



# PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

## Secondary Course Descriptions Guide

# 2020-21

*Learning, Leadership & Service*

43065 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187  
734.459.3505 [www.plymouthchristian.org](http://www.plymouthchristian.org)

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# To Students:

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We are thrilled to offer a program of studies that is uniquely suited to helping you in your journey to grow and develop into lifelong learners and leaders. The next few years are your passport to the future. The decisions you make will determine your opportunities for a college education, scholarships, and a career. This will be a time of self-discovery. You will learn about your life calling and abilities that make you an individual. Most importantly, you will begin to discover the gifts that God has given to you and how they fit in His plan for your life. In order to assist you in this process, Plymouth Christian is providing this Course Description Catalog to assist you as you plan for a bright future.

We enjoy a family atmosphere at PCA, rich with traditions and many unique experiences and opportunities for community. We work hard to provide the best possible experience for every student here and we love what we do.

As leadership, faculty and staff, we passionately love the Lord and we are deeply committed to help you develop a perspective on living and life that is based upon the truths of Scripture. We value the time we have with you and invite you to join in on “life” at Plymouth Christian featuring Murray Lake Day, the Variety Show, Spirit Week, Spiritual Life Retreat, Career Day (every other year), Class Trips, Senior Trip to Costa Rica, Sophomores to DC, and more!

God is preparing a special journey for you and we know that there is wisdom in much counsel. This Guide will assist you in the decision-making process, but you also need to trust the voice of experience. Do not go at it alone. Count on the counsel of your parents, pastors, and teachers. Use this guide as a launch pad for discussion with your parents. Listen, ask questions, and read and develop the best individual plan for your life. You, the student, and your parent, will make the final choices. You will determine your life goals and academic excellence.

Plymouth Christian Academy is pleased to be in a partnership with you, your parents, and your church in preparation for your future, and we are here to serve you. Educational offerings and requirements are frequently changing. Stay informed. Parent meetings and counseling sessions are available through the Counseling department. Feel free to contact the Counselor for the latest updated information.

Let’s work together to make this time of your life a fantastic adventure.

Educating For Eternity,

Mrs. Caryn Huntsman, Superintendent/Secondary Principal  
Mrs. Dana Zambeck, School Counselor

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Plymouth Christian Academy, in partnership with parents, seeks to educate students from a biblical worldview and equip them for a lifetime of learning, leadership and service.

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

The purpose of PCA is to produce students matured in their love for God, steeped in His word, educated about His world, dedicated to lives of service and learning, and prepared to fulfill their calling in His kingdom.

# Plymouth Christian Academy

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## Regent Board Members

Michael Warmbier

Dan Arbitter

Rob Askew

Tom Burger

Dennis Collins

Matt Edwards

Eric Hay

Michael Joseph

Bethany Naumoff

Ashea Tuggle

Lisa Waters

## Administrative Team

Caryn Huntsman | Superintendent, Secondary Principal

Ryan Batson | Elementary & Middle School Principal

Dan Hammar | Administrative IT Liaison

Beth Larabee | Advancement Director, Elementary Coordinator

David Murray | Dean of Students

Peggy Paulson | Communications, Alumni Relations, Advancement

Bonnie Varney | Early Childhood Coordinator

Leanne Windle | Enrollment Coordinator

Matt Windle | Athletic Director, Spiritual Life Chaplain

Dana Zambeck | Secondary School Counselor

School Phone.....	734.459.3505
Counseling Office .....	ext. 3118
Secondary Office .....	ext. 3121
Secondary Attendance Line .....	ext. 3181
Athletic Office .....	ext. 3117
Athletic Director .....	ext. 3198
Superintendent/Secondary Principal's Office .....	ext. 3131

**PLYMOUTH  
CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY  
SECONDARY  
FACULTY AND STAFF**

**2020-21**

**Anika Adams, *IT Technician***

**Steve Bauslaugh, *Physical Education***

**Connie Boyd, *Mathematics***

**Marisa Brodhagen, *Physical Education and Health***

**Emily Carlson, *German***

**Diana Chapel, *Receptionist***

**Yvonne Cole, *Science***

**Christopher Cornell, *Bible***

**Michael Costello, *Art***

**Gloriann Curley, *English and Yearbook***

**Jeanne Greuber, *Administrative Secretary***

**Jori Groen, *Mathematics***

**Carol Greve, *Athletic Secretary***

**Deborah Hope, *Science***

**Debra Houk, *Lunchroom***

**Rebecca Huff, *English***

**Margaret Jarrell, *Spanish***

**Carolyn Kedney, *AP English***

**David Kocina, *Educational Services Coordinator***

**Martha Koppin, *Bible***

**Wilson Muse, *Science***

**David Murray, *Mathematics***

**Mary Parsons, *Social Studies***

**Jonathan Pop, *Performing Arts***

**Leah Rigby, *Performing Arts***

**Stephen Rigby, *Mathematics***

**Jeff Schmidt, *Social Studies***

**Megan Sinclair, *Performing Arts***

**Steve Steiner, *IT Director***

**Linda Sumner, *Librarian***

**Jessica Wash, *Business & Technology***

**Jaclyn Weber, *English***

**Jamie Weertz, *Lunchroom Manager***

**Steve Wenning, *Bible***

*We aspire to graduate students with a Christian worldview who live out expected student outcomes. These outcomes reflect the core values and mission of Plymouth Christian Academy and serve as a foundation for life.*

## **Academic Preparedness:**

1. Educated in all academic disciplines, and are skilled in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and thinking
2. Possess and apply vocabulary appropriate for effective communication and understand the significance of speech as we communicate with others and with God
3. Demonstrate content mastery in each subject area to allow critical thinking, higher order inquiry and further learning in preparation for post education endeavors
4. Demonstrate the use of technology to communicate, find, analyze and evaluate information in a God-honoring manner
5. Appreciate literature and the arts and understand how they express and shape their beliefs and values
6. Committed to lifelong learning

## **Spiritual Foundation:**

1. Trust Jesus Christ as personal Savior
2. Personally act upon and share the Good News of salvation throughout our community and in the world
3. Apply biblical principles for conflict resolution God's way
4. Understand the worth of every human being as created in the image of God and care for the needs and feelings of others
5. Evaluate and articulate the distinctions among competing worldviews and evaluate them in terms of a biblical perspective
6. Know, understand, and apply God's Word in daily life
7. Possess and practice apologetic skills to defend their faith
8. Pursue a life of faith, goodness, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, and love
9. Treat their bodies as the temple of the Holy Spirit
10. Actively involved in a church community, serving God and others
11. Evaluate strengths and weaknesses and recognize and develop Godly character and leadership skills, first in themselves, then within our community
12. Rely on Christ as THE Example

## **Social Interaction and Global Engagement:**

1. Express a knowledge and an understanding of people, events, and movements in history and engage with others in our community and world in a culturally sensitive manner
2. Summarize the influence of the Christian faith throughout the history of civilization and culture and explain how the person of Jesus Christ impacted the course of history
3. Demonstrate ability to actively listen to others and demonstrate effective interpersonal skills

## **Critical and Creative Thinking**

1. Recognize and evaluate his/her own learning styles and set goals to improve one's ability to gain, process and assimilate information
2. Compare, contrast and apply biblical principles and beliefs in a variety of fields
3. Select and evaluate appropriate evidence to support or discredit an argument or position
4. Construct a persuasive argument and apply sound reasoning, support and evidence of such
5. Demonstrate creative problem-solving skills

# School Counseling and Educational Services

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Our counseling program works in partnership with parents, teachers, and administrators to help each student reach his or her academic potential through guidance related to personal, social, spiritual, career related and academic concerns. Our goal is to ensure that our students obtain a successful secondary educational experience! We also strive to make certain our students receive ongoing support as they search for and apply to colleges. With essentially 100% of our graduates attending a college or university, we work diligently with our students and families to encourage them through the college planning process. We offer resources and advice to find the best college match for our student's God-given abilities and interests while developing their gifts, passions, and goals. It is an honor to provide guidance and support for each student and family as they make well-informed and wise decisions for the future.

## Counseling Statement

Using a Biblical foundation, our Secondary Counselor's approach is based on solution-focused brief and cognitive-behavioral counseling theories. Solution-focused brief counseling is positive and is focused on finding solutions not problems; behavior is the cause, not the student. We help students identify behavior, thoughts, and feelings that hinder their academic, personal/social, and career development. Delivery of services may include group counseling, individual counseling, classroom guidance, consulting, or referral services.

## Educational Development Plan

An Educational Development Plan (EDP) raises awareness of the relationship between career goals and the credentials required to attain those goals. An EDP is a helpful tool for parents and students to utilize when registering for classes. All students must complete an EDP early in the first semester of each school year. Parents are encouraged to ask their children about their EDP to discuss future aspirations.

## Naviance

As part of the State of Michigan "online experience" requirement, our students dedicate time on a web-based career exploration and planning system (<https://student.naviance.com/plymouthca>) that encourages them to consider and plan their respective futures. Students use assessment tools to determine which careers are a best fit for them, then explore detailed occupation profiles and examine comprehensive post-secondary education information.

## Counseling News

The "Counselor's Desk" section of the weekly Secondary Parent Newsletter contains important and timely information. Please review this area for the latest information regarding meetings, college resources, educational information, scholarship opportunities, financial information, etc. Families receive the Newsletters via email.

2020-21 Testing Dates: Please review the Summary of Testing on the following page for important information on the various testing.

## Educational Services

While PCA offers support for students who have learning challenges within the classroom by using purposeful methods of helping the student, it sometimes becomes necessary to make accommodations to the existing program to meet the educational needs of our students. These accommodations may include accommodations within the classroom or in the Learning Lab. If you have concerns in this area, please contact our School Counselor or Educational Specialist.

