their current, best works.

AP Drawing (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Two years of HCCSA high school Studio Art and portfolio review

This college level course is designed for motivated students who are interested in rendering forms and experimenting with surface manipulations through various drawing media. The drawing portfolio may include both abstract and observational drawings; more focus is placed on the use of mark-making than in AP 2-D Design. This course culminates in a digital portfolio, which is submitted to the College Board for evaluation. AP portfolios are assessed in two main areas: quality in a student's work and sustained investigation of an inquiry, shown through experimentation with materials, processes, and ideas. Students work out outside of the classroom, maintain a sketchbook, and participate in ongoing group and individual critiques. Transfer students can be considered for the course by submitting a portfolio of five of their current, best works.

Introduction to Studio Art (*1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 credit*)

This multi-level course provides the opportunity to become critical thinkers as students learn to use the Art Elements and Principles of Design. Studio experiences provide opportunities to apply knowledge of techniques to a variety of media such as drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital media. In addition to incorporating technology within classical/traditional studio art, students are expected to know and apply industry vocabulary. Students who exhibit advanced skills are given more freedom to choose their subject and media within the boundaries of assigned projects as it relates to expressing their artistic voice and their identities in Christ. Studying art history through a biblical worldview also helps students demonstrate their ability to respond to, analyze, and interpret artwork through discussions, critiques, and writings. An organized portfolio and personal sketchbook demonstrating progress in technique, style, and voice is expected.

Advanced Studio Art (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: 1 full year of Introduction to Studio Art

This course builds upon the basic skills and techniques taught and mastered in the beginning art course. Students will be introduced to advanced techniques, compositions, and concepts in preparation for the AP portfolio. The creative process will be emphasized, engaging students in the use of a developmental sketchbook with preliminary sketches, media experimentation, art historical inspiration, reflections and evaluations. Major projects are designed to be conceptual/open-ended in nature, encouraging students to make decisions and take risks. This course offers not only hands-on production but the study of art history

High School Course Offerings

and the process of critical analysis in reference to viewing professional and student artwork. Students will be expected to develop work for exhibition and/or competition.

Graphic Design (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

Graphic Design is an introduction to digital media through Adobe Illustrator and InDesign. Students will independently and collaboratively engage in creative thinking, develop innovative strategies, and strengthen their communication tools. Throughout the semester, students will learn basic design skills such as typography, use of color, and layout.

Photography 1 (1 semester, 0.5 credit, also listed under Technology)

This is a semester-long digital photography class designed for students at the beginning level. The course uses digital photography to help students learn and apply the basic elements of art and the principles of design. This course also provides students with opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills in the field of photography and the use of Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Digital Photography familiarizes the student with digital photographic equipment, materials, methods, and processes. Visual problem solving skills are explored through the use of the computer as the main tool for creative expression and communication.

Photography 2 (1 semester, 0.5 credit, also listed under Technology)

Prerequisite: Photography 1.

This is an advanced, semester-long digital photography course for students who have completed Photography 1. It builds upon student's skills in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom while practicing their digital photography camera skills and techniques learned in the beginning course. It is project-based and explores both fine art and commercial applications of photography. The students explore studio and on location lighting techniques to enhance their photography in the fields of commercial art, advertising and product photography, portraiture, nature and landscape, photojournalism, documentary and fine art. They learn and research various artists in these fields, emulating their styles, yet creating their own vision and personal style with an increase in complexity, visual metaphors and emotions, demonstrated through technically demanding projects. Students create their own blog sites as a place to exhibit their projects and portfolio work. Self promotion of student photography will be encouraged.

Musical Theatre Performance (full year, 1.0 credit)

This course is available by audition and interview only. Space is limited.

Students participate in a musical theatre production. All students are required to attend any before or after school rehearsals and homeroom block rehearsals (as needed) and to attend all performances. Those interested in the technical aspects of theatre such as lighting, sound, costumes, set, props, etc., are also encouraged to join. Students interested in being a part of this program should email Mrs. Loveday at hloveday@hccsa.org for audition information.

Technical Theatre (full year, 1.0 credit)

This course is available by interview only. Space is limited.

This course covers the fundamentals of stage design, set and property construction, costumes and make-up, as well as the principles of stage lighting and sound. Students will learn all of the responsibilities of a production.

Theatre Performance (full year, 1.0 credit)

This course is available by audition and interview only. Space is limited.

Students participate in productions, contests, and other theatre performances. Attendance at rehearsals, contests, and performances is required. Fees and materials for contest travel and costumes are also required.

High School Course Offerings

The course primarily focuses on acting or performing crew duties in theatrical productions and showcases. Those interested in the technical aspects of theatre such as lighting, sound, costumes, set props, etc., are also encouraged to join.