## SUMMARY OF TESTING – 2020-21

NAME OF TEST	PURPOSE OF TEST	WHEN GIVEN	WHO PARTICIPATES	LOCATION OF TESTING	APPROX. COST
<b>M.A.P.</b>	Assess student progress	Fall, Winter, Spring	K - 6th grade	PCA	Included in tuition
<b>M.A.P.</b>	Assess student progress	Fall, Spring	7th-9th grade	PCA	Included in tuition
<b>Pre-ACT</b>	Practice for the ACT	October 14, 2020	10th grade	PCA	Included in tuition
<b>PSAT</b>	1. Practice for the SAT 2. Screening for the National Merit Scholarship 3. Receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to student search	Wednesday, October 14, 2020 7:25am	11th grade	PCA	Included in tuition
<b>SAT</b>	Qualification for College acceptance	Various National Dates	11th-12th grade	Register on-line at <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> (PCA Code: 230468)	\$47.50 w/o writing \$64.50 w/writing
<b>ACT</b>	Qualification for College acceptance	Various National Dates (PCA is a National Testing Center for October 24, 2020, April 10, 2021 and June 12, 2021)	11th-12th grade	Register on-line at <a href="http://www.actstudent.org">www.actstudent.org</a> (PCA Code: 230468)	\$67 w/writing portion \$50.50 w/o writing portion (add'l fees for options)
<b>AP Testing</b>	College level exam- can earn college credit depending on test score	May	10 <sup>th</sup> , 11th & 12th graders in AP classes	PCA	\$94
		AP Government - May 3, 2021 - 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP Calculus AB - May 4, 2021 - 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP German - May 4, 2021 – 12pm		PCA	\$94
		AP English Lit. - May 5, 2021 - 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP US History – May 6, 2021 – 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP Chemistry - May 7, 2021 - 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP Spanish - May 11, 2021 - 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP Psychology - May 11, 2021- 12pm		PCA	\$94
		AP English Lang. - May 12, 2021 – 7:25am		PCA	\$94
		AP Biology – May 14, 2021 – 7:25am		PCA	\$94
<b>CLEP Tests</b>	Receive college credit for what you already know by earning qualifying scores on any of 33 examinations.	At the beginning of their college year		At college attending <a href="https://clep.collegeboard.org">https://clep.collegeboard.org</a>	\$89 each

# Grading Scale

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PERCENTAGE	LETTER	NUMERICAL
93 - 100	A	4.0
90 - 92	A-	3.7
87 - 89	B+	3.3
83 - 86	B	3.0
80 - 82	B-	2.7
77 - 79	C+	2.3
73 - 76	C	2.0
70 - 72	C-	1.7
67 - 69	D+	1.3
63 - 66	D	1.0
60 - 62	D-	0.7
0 - 59	F	0.0

## Dual Enrollment

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Plymouth Christian Academy Sophomore-Junior-Senior students may elect to take college level work through **Concordia University-Ann Arbor (CUAA)**, **Schoolcraft College**, **Spring Arbor University**, **University of Michigan**, and/or other local colleges. Dual enrollment allows students to earn both high school credit as well as university credit for select courses. These colleges offer a large variety of classes that are eligible for Dual Enrollment. For a current listing of courses being offered, please see the Secondary School Counselor.

Students who wish to be dual enrolled must meet the following requirements:

1. Student must be in good academic standing.
2. Student must obtain the signed approval of the counselor before taking a class outside of PCA. Classes that are taken without the consent of the counselor may not be accepted.
3. Depending upon the course taken, the student may be responsible for any required fees and tuition to the college. The State of Michigan will not pay for a core class (Math, English, Social Science, and Science) that is for high school credit. Additionally, the State of Michigan will not pay for any theology classes.
4. The student must be pre-approved and complete the appropriate college application.
5. Students and parents can decide to use the credit for high school graduation requirements or for college credit.

The student is responsible to check with the college of their choice on whether the course work completed in the dual enrollment class is acceptable for college credit. PCA will allow credit for high school which could (with permission from the college) be used for undergraduate credit. Minimum requirements exist for admittance to this program. The grades received in these courses are the grades that will be recorded on the high school transcript. Special scheduling to allow enrollment in college classes cannot be guaranteed.

# Online Learning

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Plymouth Christian Academy high school students may elect to take courses on-line within the following guidelines:

1. If PCA offers the class, students must take the class at PCA, unless there is an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
2. Student must be in good academic standing at PCA.
3. Student must obtain the signed approval of the PCA counselor and administrator before signing up for any on-line class.
4. The online class must be set up to issue a final grade, which must be submitted to PCA upon conclusion of the class.
5. Parents will cover the cost of the course.

# Off Campus Academic Source

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Plymouth Christian Academy high school students can elect to take a class at off campus academic locations (e.g. public school), within the following guidelines:

1. If PCA offers the class, students must take the class at PCA, unless there is an unavoidable scheduling conflict.
2. Student must obtain the signed approval of the PCA counselor and administrator before signing up for any class held at other academic locations.
3. An official transcript must be submitted to the PCA counselor at the completion of the course in order to have the grade transferred to the student's PCA transcript.
4. Parents will cover the cost of the course.

# Advanced Placement Program

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The Advanced Placement (AP) program is a cooperative endeavor between secondary schools and colleges/universities. It allows high school students to take college level academic courses and gives them the opportunity to demonstrate academic mastery through the AP exams. Depending on university requirements, students may have the opportunity to earn college credit with their AP exam scores. Students must check with the universities of their choice to ascertain advanced placement policies.

AP courses make substantial academic demands on the student. They are required to do a considerable amount of outside reading and other assignments. This helps students learn study skills and habits that are valuable throughout their college years. Further, they must demonstrate the analytical skills and writing ability expected of first-year students in a strong college program. Our goal for the PCA AP Program is to provide classes that challenge those students who demonstrate an ability and desire to meet the demands of a college level class.

Grades in the AP courses will be recorded on the high school transcript based on a 4 point scale. However, a student's calculated GPA on the transcript will include the grade based on a 5 point scales if the student's grade is an 80% or better on a normal 4 point scale.

The students will be expected to take the national AP Exam in the spring. Students are responsible for covering the cost of the exam when exams are ordered.

## Placement Criteria for EACH Advanced Placement Course

1. Students must have a year-end average of 92 in the subject area or a teacher recommendation.
2. A writing sample may be required from the AP teacher for review.
3. Counselor approval must be obtained for each AP course.

## AP Courses Available:

AP Biology

AP Calculus

AP Chemistry

AP English Language

AP English Literature

AP US Government

AP US History

AP Psychology

AP Spanish

# Graduation Requirements

## Total Credits Necessary to Graduate = 26

Michigan Merit Credits	(+)	PCA Core Curriculum Credits	(+)	General Elective Credits	=	<b>26 credits</b>
<u>18</u>	+	<u>6</u>	+	<u>2</u>		

1 semester (1/2 year) = .5 credit

2 semesters (1 whole year) = 1 credit

### Bible

**4 credits**

- Foundations of the Faith - 9<sup>th</sup> grade (2 semesters)
- Foundations of the Church (Book of Acts & Apologetics) - 10<sup>th</sup> grade (2 semesters)
- Foundations of Christian Ethics - 11<sup>th</sup> grade (2 semesters)
- Foundations of Christian Living - 12<sup>th</sup> grade (2 semesters)

### English

**5 credits**

- English Foundations - 9<sup>th</sup> grade (2 semesters)
- American Literature & Composition (2 semesters)
- Speech (1 semester)
- Debate (1 semester)
- Elective options
- \*PCA requirement: (1) English during Senior year

### Math

**4 credits**

- Algebra I (2 semesters)
- Geometry (2 semesters)
- Algebra II (2 semesters)
- Elective options
- \*State requirement: (1) Math during Senior year

### Science

**3 credits**

- Biology (2 semesters)
- Elective Options

### Social Studies

**3 credits**

- World History (2 semesters)
- U.S. History or AP U.S. History (2 semesters)
- U.S. Government (1 semester) or AP U.S. Government (2 semesters)
- Economics (1 semester)

### Physical Education

**.5 credit**

### Health

**.5 credit**

### Fine & Performing Arts

**1 credit**

Course Options

### World Language

**2 credits**

2 credits of the same language

### Business and Technology

**1 credits**

- Business Technology 1 (1 semester)
- Business Technology 2 (1 semester)

### Elective Credits

**2 credits**

### CPR Certification (taken during high school years)

**N/A**

# Plymouth Christian Academy Graduation

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Graduation from Plymouth Christian Academy requires a student to complete the required credits for graduation with at least the senior year being spent at PCA. All students must take a minimum of 3 credits each semester (6 credits for the year) for freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Seniors are required to take at least five *academic* classes each semester to be considered a full-time student at PCA. Eligibility for early release will be determined by the student's academic record, attendance record, and conduct record.

All required courses failed in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grade must be made up prior to graduation. Students must complete a minimum of 26 credits to graduate.

A current list of graduation requirements and course offerings is available in this guide and online at [www.plymouthchristian.org](http://www.plymouthchristian.org). It is important for students to check with the School Counselor each year to be certain they are meeting graduation requirements. Since college admission and scholarship acceptance requirements vary, please note that meeting the minimum graduation requirements may not meet the requirements of some post-secondary programs. Consult with your intended school of choice for additional information. Parent and student input are considered in course placement; however, the school reserves the right to place students based on course requirements and maximum class sizes. Grades, test scores and teacher recommendations play an important role in course placement.