Worship Leadership *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

This course is available by audition and interview only. Space is limited.

Worship Leadership is designed to equip students to sing, play, pray, speak, read Scripture, and run needed technology as a part of leading corporate worship. This group plans, prepares, and leads the Upper School chapel services each week in partnership with HCLA. Students have the opportunity to grow as vocalists, instrumentalists, speakers, teachers, techies, and all-around leaders as they carry out the tasks necessary to accomplish the weekly plans created by them for chapel services. Worship leadership participants are also active in planning and leading All-School chapels which occur several times throughout the school year.

Yearbook *(full year, 1.0 credit, also listed under Technology)*

This course is available by application only.

This course produces the annual yearbook, applying journalistic principles and technological skills in an effort to produce an award-winning publication.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Latin I *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

This course sharpens students' knowledge of basic Latin vocabulary and grammar. Students engage in regular translation exercises and study the history and culture of Roman Britain and Egypt.

Latin II *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

Prerequisite: Latin I

In this intermediate course, students master the subjunctive mood and fine-tune their skills at translation, with the goal of preparing to read authentic, excerpted Latin literature. Cultural material explores Roman religion, the Roman army, and archaeological and literary sources for Roman Britain. The course meets and exceeds the syllabus for the Intermediate Latin Exam.

Honors Latin III *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

Prerequisite: Latin II

In this advanced course, students begin to read selections of authentic, excerpted Latin literature. Cultural material explores Judaism and Christianity in the first century BC, as well as engineering, entertainment, philosophy, patronage, marriage, and education in the Roman world. The course meets and exceeds the syllabus for the Intermediate Latin Reading Comprehension Exam.

AP Latin *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

Prerequisite: Honors Latin III

Students are not required to take the AP Latin exam to receive course credit.

The AP Latin course is an in-depth study of selections from two of the greatest works in Latin literature: Virgil's *Aeneid* and Caesar's *Gallic War*. Throughout the course, students develop their language skills through precise, literal translation and comprehension of sight passages, both poetry and prose, and written analyses that demonstrate critical reading in clear and coherent arguments supported by textual examples. Students cultivate their understanding of the Roman world through concepts like literary techniques, Roman values, war and empire, leadership, views of non-Romans, history and memory, and human beings and the gods.

High School Course Offerings

Spanish I (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This introductory course covers vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and verb tenses (present, future and preterite of the indicative) to prepare students to use the language practically. Students are expected to communicate, read, and write in the Spanish tenses they learn.

Spanish II (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Students are expected to communicate, read, and write in Spanish, speaking only Spanish in class. This course covers vocabulary, grammatical concepts, and verb tenses to prepare students to communicate effectively with Spanish-speakers. By the end of this course, students are familiar with the formation, translation, and use of all verb forms in the indicative.

Honors Spanish III (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 85+ Spanish II

Students spend time solidifying the knowledge of all tenses of the indicative used in Spanish and learn all tenses of the subjunctive. This honors level course focuses on translating and using Spanish in a practical way. Students are expected to communicate solely in Spanish, both in written and spoken communication.

AP Spanish Language & Culture (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 85+ in Honors Spanish III

This course takes a holistic approach to language proficiency and recognizes the complex interrelatedness of comprehension and comprehensibility, vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies and cultural awareness. Students learn language structures in context and use them to convey meaning. The course strives to promote fluency and accuracy and to engage students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. In order to best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught in Spanish.

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra B or Pre-Algebra A/B

This course is organized around families of functions with special emphasis on linear and quadratic functions. Students learn to represent families of functions in multiple ways: as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. They also learn to model real-world situations using functions in order to solve problems arising from those situations.

Honors Algebra I (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Final grade of 90+ in Pre-Algebra B or Pre-Algebra A/B

Honors students interact with the same topics but on a deeper level of understanding. They must complete extra homework problems for each assignment. The interaction with these extra problems fosters a broader level of understanding of the material so that when these students take quizzes and tests, they are prepared for the more difficult problems that they must complete.

High School Course Offerings

Geometry (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Honors Geometry (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in Alg I or 85+ in H Alg I and CTP-5 stanine of 7 in Q.R. and Math 1&2 or PSAT Math score of 500+

Geometry is introduced with definitions and notations. This foundation is used to develop inductive and deductive proofs of primary geometric relations. Congruence is introduced in the context of studying triangles, followed by a study of more complex polygons with an emphasis on quadrilaterals, specifically the relationship between quadrilaterals and parallelograms. The course concludes with introductions to analytic geometry and geometry in three dimensions. Honors students complete additional homework problems that are more rigorous and have quiz and test questions targeted at deepening the student's understanding of the concepts.

Algebra II (full year; 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry

Honors Algebra II (full year; 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Final grade: 90+ in Algebra I or 85+ in H Alg I and PSAT Math: 500+

This course is organized around families of functions, including linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical and rational. Students learn to represent families of functions in multiple ways: as verbal descriptions, equations, tables, and graphs. Students learn to model real-world situations using functions to solve problems arising from those situations. Honors students complete additional homework, projects and assessment assignments that are more rigorous and targeted at deepening the student's understanding of the concepts.

Pre-Calculus (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

Honors Pre-Calculus (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in Algebra II or 85+ in Honors Algebra II and PSAT Math score of 550+

Pre-Calculus is a preparatory course for future studies in mathematics. This course covers functions, trigonometry, vectors, and analytic geometry. It also touches on derivation and integration. Honors students complete additional homework problems that are more rigorous and have quiz and test questions targeted at deepening the student's understanding of the concepts.

Statistics (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: Algebra II

This course introduces concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to four broad conceptual themes: (1) exploring data — describing patterns and departures from patterns, (2) sampling and experimentation — planning and conducting a study, (3) anticipating patterns — exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, and (4) statistical inference — estimating population parameters and testing hypotheses. Students also focus on research areas where statistical analysis plays a major role, so that they can apply the skills they learn to diverse application areas including psychology, medicine, finance, public policy, and information technology.

High School Course Offerings

AP Calculus AB (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in Pre-Cal or 85+ in Honors Pre-Cal and SAT Math score of 600+ or ACT Math score of 25+

Students are not required to take the AP Calculus AB exam to receive course credit.

This college-level AP course is designed to meet or exceed the rigor and content of a first-semester college calculus course. The course covers functions, limits, differentiation and its applications, and integration and its applications. After completing the course content, students prepare for and may take the AP Calculus AB Exam in May with the possibility of receiving college credit for the first semester of calculus.

AP Calculus BC (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in Pre-Cal or 85+ in Honors Pre-Cal and SAT Math score of 600+ or ACT Math score of 25+

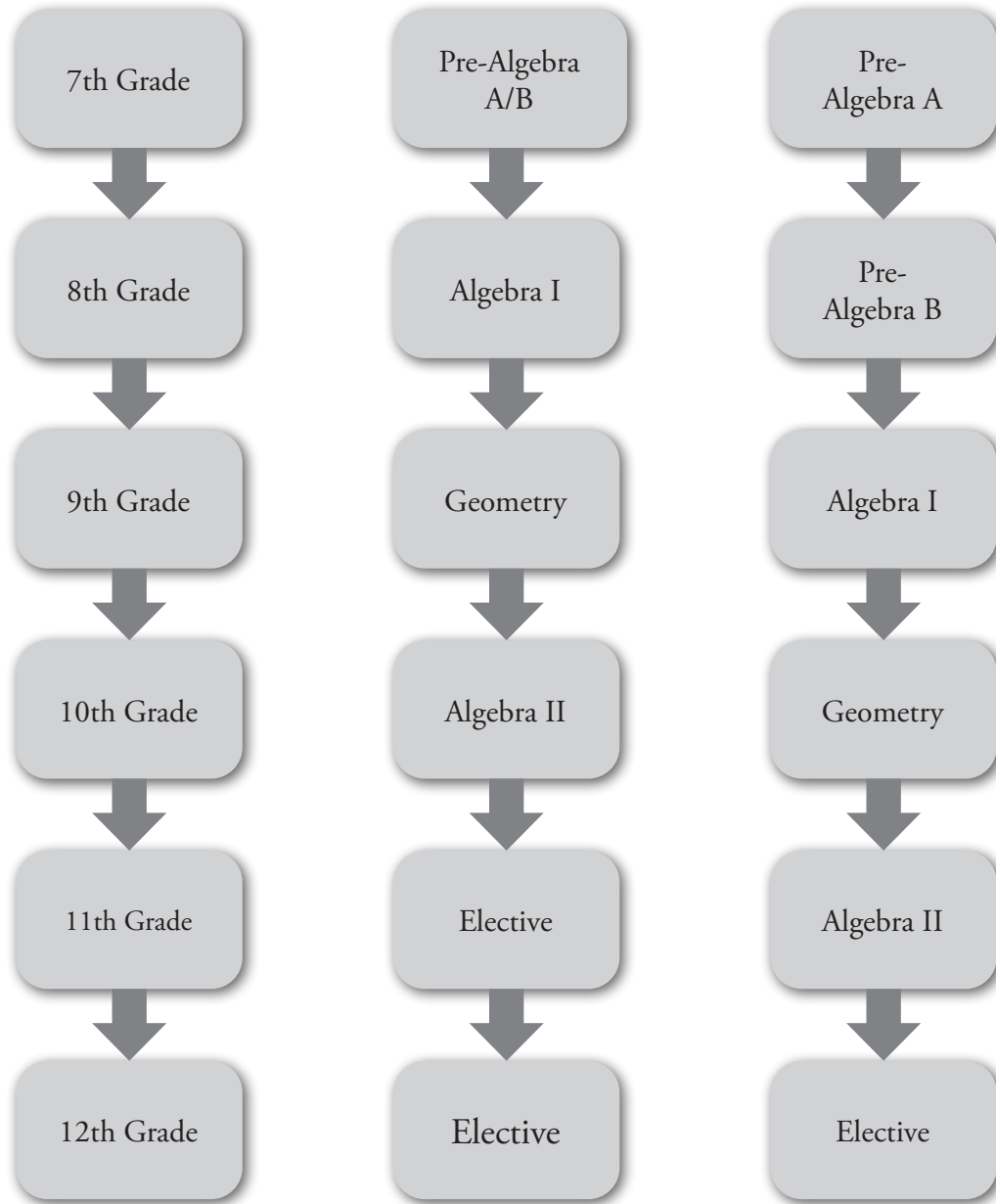
Students are not required to take the AP Calculus BC exam to receive course credit.