# Planning For Your Future

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## FRESHMEN Year Checklist

- Take the MAP test
- Join a sport, club or student government. It's never too early to begin a resume or potential references/recommendations for college.
- Start a portfolio to keep track of your activities, volunteer work, jobs and the names of a contact person for each. Write down your impressions, especially what you do and don't like about each activity. Gradually, you may begin to identify your interests or a potential college major.
- Check out web sites of your 'dream' colleges. What are their admissions requirements? Are you taking the right courses?
- Talk to your parents about how much money may be available for your college education. Not a lot? No problem IF you plan ahead.
- Meet with your counselor for a Freshman Visit to begin planning your High School career and discussing college goals.
- Make a list of academic and personal goals. Review them at least once a year.
- Create a file. Get a milk crate and some folders. Keep all your important papers, grades, magazine articles, scholarship opportunities and other pertinent work.
- Find fun and interesting ways to volunteer.

## SOPHOMORE Year Checklist

- Take the PRE-ACT test.
- Focus on your GPA.
- Take AP exams for any AP classes completed.
- Review and revise your goals.
- Start a list of colleges to consider. Be sure to go to any college fairs in your area.
- Start a scholarship search.
- Update your records of activities, volunteer work, employment, programs, classes, and travels. File information you receive on colleges, scholarships and tests. Your interests may change as you get older and gaining more experience may help narrow your career focus. These activities are also great to list on resumes and college applications.
- Think careers! Talk to people about their jobs.

## JUNIOR Checklist

- Concentrate on your GPA.
- Take the PSAT in the Fall, ACT or SAT in the Spring.
- Get information packets from the colleges you're considering.
- Intensify your scholarship search. Keep track of deadlines and requirements.
- Attend career days, college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Meet with your counselor. Be sure your classes are on the right track for the colleges you're considering and that you're meeting graduation requirements.
- Talk to your coach if you want to play for a college team or apply for an athletic scholarship.
- Take AP exams for any AP classes you've completed.
- Create a master calendar of deadlines. Include college applications, test registrations and test dates, scholarships applications, housing, and financial deadlines.
- Zero in on which teachers, coaches, or pastors you want to ask for recommendations.
- Work on your resume.

## SENIOR Year Checklist

- **Fall:** Last chance to take the ACT or SAT. Register early.
- Request college applications, financial aid and housing applications.
- Make sure your high school transcripts and records are correct and up-to-date.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid workshops.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers, employers and coaches.
- Finish essays for college applications and scholarships.
- Update your resume.
- **October:** Complete FAFSA (Federal Student Aid Form)
- **Winter:** Fill out financial aid forms. Apply for scholarships.
- **Spring:** Decide on a college and notify the admissions office by May 1st of your acceptance.
- Create a budget to determine your needs.
- Determine if you need a student loan. File your application.
- Complete your Senior meeting with your counselor.
- Take AP exams.
- Send final transcript to your college.

At Plymouth Christian Academy, we strive to maintain excellence in athletics, regarding sports as a key part of our comprehensive educational atmosphere. We have an experienced coaching staff that serves as Christian role models and examples of excellence.

**ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, 734.459.3505 - Ext. 3198**

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.plymouthchristianeagles.com](http://www.plymouthchristianeagles.com) TO VIEW GAME SCHEDULES**

## VARSIITY SPORTS

<u>Boys:</u>			<u>Girls:</u>		
<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>	<u>Fall</u>	<u>Winter</u>	<u>Spring</u>
Cross Country	Basketball	Baseball	Cross Country	Basketball	Soccer
Co-Op Football	Bowling	Golf (Co-ed)	Volleyball	Bowling	Softball
Soccer	Co-Op Wrestling	Track	Tennis (Co-ed)	Comp. Cheer	Golf (Co-ed)
Tennis (Co-ed)				Sideline Cheer	Track

## JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS

Girls: Volleyball (fall), Basketball, Cheerleading (winter)

Boys: Basketball (winter)

## MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

Girls: Volleyball (fall), Basketball, Cheer (winter), Softball, Soccer (spring)

Boys: Soccer (fall), Basketball (winter), Baseball (spring)

Combined: Cross Country (fall), Track (spring)

## FACILITIES

- . 2 Gymnasiums
- . 2 Soccer Fields
- . Indoor Batting Cage
- . Softball Field
- . Baseball Field
- . Outdoor Batting Cage
- . Weight Room
- . Practice Diamond
- . Locker Rooms

## CAMPS / CLINICS

Past offerings of camps & clinics on our campus have included basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, weightlifting, running and cheerleading.

## MIAC

We are a member of one of the most competitive small school conferences in the state.

The **M**ichigan **I**ndependent **A**thletic **C**onference (MIAC) which consists of the following schools:

- |                               |                                   |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Charyl Stockwell Prep Academy | Oakland Christian                 |
| Huron Valley Lutheran         | Parkway Christian                 |
| Inter-City Baptist            | <b>Plymouth Christian Academy</b> |
| Livonia Clarenceville         | Roeper School                     |
| Lutheran – Northwest          | Southfield Christian              |
| Lutheran – Westland           | Whitmore Lake                     |
| Novi Christian                |                                   |

# Plymouth Christian Academy

## Secondary Course Descriptions

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### **BIBLE DEPARTMENT**

The foundation of instruction in the Bible begins with a total commitment to the inerrancy and infallibility of God's word. From the study of Creation in Genesis to the return of Jesus Christ and the Eternal State in Revelation, our goal is that our Kindergarten through Twelfth grade students will see God's plan of redemption for sinful man. Our objective is that every student will put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and will be thoroughly grounded in their knowledge of Scripture, memorizing key Bible verses and passages, learning biblical doctrines and principles to apply to their lives. The students will be taught to discern truth from error in opposing worldviews. They will be instructed in Bible study skills, how to defend and share their faith in Jesus Christ, and will be given opportunities to live out their faith through service in the church and the community. Developing a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and being obedient to the truth of His teachings is emphasized daily.

#### **GRADE SEVEN: A WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT (Learning the Character of God)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

In this course, the students are presented with an Old Testament survey using Bible timelines with pictures and outlines. This will include a survey from introductory information featuring a study of geography through the exile, ending with Daniel. They will deepen their understanding of the characters and events of the Old Testament, while learning basic Biblical geography and characters. The students will be able to tell several key facts about each Old Testament character/event, and be able to identify important Biblical truths, including theology. The students will also learn specific Scripture verses that reflect the essence of the Old Testament books and they are encouraged to make personal applications in their own lives. Christian service is a very practical component bringing the students to maturity.

#### **GRADE EIGHT: SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (Learning the Character of God)**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

This course will survey the entire New Testament, actually starting with Haggai in the Old Testament and concluding with Revelation in the New Testament, with an emphasis on how Jesus Christ is presented in each book. Key characters and geography will be emphasized for a well-rounded understanding. The students will also learn a key verse for each book that best captures its essential truth. It will also be important for the students to understand an outline for each book and a picture will be used for each to speed the learning process and aid in retention. When completed, this course will complement the Seventh Grade Old Testament course in giving the students a solid Biblical foundation. Christian service each quarter will bring practical opportunities to apply the truth learned in serving others for Christ, in the community.

#### **BIBLICAL FOUNDATIONS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Fulfills one-year Bible credit requirement**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is designed for new students to ensure a strong Biblical foundation. Topics include but are not limited to the following subjects: Introduction to the Bible, How to Know the Bible, God-His Character and Attributes, The Person of Jesus Christ, The Work of Christ, Salvation, The Person and Ministry of the Holy Spirit, Prayer and the Believer, The Church-Fellowship and Worship, Spiritual Gifts, Evangelism, and the Believer, Obedience, and God's Will and Guidance.

### **GRADE NINE: FOUNDATIONS OF THE FAITH**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 9<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This class highlights Genesis 1-11 as well as 1 John. Genesis 1-11 shows the Creation, Fall, and the need for salvation, while 1 John shows the Redemption God provided through Jesus Christ and the assurance of that redemption in the believer's life. This course will also include a study of biblical theology – who God is -- as well as the fundamentals of the Christian faith. The students will culminate their study with the Christian classic, *Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan.

### **GRADE TEN: BOOK OF ACTS & APOLOGETICS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 10<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year, 1 credit**

During the first semester, students will study of the **book of Acts** with the goal of providing the students with an understanding of how the early church began. The students will discover the power of the Holy Spirit through the leadership of Peter, Paul, and others in the early church. This will be compared to the power of the Holy Spirit in the lives of Christians today. The students are constantly challenged throughout this study to make application to the Church and Christian living today. They will also study the missionary journeys of Paul realizing the key verse, Acts 1:8, where Jesus says, the Gospel will go to Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and the rest of the world.

During the second semester, students will study **Apologetics**, making application for believers today. Apologetics is a study of how to defend the Christian faith. This will give the students practical tools to put forth a compelling case for Christianity based not only on God's word, but also utilizing evidence from a variety of sources. Along with defending the Christian faith, the students will be taught how to share the Gospel message with others. Scripture teaches us that we should "...always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have." (1 Peter 3:15). During 4<sup>th</sup> quarter students will study the Lord's teaching regarding His coming and the end of the age. Integrating the teaching of the Gospels and the Old Testament teachings of Daniel and other prophets will help the students gain a thorough understanding of the signs of His coming, the end of the age and how to live in anticipation and readiness for His imminent return

### **GRADE ELEVEN: CHRISTIAN ETHICS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 11th grade**

**First Semester, .5 credit**

This course will examine the distinctive aspects of Christian ethics in Scripture, and challenge students to evaluate contemporary moral issues ethically from a defensible Christian perspective (of which there may be a plurality). It is also an introduction to the basics of secular ethical theory in juxtaposition to the biblical lens. Students will apply Christian ethics and moral philosophy to popular issues such as abortion, sexuality, war and peace, euthanasia, and other selected topics. When exposed to God's identity as our transcendent moral standard as well as his passion for justice and mercy in Scripture, students will gain a sense of moral obligation to steward well what God has entrusted to them including their body, relationships, possessions, and planet.