This college-level AP course is designed to meet or exceed the rigor and content of the first two semesters of college calculus. The course covers all of the content in AP Calculus AB and also includes a study of additional material on solving differential equations, additional integration techniques, improper integrals, infinite series, parametric equations, polar coordinates, and vectors. After completing the course content, students prepare for and may take the AP Calculus BC Exam in May with the possibility of receiving college credit for the first two semesters of college calculus.

Acceleration Requests

- Acceleration requests are not recommended unless a student is exhibiting clear and exceptional math aptitude and is scoring well above the 90th percentile on standardized testing.
- Acceleration requests must be approved by the Math Department and submitted to the High School office before starting a course. Any costs associated are not covered by the school.
- Exceptional math students may accelerate their math curriculum through the following steps:
 - Enroll in and complete a pre-approved mathematics course AND
 - Earn an 85% or better on a Hill Country end-of-course final exam.
- These steps must be completed by the end of July, prior to the new school year.

MATHEMATICS COURSES



Post-Algebra II Elective Options

- Pre-Calculus
- AP Calculus AB or BC
- Statistics

High School Course Offerings

NON-DEPARTMENTAL ELECTIVES

Independent Study *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

Students may choose to take an online or ACC dual credit course during the school day. Pre-approval is required, as the course cannot be one that is offered at the school and/or required for graduation. The only exception is if there is a scheduling conflict. The student must successfully complete the course and present an official transcript in order to receive credit. The course does not factor into the student's GPA. Students cover all costs associated with the course including any materials.

Internship *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

Students in grades 11 and 12 may arrange with the academic and college advisor to intern with various school or church departments. Internships with area professionals may be arranged with permission.

Office Aide *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

Students may enroll as an office aide with the approval of the academic and college advisor, and space is limited. Office aides collect mail, make deliveries, do special projects, and assist office personnel.

Performance Training for Athletes *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

Scheduled for a dedicated time at the end of the school day, this course is required for both in-season and off-season athletes if their schedule allows. Student-athletes train for their specific sports using research-based training techniques and data-driven workouts. Partaking in this carefully crafted training program enhances students' athletic performance while also helping them stay strong and healthy all season long.

Performance Training for Non-Athletes *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

This course provides students with opportunities to improve in strength, speed, and endurance. Students learn about correct lifting technique, major muscles/movements, and basic components of human performance training. This course is intended to benefit all students so that they can grow physically, mentally, and emotionally. It may also be taken to satisfy the Physical Education requirement to graduate.

Teacher Aide *(1 or 2 semesters, 0.5 or 1.0 pass/fail credit)*

Students may enroll as a teacher's aide with the approval of the academic and college advisor and the teacher involved. Duties vary depending on the teacher.

Test Prep *(Semester 1, 0.5 pass/fail credit)*

Students in grades 11 and 12 may enroll in a PSAT/SAT prep course that is embedded within a class period. The PSAT/SAT prep runs for eight weeks and is taught by a local test prep company, More Than A Teacher. This course prepares students for the PSAT and SAT. There is a fee associated with this course. For more information, contact More Than A Teacher at 512.453.7272 or www.morethanateacher.com.

SCIENCE

Biology *(full year, 1.0 credit)*

Biology involves the study of how living things use information to organize matter and energy at the molecular and cellular levels. This course explores central ideas of general biology including biochemistry, levels of biological organization, heredity, and interactions among living systems. Biology also includes a focus

High School Course Offerings

on laboratory and scientific writing skills. Throughout the course, students consider their roles as stewards of their minds, bodies, and environments, according to the Bible's standards for living.

Honors Biology (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Grade of 90+ in Integrated Physics and Chemistry and CTP-5 stanine of 7 in Reading Comp.

This course focuses on the processes necessary for life on Earth. The course covers the chemistry of life, the cellular basis of life, cellular growth and reproduction, homeostatic mechanisms, genetics, ecology, and human physiology. Students engage in inquiry activities, where they develop their own questions about life processes and practice the skills involved in conducting experiments, analyzing data, and writing about their inquiry activities. At the end of the course, students should have a working understanding of how each of the units studied fit together to make life on Earth sustainable and yet delicately balanced, unique and yet predictably understandable. Students also consider their roles as stewards of their minds, bodies, and environments, according to the Bible's standards for living.

Chemistry (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Chemistry is considered the "central science" because the fundamentals of chemistry connect to all other science disciplines. Students build upon their knowledge of atomic structure and the principles of bonding to deepen their understanding of how compounds interact with one another in chemical reactions. Students also explore how chemical reactions occur in the natural world, and how they can be manipulated to produce materials and products that are useful. Students continue building their laboratory and scientific writing skills. Individual lab writing and developing an understanding of scientific inquiry are hallmarks of this course.

Honors Chemistry (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisites: Final grade of 90+ in 9th grade non-honors math course or 85+ in 9th grade honors math course and PSAT Math Score of 500+

This course covers not only the conceptual basics of chemistry, but also greatly emphasizes quantitative analysis. Students are introduced to the same concepts as those in general Chemistry but at a greater depth. Scientific reasoning and quantitative analysis are hallmarks of the course. Students are well prepared for a more advanced Chemistry course later in their academic career.

Robotics (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This course is available by application only. Space is limited.

The robotics team, The MegaKnytes, competes in the FIRST Tech Challenge robotics league (firstinspires.org/robotics/ftc). Teams are "challenged to design, build, program, and operate robots to compete in head-to-head challenges in an alliance format." Students develop STEM skills and practice engineering principles (e.g., Java programming, Computer Aided Design, Mechanical Engineering, Control Systems), while realizing the value of hard work, innovation, and sharing ideas. Students also learn valuable presentation skills, how to create a marketing/business plan, as well as participate in service projects. Participation in weekly after school practices and several competitions is required.

Physics (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Geometry

Physics is the study of matter, energy and interactions between them. This is a classical physics course, based on problem solving and hands-on demonstrations/labs. This course covers motion, trajectory motion, forces, momentum, energy, and waves. Students apply mathematical tools to model physical phenomena.

High School Course Offerings

AP Physics 1 (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Completion or enrollment in Pre-Calculus, final grade of 90+ in non-honors Algebra II or 85+ in Honors Algebra II, final grade of 90+ in non-honors Chemistry or 85+ in Honors Chemistry and PSAT Math Score of 570+

No prior course work in physics is necessary to enroll in this course.

Students are not required to take the AP Physics 1 exam to receive course credit.

AP Physics 1 is a rigorous, collegiate-level physics course that meets the standards outlined by the College Board. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power. This course exercises Algebra II skills to solve problems and incorporates lab activities to illustrate physics relationships. There is an emphasis on exam prep throughout the course, with a focused review in April and early May.

Anatomy & Physiology (full year, 1.0 credit)

Colorado Christian University Dual Credit Anatomy & Physiology (full year, 1.0 credit HCCSA/4.0-8.0 credits CCU)

Prerequisites: Biology and Chemistry

The study of Anatomy and Physiology is really the study of God as a designer. This course surveys human anatomy (structure) and physiology (function) using a systems-based approach, providing students with a “user’s guide” to the body. Along with an e-text, lab dissections, models, and guest speakers, students observe the relationship between form and function and explore the logistics of keeping 100 trillion cells alive and working together in homeostasis. Ultimately, the goal of this course is to develop a deeper appreciation of God’s genius, order, and beauty. Students also gain insight into the field of medicine as a career.

AP Biology (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, a PSAT/SAT EBRW score of 500+ or ACT English score of 22+, and a final grade of 90+ in non-honors Chemistry or 85+ in Honors Chemistry

Students are not required to take the AP Biology exam to receive course credit.

AP Biology is a rigorous, collegiate-level biology course that meets the standards outlined by the College Board. Students build upon their knowledge of biological systems to develop a greater depth of understanding of cellular metabolism, energy transfer, homeostasis, heredity, natural selection, and the emergent properties of biological systems. Students integrate concepts from the College Board’s Four Big Ideas of AP Biology with seven science practices through varied classwork and lab opportunities. There is an emphasis on exam prep throughout the course, with a focused review in April and early May.