### **GRADE ELEVEN: CHRISTIAN FAITH FORMATION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 11th grade**

**Second Semester, .5 credit**

This course is first and foremost rooted in Scripture, which aids in seeing life through God's perspective. It will equip students with practical tools for growing in their faith. We will look to the life of Christ and other faith examples in Scripture (Moses, Abraham, James, etc.) to develop spiritual discernment and awareness. This study will help to mature the spiritual walk of student's simultaneously with their emotional development. This will be assessed by thorough self-assessments and reflection journals. Students will hone the spiritual disciplines and will be coached in developing proactive approaches to coping mechanisms, biblical self-care, discipleship, delighting in prayer, solitude, living with a Sabbath mindset, etc. We will rest in the knowledge that God is sovereign and ultimately has a plan for each of us which he reveals in his perfect timing. This course stands alone with no prerequisite, but will build upon elements from 9th grade (foundations of the faith) and of 10th grade (Acts of the Apostles) so that students will ultimately identify with their place in the biblical narrative, walk by faith in the Holy Spirit, and develop a desire for lifelong learning as God's student through his Word and Spirit.

### **GRADE TWELVE: GOSPELS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**One of Two Classes Required for 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**First semester, .5 credit**

This class will explore the Synoptic Gospels and John in detail, emphasizing historical context. Students will develop an understanding of genre, major themes, the 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish context of the evangelists, and the life and teachings of Jesus as recorded in the Gospels. Students will be equipped to read and study the Gospels on their own and understand their importance as a primary text for the Christian faith and discipleship.

### **GRADE TWELVE: WISDOM LITERATURE**

**Prerequisite: none**

**One of Two Classes Required for 12<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Third Quarter, .25 credit (when taken with 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Capstone Project)**

Students will engage in a study of Proverbs, Job, and Ecclesiastes as wisdom literature. They will examine the wisdom genre and understand Proverbs as basic wisdom literature juxtaposed to the more advanced wisdom portrayed in Job and Ecclesiastes. Students will come to an understanding of the major themes in each book, study the problem of suffering, and deal with the questions left to the reader by each wisdom book. The goal is to develop a basic understanding of the wise person as portrayed by the Old Testament and cultivate wise living upon such a basis.

### **GRADE TWELVE: SENIOR CAPSTONE PROJECT**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required 12<sup>th</sup>, Fourth Quarter, .25 credit (when taken with Third Quarter option above)**

Students will participate in a research project as a collaborative effort with their 12<sup>th</sup> grade English class. This will be a 10-page paper, including a research proposal, annotated bibliography, rough draft, and final draft. They will participate in discussion groups, peer reviewing, and then give a presentation to the class on their topic. The students will research a theological aspect to their topic, including how Christians should respond to their chosen issue. Each student will receive an English grade and a 4<sup>th</sup> quarter grade for Bible based on the completion of the requirement on the project rubric they are given.

## **CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**

### **SECONDARY ExPLORE WEEK**

PCA's ExPlore week takes place during the spring of each school year and is designed to provide 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade students with key learning opportunities, whether it be educational, spiritual, vocational/career, or informational. The "block" or trip nature of the one week also allows for focused, in-depth study and deeper relationships within small groups of students and teachers.

The **Sophomores** who choose to travel to Washington, DC will learn about culture first hand, visiting museums, viewing amazing architecture and absorbing current culture.

The **Seniors** who choose to travel to Costa Rica not only relax in the beauty of God's creation on their senior trip, but also become the hands and feet of Jesus as they share the Gospel through word and deed.

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

As Christians, communication skills, both in written and oral form, are very important. This makes our English classes essential parts of an outstanding Christian education because of their practical and aesthetic qualities. Valuable reading-comprehension skills can transfer to effective Bible study with deeper understanding of God’s Word. The development of oral and writing skills also help our students to better articulate their faith to those who need to hear the “Good News”. Through the study of literature, our students can see the historical issues of life with its personal struggles and God’s dealings with His creation. Through the study of aesthetics, our students will enhance their appreciation of the creative qualities of our Heavenly Father and His creative gifts given to people throughout history.

## **GRADE SEVEN ENGLISH**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

This course introduces students to the power they hold with reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing skills. Students will explore each area of focus through a variety of units that enable them to not only discover these topics, but also apply and harness these skills as well. Using a combination of inquiry-based instruction, novel and genre studies, students will become readers and writers who critically and biblically examine the world around them. On a weekly basis, students will study vocabulary words, paying careful attention to their Greek and Latin roots, to build their academic language in both written and spoken texts. Seventh graders will also learn how to construct argumentative, memoir, and informative essays.

## **GRADE EIGHT ENGLISH**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

Throughout the course of the year, students will work to develop further the skills they learned in seventh grade. Students will dig deeper into the various facets of English Language Arts through inquiry-based instruction, novel and genre studies. On a weekly basis, students will continue to study vocabulary words, paying careful attention to their Greek and Latin roots, in order to build their academic language in both written and spoken texts. In addition to genre, literature, and vocabulary studies, students will also learn how to write and polish poems as well as informative and thesis essays.

## **GRADE EIGHT LIFE TOPICS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required, one semester (days of week split with PE, Computer)**

This course is designed to prepare students from a Biblical core of Truth to deal with life in its’ various areas. Some of these areas include decision making, manners, stress management, and peer pressure. This course will teach students how to be highly responsible and effective in their academic pursuits through organization. This includes such areas as managing time well, taking good notes, and how to prepare for and excel in test taking.

## **ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 9<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year, 1 credit**

Grammar, written communication skills, and literary analysis are integrated into this course to enhance the abilities of our students. The first semester of English 9 concentrates on Essay Composition, in studying the structure of several styles of academic essay, and on grammatical form and technique. First semester culminates in the writing of a research paper. The second semester entails five literature units: short story, poetry, Shakespearean drama, mythology/Greek drama and novel. Each lay a foundation for the further study of literature in the years to come. These literary forms are analyzed from a Christian worldview.

## **AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required (10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course provides a study of American literature and its corresponding history. The curriculum is designed for the college bound student with a focus on critical reading and writing skills. Students will study prominent American authors such as Emerson, Hemmingway, Irving, Thoreau, Fitzgerald, Frost, Dickinson, Whitman, and Poe, and learn how literary time period and history affects the ideas and styles of their works. Students will learn how to critically respond to various genres of literature including poetry, plays, novels, historical narratives, and short fiction. Additionally, the student's understanding of proper research, drafting, and composition skills will be furthered with a literary based research paper.

## **SPEECH**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course is designed to provide high school students the opportunity to build speaking skills for high school and college as well as in the workplace. To ensure progress and development of this skill, students will be presented with and tested on information from their text, as well as participate in a variety of speeches. The various objectives of this class include understanding the communication process, becoming aware of and understanding the roles of verbal and nonverbal communication, evaluating the strengths and weaknesses of others' speeches, and building self-esteem through successful communication experiences.

## **DEBATE**

**Prerequisite: Speech**

**Required (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course is designed to provide high school students the opportunity to build upon research and argumentation skills as students participate in a variety of debates, including Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Public Forum Debate, and Original Oratory. Students will be taught how to write an argumentative case, how to deliver a rebuttal, methods in cross-examination, and how to improve analytical thinking.

## **BASIC ENGLISH**

**Recommended for non-native speakers of English**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This class is recommended for international or exchange students for whom English is not their native language and who are not yet fluent in writing or speaking English. This class will give the students more confidence and language skills for communicating in English in their other classes and social interactions. Students will study English grammar, writing skills, pronunciation, and conversation needed in order to succeed at PCA and beyond. All levels will study together one hour a day, while once a week individual instruction will address individual needs.

## **ENGLISH ELECTIVES**

### **SURVEY OF BRITISH LITERATURE AND BRITISH NOVELS AND COMPOSITION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

The first semester of this course provides a study of British literature beginning with the Anglo-Saxon period through the Romantic period. Students learn collegiate response skills to various texts that have shaped the construction and foundation of Western literature and ideas. This course includes vocabulary, hands-on assignments, and a range of writing assignments. Second semester focuses on novels and composition, where students will hone their writing skills through the composition of narrative, informative, and explanatory writing.

## **SENIOR LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

**Prerequisite:** American Literature

**Elective for 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students in this course will complete the Senior Capstone project, in cooperation with our Bible Department.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION**

**Prerequisite:** American Literature, see AP policy on pg. 9

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. This is a college level course, and students have the potential of earning college credit through the A.P. exam in May.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION**

**Prerequisite:** American Literature, see AP policy on pg. 9

**Elective for 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is designed for students who show exceptional ability in English. In this course, students will analyze and respond to a wide variety of English literature. Emphasis will be placed on finding multiple meanings of a work, responding in oral and written forms, considering secular and Christian worldviews as a part of their analysis, paying attention to literary movements and historical influences, and using proper vocabulary and terminology in response to a text. Students will spend a lot of time writing both inside and outside of the classroom and are expected to focus on strict adherence to a thesis statement, proper and effectual use of textual evidence, and developing a more complex writing style. This is a college level course, and students have the potential of earning college credit through the A.P. exam in May.

## **YEARBOOK/JOURNALISM**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>** (does not count toward English credits)

**Full year, 1 credit**

Yearbook - Students will gain proficiency in layout, design, copywriting, advertising and photography. Work outside of class is expected in order to photograph events and conduct interviews. Students practice organizational and time management skills in meeting deadlines and are responsible for every aspect of yearbook production. Multi-year enrollment in this course is encouraged, and returning students have the opportunity for leadership roles.