AP Computer Science Principles (full year, 1.0 credit)

Prerequisite: Minimum PSAT Math Score 550+

Students are not required to take the AP Computer Science Principles exam to receive course credit.

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.

High School Course Offerings

Engineering Design and Analysis (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

University of Texas Dual Credit (*full year, 1.0 HCCSA credit, 3.0 credits UT*)

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I or Honors Algebra I.

This is a hands-on, design-based, inquiry-focused engineering course for all learners developed by the Cockrell School of Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. In this course, students discover the engineering design process, make data-driven decisions, and work in multi-level teams to solve complex challenges. Students explore mechanical, chemical, civil, electrical, and aerospace engineering through a series of design challenges that illustrate how engineering can improve people's lives and health, meet the special needs of different customer groups, and even enable creativity in the arts in order to serve the needs of others.

Engineering Applications of Computer Science (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: Completion or enrollment in Algebra II or Honors Algebra II

Recommended: Engineering Design and Analysis

This is an engineering course that engages students in programming and computational thinking to solve human-centered, technically challenging projects at the intersection of engineering and computer science. The goal of this course is to engage students in meaningful versions of the practices of professional engineers and computer scientists while sparking a passion for engineering, computational thinking, and problem-solving that will serve all students no matter what their future career goals may be. Students explore mechanical, electrical, and biomedical engineering through a series of design challenges that illustrate how engineering can improve people's lives and health, conserve resources, and enable creativity in the arts while serving the needs of others.

Honors Senior Thesis Engineering Capstone (*full year, 1.0 credit, also listed under Theology/Rhetoric*)

Prerequisite: Completion of one or more of the following: Engineering Design and Analysis, Engineering Applications of Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, or Robotics and approval of application.

Senior Thesis Engineering Capstone is the capstone rhetoric course at Hill Country with a distinct engineering focus. Students work individually, as well as with their superteams, to identify a need in their community and apply the engineering design process to address that need. Students combine the research, writing, and presentation skills they have learned in the school of rhetoric with the skills they have learned in our engineering program, writing a comprehensive analysis on their topic, getting feedback throughout the process, and consulting with experts in their topic's field. Students incorporate the Christian Faith into their analysis, examining the foundations and implications of their position in light of Scripture. A panel of judges hears each student present their thesis at the conclusion of the course.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World History I (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This course introduces students to the world's earliest civilizations and traces the major geopolitical, economic, and cultural developments in the Western world leading up to the fifteenth-century Age of Exploration. Emphasis is placed on significant contemporaries of biblical Israel, the cultural context of the New Testament and the development of European nations and institutions. Students study the people, events, and ideas that shaped classical and medieval Europe and laid the foundation for the modern age.

High School Course Offerings

World History II (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This course continues the study of history begun in ninth grade, beginning with the Age of Exploration to trace the major geopolitical, economic and cultural developments in the societies around the world leading up to the modern day. Development of European, Asian, Latin American, and African nations, institutions, and culture, including the role of Christianity and the church, are covered. Students study the people, events, and ideas that have formed the contemporary world.

AP European History (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: PSAT EBRW score of 500+

Students are not required to take the AP European History exam to receive course credit.

Students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1450 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 covers content along seven themes that students explore in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places, including economic, cultural, political, social and technological changes and innovations.

U.S. History (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Colorado Christian University Dual Credit U.S. History (*full year, 1.0 credit HCCSA/3.0-6.0 credits CCU*)

This course is the third segment of the School of Rhetoric's study of Western civilization through the humanities. This course surveys the history and geography of the United States from the exploration of the New World and pre-colonial times through the founding, expansion, and growth of the nation through modern times. Emphases include the founding of American society and government, industrial growth and expansion, involvement in various internal and international conflicts and wars, and social, political, and cultural changes throughout the years. This course is offered with a transferrable dual credit option through Colorado Christian University.

U.S. History (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

This course covers U.S. History from the age of European exploration and discovery to the present, focusing on British colonialism and subsequent American independence, 18th – 19th century westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction eras, into modern industrialization, 20th - century world wars, and the emergence of the U.S. as a superpower in the post-WWII era. The course examines the nation's greatest epochs, missteps, celebrations, and achievements through a Biblical worldview lens.

Economics (*1 semester, 0.5 credit*)

This survey course includes the foundations of economics, a comparison of free enterprise and other economic systems, and an exploration of the American free-market system. Students learn about the basic economic model of supply and demand, the organization of businesses, and the role of competition in different market structures. The course progresses to lessons about the macroeconomy, including measures of economic performance, banking and financial markets, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade.