Journalism - Assignments happen simultaneously with yearbook work. Students will study the basic principles of journalism and report on school events. They will learn investigative skills, responsible journalism practices, and Associated Press style writing. Student work is frequently featured on our school's social media outlets.

# FINE & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Fine arts are essential in a well-rounded education. Our Fine Arts Education Program provides our students with the opportunity to explore Art, Music, and Drama. Through the act of creating, students are challenged to exercise their minds, solve problems, and to utilize their imaginations while formulating new ideas. It provides the individual with a sense of confidence through their accomplishments in their field. Participation in a fine arts program contributes to the development of the positive character qualities of teamwork, flexibility, appreciation and respect for others' ideas, and striving to glorify God through their efforts and talents.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART**

**Prerequisite: none**

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Semester, Days of week split with PE and Keyboarding**

**8<sup>th</sup> Grade: Full Year Elective**

**Full year**

Students will explore the elements of art and the principles of design using various media and techniques including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics. The history of art, various artists and styles will be introduced.

## **INTRODUCTION TO ART – Hello Art!**

**Prerequisite – None**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester, .5 credit (offered First and Second Semesters)**

Students will learn the elements and principles of design along with basic methods of creating art. They will learn to solve an artistic problem and carry their idea through to a finished product. In addition, they will gain an appreciation for various artistic styles, as well as a working knowledge of a variety of two and three-dimensional media, including pencil, charcoal, pastels and paints.

## **ADVANCED DRAWING – Sketches and More**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Students will learn to solve complex artistic problems. They will develop their own style and learn to choose the proper subject matter and medium to express their ideas. Throughout the class they will gain an understanding of how to critique their own work along with another students' work. The essence of this course is for the student to develop their own artistic voice while increasing their knowledge of technique. A basic understanding of art history will also be acquired. Fundamental concepts of drawing with an emphasis on observational, descriptive and analytical drawing. Practice of drawing skills using common drawing media.

## **PORTFOLIO DEVELOPMENT - Getting into College**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art, Advanced Drawing – Sketches and More**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year – 1 credit**

Students will develop a complete portfolio for entrance into college. They will continue to develop skill level, knowledge of art history, and technique in various media, but the essence of the course is to prepare students who intend to pursue art in college. Students will participate in a portfolio review - i.e. National Portfolio Day or equivalent.

## **PHOTOGRAPHY – More than Snapshots**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5 credit (offered First and Second Semesters)**

Introduction to photography as a fine art medium, including the functions and controls of a digital camera; photography as a means of visual art expression, in monochrome and color; the basic aspects of image adjustment software; and, historical and contemporary approaches to both technical and artistic/conceptual practice.

### **CERAMICS – More than Mugs and Pots**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Ceramic processes including hand building, with terra cotta clay, low-fire glaze formulation, and kiln firing as a means of cultural and artistic expression. This course is for beginning students or students taking ceramics as an elective. Forming techniques including coil, slab and slip casting as well as approaches to glazing and firing are explored.

### **GRAPHIC DESIGN – Making a Mark**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Overview of form and communication analysis and manipulation. Investigation of theory, concept and visual tools central to developing visual communication systems. Students will design posters, magazine covers and explore package design, typography and the psychology of color.

### **PAINTING – A Color Explosion**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5 credit (offered First and Second Semesters)**

Representational painting of landscape, figure, and still life imagery. Painting concepts, materials, and techniques. Students will work in oil, acrylic and watercolors.

### **CARTOONING / CHARACTER DESIGN – Personality and Panels**

**Prerequisite – Introduction to Art**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester – .5credit (offered First and Second Semesters)**

Introduction to traditional and emerging visual narrative methods and comics production. Formal and conceptual strategies unique to the comics medium and critical consideration of artistic, instructional, and narrative capacities of comics. Character development, pen-and-ink, hand-illustration, and digital techniques for constructing storyboard layouts, graphic novels, and sequential art.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – CONCERT BAND**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year**

Students will develop their aural and musical skills through the study of different band music styles and become familiar with a variety of musical time periods. Each student will be encouraged to develop his or her skills through better technique in playing, sight-reading to speed up the process of learning new music, learning to blend with other instruments and to develop an appropriate performing stage presence. The discipline gained from personal practice and perfecting their talents has a great deal of carry-over to their adult lives. Many churches provide opportunities for individuals to enhance the worship of God through the vehicle of instrumental music all through their adult lives.

### **INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – SYMPHONY BAND**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

Students will continue to develop their aural and musical skills at the high school level, with an emphasis on achieving the highest possible technical ability for each individual student.

## **MUSIC THEORY**

**Co-requisite: Band/Choir or Director Approval**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

Music provides a way for students to express themselves artistically and glorify God, but music also enhances intelligence and creativity. Music Theory will develop students' visual and aural understanding of the structure of music. Students will study the language and symbols of music. Not only will students learn to read various musical elements, music as scales, chords, pitch notations, time signatures, rhythm, intervals, and triads, they will also learn to construct these elements themselves. The course also teaches students to understand basic forms in music compositions, including the skill of notation. As students learn these various aspects of music theory, they will undergo ear training to teach them to recognize these elements aurally as well. Completion of the course will provide a basic music theory background, which may enhance a student's overall performance skills.

## **JAZZ BAND**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

The Jazz Band places an emphasis on performing a variety of styles of jazz music. These styles are blues, shuffle, ballad, funk, samba, and rock. Students will learn to improvise solos through the study of chord changes, theory, and audiation. Jazz Band students will also study the history of jazz and jazz musicians, learning about the icons who paved the way for jazz. Students will also learn about the process of transcription, in order to fully develop their ear training, and diversify their jazz vocabulary. Finally, the members of the jazz ensemble will perform at all concerts, and festivals.

## **PRAISE TEAM**

**Prerequisite: Must have previous experience with praise team instrument**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is designed for students who have a background on one or more of the standard praise team instruments. (Piano, Bass, Drums, Guitar, Vocals). The purpose of this course is to train and assist young musicians on how to effectively lead worship in a professional, and spiritually rich way. Emphasis will be placed on personal improvement on their selected instrument, as well as learning teamwork, and the specifics of leading worship (how to start, stop, transition). Through this course, PCA intends to elevate the Praise Team quality, which will also empower these students to serve at their local churches now, and into adult life.

## **VOCAL MUSIC – MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year**

The MS Choir at PCA is designed to encourage each student to use his/her voice to honor and glorify God. Each choir student will begin to explore basic singing skills and develop a solid foundation for vocal production through instruction in proper breathing, posture, diction, vowel formation, and sight-reading. They will also learn to develop and expand music reading, writing and performance skills through introduction to theory, composition, musical games, and various performance media (i.e. concerts, chapels, festivals). The importance of working together as a team is emphasized as students learn to blend as an ensemble and perform with proper stage presence. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate works of art and to describe them in their historical and cultural contexts. Lastly, students will learn to recognize and describe connections among the arts. By this means each student is given an opportunity to use his/her voice in order to "...sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord." (Ephesians 5: 19)

## **VOCAL MUSIC – HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

The PCA High School Choir is an elective course open to all students desiring to use their voice to honor and glorify God. The choir provides students with an opportunity to sing, understand, and appreciate music from a wide variety of styles, cultures, and historical periods. Each choir student will explore and master basic singing skills and develop a solid foundation for vocal production through further developing vocal technique (i.e. proper breathing, posture, diction, vowel formation and tone quality). Emphasis is placed on increasing proficiency of each singer by developing skills in sight-reading and enhancing the level of musicianship through ensemble blend in rehearsal and performance. The High School choir will assist students in further expanding their music reading and writing skills through instruction in music theory, composition and music games which reinforce the concepts that are taught. Students will learn to evaluate and analyze music and to describe it in social, cultural and historical contexts. Choir members will describe and recognize the relationship between the arts and other disciplines. The choir performs at several concerts, chapels, community events or festivals. Each student will have the opportunity to exemplify Psalm 150:6 “Let everything that has breath praise the Lord!”

## **APPLIED VOICE**

**Prerequisite: 1 year of choir, audition, teacher approval**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is designed for intermediate and advanced level students who wish to further their musical study with in-depth voice training. Students will work on improving their singing voices through the study of vocal pedagogy including breath control, tone production, and diction. Voice lessons, score study, demonstration, and a wide repertoire of music are elements in this course. The students may perform in concerts throughout the year. This course may culminate in a public recital performance.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL - INTRO TO THEATRE**

**Elective for 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year**

In this class students will learn the basics of improv, pantomime, voice, characterization, acting, and more. Students will watch, read, and experience theatre in order to develop a critical eye for quality. At the end of the year, the students will perform in their own production. There will be two curriculums for this class that will switch every other year so that students may repeat the course if they desire.

## **THEATRE I**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 Credit**

In this class students will review the basics of improv, pantomime, voice, characterization, acting, and more. They will also learn the basics of technical theatre such as costuming, lighting, sound, and set design. In addition, students will focus on scene work, auditions, and theatrical analysis of comedic and dramatic works. At the end of the year, students will perform in their own production.

## **THEATRE II**

**Prerequisite: Theatre I**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

In this class students will spend little time reviewing the basics and instead perform in two shows each year. The first semester would be spent in preparation for a musical play performance including singing and choreography. In addition to performing, students will assume creative roles such as director, producer, or designer. The second semester would be spent in preparation for a straight play performance, and the students would once again assume creative roles such as director, producer, or designer. The plays chosen will vary from year to year, which means students may take this course more than once.