AP Macroeconomics (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: PSAT/SAT Math score of 500+ or ACT Math score of 22+

Students are not required to take the AP Macroeconomics exam to receive course credit.

This course introduces students to the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole. The course prepares students to think like economists by using principles, models, graphs, charts, and data to describe

High School Course Offerings

economic situations and predict and explain outcomes. Following the College Board's six-unit outline, students learn about basic economic concepts, economic indicators, the national economy, the financial sector, stabilization policies, and international trade and finance. While advanced math skills are not required, students should be adept at drawing and interpreting graphs.

Government (*1 semester, 0.5 credit*)

Colorado Christian University Dual Credit Government (*1 semester, 0.5 credit HCCSA/3.0 credits CCU*)

This college course establishes a fundamental understanding of government in the United States. Focus is on the historical development of the Constitution, the three branches of government and their functions, civil liberties and rights, elections and campaigns, the media and political opinion, and parties and interest groups. This course is offered with a transferrable dual credit option through Colorado Christian University. The course progresses to lessons about the macroeconomy, including measures of economic performance, banking and financial markets, fiscal and monetary policy, and international trade.

AP U.S. Government & Politics (*full year, 1.0 credit*)

Prerequisite: PSAT EBRW score of 500+ and final grade of 85+ in previous Social Studies course.

Students are not required to take the AP U.S. Government & Politics exam to receive course credit.

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other resources to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behaviors, allowing students to create meaningful connections among concepts throughout the course.

Psychology (*1 semester, 0.5 credit*)

Colorado Christian University Dual Credit Government (*1 semester, 0.5 credit HCCSA/3.0 credits CCU*)

This course focuses on the history and nature of the general field of psychology and engages students to understand the subject in unanimity with their Christian faith. Students learn about the fundamentals of psychology and the various theoretical and philosophical components that fit into it. Using a biblical understanding rooted in Scripture, students understand more about how the human mind works and how God created us. The course teaches standard research methods and data analysis used in the psychological sciences today. This course is offered with a transferrable dual credit option through Colorado Christian University.

TECHNOLOGY

Photography 1 (*1 semester, 0.5 credit, also listed under Fine Arts*)

This is a semester-long digital photography class designed for students at the beginning level. The course uses digital photography to help students learn and apply the basic elements of art and the principles of design. This course also provides students with opportunities to extend their knowledge and skills in the field of photography and the use of Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom. Digital Photography familiarizes the student with digital photographic equipment, materials, methods, and processes. Visual problem solving skills are explored through the use of the computer as the main tool for creative expression and communication.

High School Course Offerings

Photography 2 (1 semester, 0.5 credit, also listed under Fine Arts)

Prerequisite: Photography 1.

This is an advanced, semester-long digital photography course for students who have completed Photography 1. It builds upon student's skills in Adobe Photoshop and Lightroom while practicing their digital photography camera skills and techniques learned in the beginning course. It is project-based and explores both fine art and commercial applications of photography. The students explore studio and on location lighting techniques to enhance their photography in the fields of commercial art, advertising and product photography, portraiture, nature and landscape, photojournalism, documentary and fine art. They learn and research various artists in these fields, emulating their styles, yet creating their own vision and personal style with an increase in complexity, visual metaphors and emotions, demonstrated through technically demanding projects. Students create their own blog sites as a place to exhibit their projects and portfolio work. Self promotion of student photography will be encouraged.

Yearbook (full year, 1.0 credit, also listed under Fine Arts)

This course is available by application only.

This course produces the annual yearbook, applying journalistic principles and technological skills in an effort to produce an award-winning publication.

THEOLOGY/RHETORIC

Life and Teachings of Jesus Christ (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

“Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life’” (John 8:12). In this foundational theology course, students focus on the accounts of Jesus’ life, teachings, and signs, including His Resurrection from the dead, as written in the four canonical Gospels. Students investigate the historical context of Jesus’ life, the teachings of Jesus in light of the Old Testament, and how His words speak just as powerfully today as when they were first spoken and written.

Logic (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

This course introduces the forms of proper logical reasoning and guides students through a study of symbolic and propositional reasoning. The course includes a study of truth conditions, symbolizing propositions, constructing truth tables, building proofs, logical operations, exploring the meanings of connectors, and understanding the underlying “mathematics” of proper thought. Students also study the structure of clear, effective arguments and learn to identify informal fallacies in order to recognize errors in reasoning and arguments.

The Epistles of Paul (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

“Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God” (Romans 1:1). This course focuses exclusively on the writings of the Apostle Paul, whose powerful life, ministry, and teachings gave shape to the Christian Church and forever changed the world. Designed for those already familiar with basic Christian doctrine, this course expands students’ faith in Christ and knowledge of Christian teachings and practice as described in the Apostle’s writings. Historical contexts are considered as students study the Apostle’s writings and learn to synthesize them with the larger framework of the canon of Scripture. Students learn to see the Apostle’s work “not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God” (1 Thessalonians 2:13), and how it applies to their lives and the world today.

High School Course Offerings

Speech (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

This course engages students in different types of public speaking. Students learn how to construct various types of speeches with many opportunities to practice extemporaneous speeches. Students learn about different rhetorical devices and incorporate them in their own speeches. Students connect their topics to a biblical worldview and analyze different speakers and speeches for efficacy and sound argument.

Apologetics (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

Students continue to deepen their study of the concept of worldview, with a focus on the ability to understand and defend the reasons for embracing a Christian faith. Common objections to Christianity are examined as students are equipped to give an answer for the hope that is in them (1 Peter 3:15).

Debate (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

This course is designed to provide students with further knowledge of the principles and application of the practices of effective communication in the Policy and Lincoln Douglas debate styles. Students have the opportunity to research and debate topical issues from a perspective they may or may not agree with to facilitate thorough research and a focus on rhetorical devices.

Christian Ethics and Moral Philosophy (1 semester, 0.5 credit)

The pursuit of that which is good requires not only a recognition of the good by the intellect but a movement toward the good by the will. This course introduces students to ethical theories and moral philosophies as they have been introduced, developed, and applied throughout history, and the forces that drive individuals to make ethical decisions when faced with competing perspectives on the good. Contemporary moral issues and questions are examined in light of moral philosophy, that is, the reflection on and the evaluation of moral principles and norms from the perspective of philosophy, and moral theology, that is, the reflection on the moral principles and narratives as found in the Scriptures and church tradition from the perspective of faith.

Foundations of Academic Research (Semester 1, 0.5 credit)

This course is offered to prepare students for Honors Senior Thesis B. Students begin the process of researching and constructing their thesis. Mechanics of research, argument building, and persuasive writing are studied in depth and give students the opportunity to produce a thorough final paper and defense. Students are given additional time to explore their topics and receive more individualized feedback.

Honors Senior Thesis A (Semester 1, 0.5 credit)

Prerequisites: PSAT/SAT EBRW score of 500+ or ACT English score of 22+ or final grade of 85+ in AP English Language or 90+ in American Lit and panel approval of application

Senior Thesis is the capstone rhetoric course at Hill Country. Students conduct research in order to construct and present an original thesis on the topic of their choice, putting into practice the research, writing, and presentation skills they have learned in the school of rhetoric. Students write a comprehensive analysis on their topic, getting feedback throughout the process and consulting with experts in their topic's field. Students incorporate the Christian Faith into their analysis, examining the foundations and implications of their topic and their position in the light of Scripture. A panel of judges hears each student present their thesis at the conclusion of the course. This course is available by application only.

Honors Senior Thesis B (Semester 2, 0.5 credit)

Prerequisite: Foundations of Academic Research

Senior Thesis is the capstone rhetoric course at Hill Country. Students conduct research in order to construct and present an original thesis on the topic of their choice, putting into practice the research, writing, and

presentation skills they have learned in the school of rhetoric. Students write a comprehensive analysis on their topic, getting feedback throughout the process and consulting with experts in their topic's field. Students incorporate the Christian Faith into their analysis, examining the foundations and implications of their topic and their position in the light of Scripture. A panel of judges hears each student present their thesis at the conclusion of the course.

Honors Senior Thesis Engineering Capstone (*full year, 1.0 credit, also listed under Science*)

Prerequisite: Completion of one or more of the following: Engineering Design and Analysis, Engineering Applications of Computer Science, AP Computer Science Principles, or Robotics and approval of application.

Senior Thesis Engineering Capstone is the capstone rhetoric course at Hill Country with a distinct engineering focus. Students work individually, as well as with their superteams, to identify a need in their community and apply the engineering design process to address that need. Students combine the research, writing, and presentation skills they have learned in the school of rhetoric with the skills they have learned in our engineering program, writing a comprehensive analysis on their topic, getting feedback throughout the process, and consulting with experts in their topic's field. Students incorporate the Christian Faith into their analysis, examining the foundations and implications of their position in light of Scripture. A panel of judges hears each student present their thesis at the conclusion of the course.

**Prerequisites may, upon request by a student, be adjusted by committee review to include other criteria.*

***PSAT/SAT EBRW = Evidence Based Reading and Writing*

NOTE: Hill Country Christian School of Austin reserves the right to change any provision listed in this publication without actual notice to individuals. Every effort will be made to keep students and parents advised of such changes. It is the individual responsibility of each student to keep apprised of current graduation requirements.