## **DRAMATIC LITERATURE**

**Prerequisite: None**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 Credit**

Students will grow in their knowledge of dramatic literature as we study the great playwrights across the lifespan of theatre, starting with ancient Greece and ending with plays written today. Students will improve their ability to articulate their personal experiences in connection to the literature discussed. This course will provide students with reading and creative writing strategies. They will use analytical tools, empathetic observations, and research to deeply understand how the historical context or events in the playwright's life affected his or her writing and how these affect performances. At the end of the year, students will write their own plays.

## **FILM STUDIES**

**Prerequisites: None**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 Credit**

In this course, students will watch various film genres to critique and analyze camera work, lighting and color, composition, editing, sound design, film acting, and cinematography. Throughout the year students will apply what they learn by creating short films of their own and assisting the school in creating promotional videos for athletics, fine arts, and more. This is a hands-on course that provides the basics of filmmaking.

## **CHOREOGRAPHY (offered every other year)**

**Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

Students will gain experiential knowledge in the basics of choreography. Students will learn warm-ups, choreography, and genre as they apply to dance history. Students will study famous choreographers and styles, synthesize performances, and exhibit mastery of style in weekly rehearsals and monthly in-class performances.

# MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

As Scripture teaches in Isaiah 28:10 ESV, “For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little.” The Mathematics Department provides a complete and comprehensive program, training students to advance in proficiency by providing opportunities for success at all levels of ability. Our goal is for every student to achieve the greatest possible performance in math, recognize their God-given talents through this process, and develop an appreciation for learning and using mathematics. All math courses emphasize problem-solving, mathematical concepts and applications, and critical thinking.

HIGH SCHOOL MATH TRACKS (Students can take Geometry with Algebra 1 or Algebra 2 with approval)

Algebra Foundations -> Algebra 1 -> Geometry -> Algebra 2

Algebra 1 -> Geometry -> Algebra 2 -> Pre-calculus or Financial Algebra or Statistics

Algebra 1 -> Geometry -> Algebra 2 -> Pre-calculus -> AP Calculus or Financial Algebra or Statistics

## **SAXON MATH COURSE 1 – Middle School**

**Prerequisite: none**

7<sup>th</sup>

**Full year**

This course strengthens math foundational concepts and builds skill levels.

## **SAXON MATH COURSE 2 – Middle School**

**Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 1**

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Full year**

This course provides detailed development of math skills and concepts as well as in-depth algebraic reasoning and evaluation.

## **SAXON MATH COURSE 3 – Middle School**

**Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 2**

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup>

**Full year**

This course provides concentrated development of math skills and concepts as well as abstract reasoning and an extensive study of algebraic concepts with application.

## **ALGEBRA FOUNDATIONS**

**Prerequisite: none**

9<sup>th</sup>

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course provides concentrated development of math skills and concepts as well as abstract reasoning and an extensive study of algebraic concepts with application.

## **ALGEBRA 1**

**Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 3 or Algebra Foundations**

**Required – 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> , Teacher Recommendation – 8<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course meets State of Michigan graduation requirements and meets and exceeds the Michigan Curriculum Standards. This course covers linear and quadratic functions as well as lessons on probability, data analysis, and geometry. TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator is required.

## **ALGEBRA 2**

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1**

**Required**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course meets State of Michigan graduation requirements and meets and exceeds the Michigan Curriculum Standards. This course studies linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, radical & rational functions. This course also covers lessons on probability, geometry and trigonometry. TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator is required.

## **GEOMETRY**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Required**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course meets State of Michigan graduation requirements. In this course inductive and deductive reasoning will be used to study triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, circles, perpendicular and parallel lines. Students will develop the ability to use abstract thought to organize and write direct and indirect proofs. This course will conclude with a study of area, volume, and distance.

## **MATHEMATICS ELECTIVES**

### **STATISTICS**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 2

**One semester, .5 credit**

In this course students will analyze and interpret data using frequency distributions, graphs, normal distribution curves, confidence intervals, and regression equations. Students will perform hypothesis, correlation, and chi tests. An in-depth study of probability will complete the course.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course helps students be good stewards of the Lord's money. The first half of the semester will use Dave Ramsey's *Foundations in Personal Finance*. The second half will look in depth at topics such as checking & savings accounts, buying a home, buying a car, investments and retirement.

### **BUSINESS FINANCE**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course will look at finance from a business perspective. Students will investigate decisions that a business owner would need to make on a regular basis. Some topics covered include paying employees, purchasing & inventory, sales, marketing & accounting.

### **ACCOUNTING A (online Michigan Virtual School)**

**Prerequisite:** none

**One semester, .5 credit**

This is a skill-level course that is of value to all students, whether exploring a career in business or for personal financial needs. It is an essential course for students who are pursuing a strong background in business, marketing and management. This course covers the complete accounting cycle for a proprietorship, along with journalizing and posting transactions.

### **ACCOUNTING B (online Michigan Virtual School)**

**Prerequisite:** Accounting A

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course is a continuation of Accounting A. In Accounting B, students will expand their knowledge of accounting procedures by working within the structure of a corporation. Competency will be exhibited in completing payroll taxes and reports, special journals and other financial statements.

### **PRE-CALCULUS**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra 2 and Geometry

**Full year, 1 credit**

In this course students examine graphs, limits, and derivatives of linear, quadratic, logarithmic, exponential, and trigonometric functions and the effects of parameter changes on the functions. This course concludes with a study of trigonometric identities and matrices.

**ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CALCULUS AB**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus, see AP policy on pg. 9**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course follows the Advanced Placement syllabus in preparation for students to take the AP test in May. Course study will include properties of functions, limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus. Use of symbolic differentiation and integration utilities is also included.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The total education of a person involves their development spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. Therefore, physical education is a very integral part of the total curriculum in the educational process. Physical education enhances the overall health of young people by improving their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, proper weight regulation, skeletal development, posture and coordination. The discipline learned in a quality physical education program carries over to a physically fit adult with reduced risks for heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Students are taught to respect their bodies and to show good stewardship for the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (I Corinthians 6:19) through proper training. God has made our bodies in a marvelous way (Psalm 139:14) and our students will learn how to properly care for those bodies in order to function more efficiently in their lives to their best potential for God’s glory and the rest of humanity. God also gives many physical talents that must be developed and used wisely as much as any musical, artistic, intellectual and spiritual gift should be developed and used wisely as being accountable back to God. Physical education helps increase our students’ mental alertness, academic performance and enthusiasm for learning. It develops our students in the areas of self-esteem, independence, personal responsibility, assertiveness, emotional control, mental toughness and effectively handling pressure. Physical education also teaches personal integrity, cooperation, persistence and good sportsmanship. It is preparation for life-long success.

## **GRADE SEVEN PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year (days of week split with Art/Keyboarding)**

This course is designed to develop physical skills while improving overall fitness. It will acquaint our students with the basic skills and rules of many team, individual and life-time sports, as well as present a strong Christian perspective on sportsmanship.

## **GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year (days of week split with Life Topics/Computers)**

This course is designed to develop physical skills while improving overall fitness. It will acquaint our students with the basic skills and rules of many team, individual and life-time sports, as well as present a strong Christian perspective on sportsmanship.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course is designed to develop physical skills while improving overall fitness. It will acquaint our students with the basic skills and rules of many team, individual and life-time sports, as well as present a strong Christian perspective on sportsmanship.

## **HEALTH**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>)**

**One semester, .5 credit**

We have a responsibility to our Creator to make decisions that foster a high quality of life in service to Him. This one semester course is designed to help students recognize the value of attaining and maintaining good health. Topics covered in this class include the benefits and rewards of good health (physical, mental and emotional), good nutrition, proper exercise, problems and diseases that are caused by poor or neglected health, and dangers associated with the use of alcohol, tobacco and illegal drugs.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES**

### ***WEIGHTLIFTING / INDOOR COURT SPORTS DEVELOPMENT***

**Prerequisite: One semester of Physical Education**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

Monday, Wednesday and Friday, students will weight-train and condition in our excellent facility. Safety and proper technique, in resistance training, will be taught. Students will learn and practice specific exercises for every major muscle group. Students will also participate in a variety of exercises to enhance their general conditioning and athletic skills. On Tuesday and Thursday, students will cover a variety of “net games”- volleyball, badminton, pickle ball, ping pong, and other games involving a net. Students will participate through playing and training for the games. The background and history of each activity will also be presented. If a students’ schedule allows, this course may be taken more than once.

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

God, as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, is the foundation of all our science classes. The truth that is taught at PCA, in grades K-12, is anchored in the Scriptural Truth that our Sovereign God designed everything. Our students are intellectually challenged to better understand their world through scientific investigation. They will develop inquisitive minds to understand the truth of God's creation. Hands-on experimentation will provide our students with exposure to all areas of science: life, earth, physical and engineering. As our students understand the complexity and beauty of our universe, the more they will appreciate the greatness of God.

## **GRADE SEVEN INTEGRATED SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

This course provides an integrated approach of studying science. Students will discover how the science disciplines are interrelated while introducing basic concepts and key ideas. Topics include: the atmosphere; weather factors and patterns; climate; exploring space, the solar system; stars, galaxies, and the universe; waves; sound; electromagnetic spectrum; light; magnetism; electricity and electronics. This course also provides an interdisciplinary and applied approach to science with several problem solving and reasoning activities involving STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). All topics will constantly compare the worldview to the truth of God's word.

## **GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

This course analyzes the nature of energy and nonliving matter. Topics include defining science and the work of scientists; technology and engineering; motion; forces; work and machines; energy and heat; matter; periodic table; exploring materials; atoms and bonding; chemical reactions; acids, bases and solutions and carbon chemistry. The program weaves together current, real-world content with hands-on science inquiry. The integrated STEM activities provide opportunities for students to think deeply and problem solve so that they have the chance to become innovators, educators, researchers, and leaders who can solve the most pressing challenges of our world. All topics will constantly compare the worldview to the truth of God's word.

## **BIOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is designed to meet the national and state standards for biological education. In this course, students will consider the diversity and complexity found in an array of organisms that God has designed. Topics covered are: the origin of life (creation vs. evolution), biochemistry, cell structures, photosynthesis, respiration, cell division, and genetics. We will also study taxonomy and explore each kingdom. This study will involve a variety of laboratory experiences designed to include scientific inquiry, increase science processing skills and will include dissecting.

## **SCIENCE ELECTIVES**

### **ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course focuses on how the structures of the human body and how this relates to its overall functions. The human body reveals the workmanship of the divine Creator. Study will be done systematically concentrating on the following: integumentary system, skeletal system, muscular system, nervous system, cardiovascular system, respiratory system, digestive system, urinary system, and reproductive system. The course work emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning about the human body including the study of models, mammalian dissections, and lab work on physiological responses to stimuli. This course is recommended for students' interest in the health sciences: nursing, medicine, pharmacology, and medical technology, as well as any other interested student.

## **GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course is the study of three of the Earth's four spheres (geosphere, atmosphere and hydrosphere) and the way they exchange matter and energy to create different processes and landforms. This course covers a wide variety of science areas such as geology, the rock cycle, plate tectonics, the atmosphere, meteorology, and oceanography. Students will develop and strengthen many skills such as, reading: charts, graphs, and tables, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem solving. The application of these skills is exercised through the construction of models, projects, and lab write-ups. The skills acquired prepares students to be real world scientific thinkers that use fact-based reasoning to make sound decisions. Both the Biblical and secular paradigms will be compared and contrasted based on the Truth of God's Word so that students can take ownership of what they believe and why.

## **CHEMISTRY I**

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1 and Biology**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

Chemistry can be broadly defined as the study of matter, its properties and how it changes, and reacts with other elements of matter, both the familiar and unfamiliar material that makes up our world. Because of this, chemistry is an intimate part of everyone's life. In fact, life itself is an applied lesson in chemistry. In today's technological world, everyone, not just scientists and science teachers must know about scientific concepts and their contribution to society. Our chemistry course recognizes the impact of chemistry and is designed to help students understand the theory behind some of the important issues in today's society; daily living, health and nutrition. In this class we will develop the scientific problem-solving skills, and application of math skills which are used in future science classes. We will honor God by appreciating and seeking to understand the elegance of his creation.

## **PHYSICS**

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Biology and Chemistry 1**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

Along with the Bible, Physics is literally the owner's manual/rule book for the planet. Students will develop an understanding of the concepts that underlie many of the phenomena observed in everyday life and learn to apply mathematical models to them. Hands-on activities will be used to illustrate concepts and allow for inquiry-based learning. This course is an absolute must for anyone planning to major in engineering and the pure science fields of chemistry or biology. Additionally, students planning to pursue the applied fields of physical/occupational therapy are encouraged to take this class.

Quantitative skills learned in second year algebra/trigonometry and chemistry will be employed in the problem-solving concepts covered. General areas of study will include concepts of mechanics, motion, astronomy, heat, light, sound, magnetism, and electricity.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

Environmental science focuses on natural resources, conservation, environmental monitoring, remediation and public health. Special attention will be paid to the ecology of our local environment and the interactions of living things within our ecosystem. Students will examine the biological, physical and chemical processes at work in the environment. The impact of technology and engineering will be explored as we explore the sustainability of the environment and our role as God's stewards for the planet.

## **FORENSIC SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: Biology**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One Semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Forensic Science is a multidisciplinary science course. The course bridges science-based inquiry and the criminal justice system. Forensic Science integrates core concepts from the primary area of Biology and will touch upon Chemistry and Physics building upon these themes. This course utilizes lecture, laboratory activities and experiments, scientific literature/case study analysis, and will allow students to apply the scientific method to develop their writing, problem solving and critical thinking skills in a biological context. Inquiry based laboratory investigations and analysis play a central role in the course. Topics covered will include: crime scene analysis, physical/chemical analysis of various evidence types, advanced microscopy, chromatography, hair/fiber/glass analysis, fingerprint comparison, comparative analysis, document analysis, firearms/ballistics, drugs/toxicology, entomology, anthropology, blood (serology) and DNA analysis utilizing the polymerase chain reaction (PCR).

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) BIOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry I and Biology, see AP Policy on pg. 9**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit, Offered every other year vs AP Chemistry, (next in 2020-21 school year)**

This course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course and to prepare the student for the advanced placement exam given in May. This course is an in-depth, content intensive study of biological principles which include laboratory investigations dealing with cell biology, genetics, DNA technology, enzyme catalysis, photosynthetic rate, ecology, evolution and physiology. AP Biology students will occasionally be required to meet before school to begin certain lab exercises and occasionally after school for data collection. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.*

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CHEMISTRY**

**Prerequisite: Chemistry I, see AP Policy on pg. 9**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit, Offered every other year vs AP Biology (next in 2021-22 school year)**

This advanced chemistry course builds on the foundations of Chemistry I and allows students to potentially gain college credit upon taking the AP Chemistry exam. The objectives pursued in this class parallel those of a typical first year college class and include: chemical reactions, net ionic equations, oxidation and reduction, chemical equilibrium and kinetics, stoichiometry, aqueous equilibrium and gas laws. Students will also be introduced to organic chemistry and biochemistry. The course focuses heavily on the development of advanced laboratory skills. *All students enrolled in this course are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May.*

# SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Ours is a great nation which God has richly blessed, but we struggle with political, social and economic complexities which affect our lives, nation, and global community in countless ways. Students will be able to identify the roots of these complexities, explore their ramifications and understand God's calling on our lives to be a light to this world. In this process, students will develop critical thinking skills to examine and explore past and present societies. They will gain an understanding of political, social and economic factors which guide decision making and the results of these decisions, both positive and negative. Developing an appreciation for what makes societies unique in this vast world and celebrating how God brings us all together is significant for students to appreciate in our ever-expanding global society. Students will explore their dual role as citizens of the Kingdom and citizens here in our society. Most importantly, students will develop a foundational understanding of God's sovereignty over the past, present, and future. II Chronicles 20:6b "You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you."

## **GRADE SEVEN WORLD HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history. Students begin their exploration into world history with a focus on historical and geographical thinking. Students learn about the world by studying specific geographic regions. Students will learn the history of the region as well as their current economy, present government and what life is like in that region. The course objective is to help students expand their view of human history and begin to see the story of the United States in a more global context and more importantly, God's redemptive plan at work. The course concludes with students analyzing global patterns of continuity and change over time and using evidence to construct historical arguments about the past.

## **GRADE EIGHT AMERICAN HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**Full year**

God has blessed our country with a wonderful heritage. We were privileged to be born here and we accept the responsibility of protecting that heritage through knowledge and political action so that others may also enjoy this great land. This initial study of U.S. History focuses on our beginnings as a young nation and continues to the end of the American Civil War. Emphasis is placed on understanding the values and principles our nation was founded upon and analyzing how our principles have impacted our national actions.

## **WORLD HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required (9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup>)**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This class begins with establishing for our students an understanding of the sovereign hand of God over the past, present and future events. Job 12:22-24 "*He reveals the deep things of darkness and brings utter darkness into the light. He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them.*" Romans chapter thirteen says that all governing authorities were and are established by God. Our course begins with Creation, the study of ancient civilizations including Mesopotamia, Egypt and Israel. Then, it turns to the study of the classical world of Greece and Rome. The modern era emphasizes Western Civilization and the rise of the Enlightenment and rise of Nation-States. Students will then study WWI and WWII including the Russian Revolution ending the course with a discussion of the Cold War and its effects on the post war world.

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>** (students must take US History or AP US History)

**Full year, 1 credit**

Beginning with the American Civil War, the focus of this course will progress through the 20th Century America as the United States emerges as a world power as evidenced by imperialism and World War I. Students will examine the causes and outcomes of the Great Depression and the United States involvement in World War II. Students will then explore the Cold War and the police actions of Korea and Vietnam. The role of the country is discussed with the collapse of the Soviet Union and the role as “world policeman”. The course will end with the beginning of the 21st century and the tragic events of September 11th. In all, this course emphasizes the struggle and accomplishments of all Americans and how the past shapes their lives today. Our hope is for students to develop a strong sense of appreciation and pride in America’s great history and of a land which God has so richly blessed.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) UNITED STATES HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: see AP policy on pg. 9**

**Required for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>** (students must take US History or AP US History)

**Full year, 1 credit**

The goals of this course are very similar to the general United States History course. Yet unlike the general course, there is an emphasis placed on preparing students for an end-of-the-year AP exam. This exam enables students to earn college credits as well as high school credit. Students learn how to write effective and persuasive essays. The course further develops students critically thinking skills and also to learn how to analyze college-level materials. The course covers United States history from the Columbian Age to the early 21<sup>st</sup> century. Unlike the general course that helps students learn the details of history, this course helps students create an overall picture of our nation’s past and its relevance today.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) US GOVERNMENT**

**Prerequisite: see AP policy on pg. 9**

**Required for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>** (students must take US Government or AP US Government)

**Full year, 1 credit**

The Advanced Placement course in United States Government and Politics will give students a college entry level class experience while developing an analytical perspective on government and politics. This course includes the study of general concepts through reading, essay writing, and document analysis. It requires students to develop a familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, ideas, experiences, and court cases that have shaped the U.S. political system. Students will become acquainted with various perspectives and explanations for how our system has been developed, who governs and to what ends.

## **US GOVERNMENT**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>** (students must take US Government or AP US Government)

**One Semester, .5 credit**

This course is aimed at preparing our students to be active citizens. First, they are taught different political theories and systems with the understanding of why our nation chose a Republican form of government. They will study our Constitution to understand the brilliance of separation of powers with checks and balances. They will explore civil rights and the functions of the three branches of government (legislative, executive and judicial). Furthermore, they will examine the history and function of political parties, patterns of voting behavior, special interest groups and elections. Local and state issues are also covered as well as their role in the political process.

## **ECONOMICS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit**

This course is designed to establish a broad economic foundation for students. The focus of this course is to introduce micro, macro, consumer, and personal economic terms and topics to enhance students’ preparedness for a responsible future and for greater understanding of democratic citizenship. This class will improve student decision-making as a consumer and a voter.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES ELECTIVES**

### **US CRIMINAL LAW**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

This course is designed for the students who have an interest in the law and the legal system. Throughout the semester, students will explore the US criminal system including juvenile justice. The study of the legal system gives our students the understanding of how our system works. Along with traditional course work, students will also participate in mock trials, law applications and classroom discussions. Current issues are discussed, and Biblical values are used as a normative in making judgments.

### **US CIVIL LAW**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

This course is designed for the students who have an interest in the law and the legal system. Throughout the semester students will explore the US civil court system. The study of the legal system gives our students the understanding of how our system works. Along with traditional course work, students will also participate in mock trials and arbitrations, law applications and classroom discussions. Current issues are discussed, and Biblical values are used as a normative in making judgments.

### **PSYCHOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

Our study of Psychology will lead to a comprehensive overview of this subject with special emphasis on personality theories, developmental psychology and abnormal psychology. Integrated into these studies will be a variety of other topics such as perception, creativity, motivation, stress and learning theories. As we better understand ourselves, we will better understand spiritual warfare, our parents, siblings, teachers, friends and the various people that our Lord brings across our paths.

### **SOCIOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Sociology is the study of human society that includes both the social actions and the organizational structures of society. In a culture that is using “victimization” as an excuse for any accountability for the responsibility of actions, the Biblical teaching is highly stressed. Students will be introduced to basic sociological topics that may include problems of social structure, family, race, and others.

### **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PSYCHOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: see AP Policy on pg. 9**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course will provide a rigorous two semester presentation of Psychology. The course will offer a college level presentation in the comfort of a high school setting. It will introduce students to the systematic and scientific study of the behavior and mental processes of human beings and other animals. Students will be exposed to the psychological facts, principles, and phenomena associated with each of the major subfields within psychology. In addition, they will learn about the ethics and methods psychologists use in their science and practice. In keeping with the purposes, principles, and guiding ideas of our school, an integration of Christian principles and perspectives will be added to course materials and lectures to reflect the school’s desires to expose our students to the rigors of a college course, while using as our guide God’s holy word.

### **EARLY US MILITARY HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

This course will illustrate the sacrifice of our nation's citizens as well as the protection of our almighty God. It will examine the changes in American military history in terms of strategy, tactics, technology, and those who fought in each war. The focus will be on ground forces, but as time permits each of the other branches will be given their own focus and time. The course uses a college-level textbook for the daily reading assignments. Lecture notes, hand-outs, videos, and guest speakers will round-out an information-packed course. Study guides will be given at the beginning of each unit to be completed by the student and help prepare them for each test. This first part of the course will briefly discuss the men and women that serve in the military and the general order of troop formations. We will also learn about the difference between strategies and tactics and how they change over time. The scope of this course will focus on the formation of colonial militias and cover conflicts to the Civil War.

### **MODERN US MILITARY HISTORY**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

This course will illustrate the sacrifice of our nation's citizens as well as the protection of our almighty God. It will examine the changes in American military history in terms of strategy, tactics, technology, and those who fought in each war. The focus will be on ground forces, but as time permits each of the other branches will be given their own focus and time. The course uses a college-level textbook for the daily reading assignments. Lecture notes, hand-outs, videos, and guest speakers will round-out an information-packed course. Study guides will be given at the beginning of each unit to be completed by the student and help prepare them for each test. This first part of the course will briefly discuss the men and women that serve in the military and the general order of troop formations. We will also learn about the difference between strategies and tactics and how they change over time. The scope of this course will range from the Spanish-American War to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

# TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Since technology is a permanent part of our life and is advancing at an incredible rate, it is important for our students to keep pace and be computer literate in the 21st Century. The critical factor is to maintain a high level of moral and ethical use of this technology with principals from Scripture. The classes offered in this department will give our students a working knowledge of the current hardware and software. Opportunity is given for practical application in real life situations and to discover if students may have some God-given talent in this area, equipping them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

## **GRADE SEVEN KEYBOARDING**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade**

**One semester (days of week split with Art and P.E.)**

Following the keyboarding standards set by NBEA (National Business Education Association), this is a course in which Middle School students are introduced to the proper keystrokes for keyboarding. Also, through a computer program, students taking this course will gain proficiency in alphabetic keyboarding technique-letter key operation and skills. The same will be true in numeric keyboarding technique-operation and skills. They will also learn basic formatting and document processing.

## **GRADE EIGHT COMPUTERS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade**

**One semester (days of week split with Life Topics and P.E.)**

With the continuation of proper keystrokes, students are introduced to using Microsoft Office 2016. Students will learn word processing (Word) by researching and creating an MLA style report including the outline and works cited page. They will also create a Power Point project using animation and sound along with other advanced features.

## **BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY I**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

Students will be placed in a real-world simulation that teaches computer application skills through entrepreneurship concepts. They will complete projects, manage data and plan and combine the use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, and Publisher to develop the worksheets and documents used in a business. Along with this, they will learn how to conduct internet research, accounting, and financing, making spreadsheets, maintaining a database and developing their presentation and communication skills.

## **BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY II**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Required for 9<sup>th</sup> or 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**Semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Designed for today's digital natives, this class will teach students how to use technology responsibly. Digital citizenship will be the main focus while guiding students to conduct effective online research, how to defend themselves against identity theft, use social media and e-commerce sites safely, use proper etiquette, and how to manage their digital trail. The use of AI in today's world will be examined and discussed along with the respect and responsibility of using it. Students will learn how to design their own website, create a digital portfolio, make a podcast and build a blog.

## **TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS ELECTIVES**

## **BUSINESS & PROFESSIONAL COMMUNICATIONS**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered First Semester)**

Students will explore vital topics such as employment opportunities, interview skills, presentation strategies, and much more. Not only will students learn about opportunities in training, education, and certifications for employment, but they will also learn and demonstrate professional standards and personal qualities needed to be employable in today's job market. From soft skills, interpersonal communication, and leadership traits, to writing business documents and delivering effective presentations, students will receive a thorough understanding of how to effectively communicate in a professional setting.

## **ENTREPRENEURSHIP: STARTING YOUR BUSINESS**

**Prerequisite: Business Technology 1**

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One semester, .5 credit (offered Second Semester)**

Learn what it takes to own your own business and gain the confidence needed to be your very own boss. Students use their computer application skills to create a professional, comprehensive business plan and supporting marketing materials that promote their business. This course will introduce marketing and advertising by using digital media, maintain company websites, and create business blogs. An individualized business plan will be created that is endorsed by the NBEA (National Business Education Association) and combine the use of Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Publisher to develop the worksheets and documents necessary for a business.

At PCA, instruction in world language has at its core a love for God's people in other cultures, and a desire to see the Gospel take root and grow in the cultures we study. Integration of Biblical truth, Scripture application and target-language prayer and worship guide our approach to building linguistic and cultural competence in German or Spanish. Students will develop both interpretive (reading and listening) and productive (speaking and writing) skills in the target language. In addition to building holistic language proficiency through communicative tasks and comprehensible input in German or Spanish, students will also demonstrate basic knowledge of cultural practices, products, and perspectives of the culture(s) in which the language is used; gain cultural knowledge as well as knowledge in other curricular areas using the target language; demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and culture through comparisons of the target language and culture studied and their own; and use German or Spanish both within and beyond the school setting.

### **GRADE SEVEN INTRO TO WORLD LANGUAGES**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Elective**

**Full Year**

This course introduces students to the foundations of language: how languages developed, types of alphabets, language structure, and many other facets of language. Students will learn Latin, Italian, French, Japanese, German and Spanish. They will learn some basic vocabulary and communicative phrases. The students will be introduced to the influences of these cultures on the American society. They will also learn about holidays, historical events, famous people, geography and food related to these cultures.

### **GERMAN I**

**Prerequisite: none**

**Two Years of Same Language**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

Students in German I will build the ability to function in highly predictable situations using words, phrases, and complete sentences. At this level, students will learn to communicate with people who are accustomed to interacting with non-native speakers in a variety of contexts relating primarily to oneself, family, friends, home, school, neighborhood, community, and country; and to carry out a variety of language functions, including socializing, identifying and describing, exchanging information and exchanging opinions. Even at beginning levels of German, and the German language will be used in instruction to the greatest extent possible, with clarifications provided to check comprehension using gestures, visual input, and English when necessary.

### **GERMAN II**

**Prerequisite: German I**

**Two Years of Same Language**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

At this level, students can communicate with people who are accustomed to interacting with non-native speakers in a variety of contexts relating primarily to oneself, family, friends, home, school, neighborhood, community, and country; and to carry out a variety of language functions, including socializing, identifying and describing, exchanging information and exchanging opinions. German II students will build upon the skills acquired in German I, and the German language will be used in instruction to the greatest extent possible, and students will be increasingly encouraged to interact in class using German.

### **GERMAN III**

**Prerequisite: German II**

**Elective**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

German III students will build upon the skills acquired in German II. German will be the language of classroom instruction, and students will be expected to interact in and comprehend instruction in the target language. German III students will explore relevant cultural topics such as travel, modern German history, friendship and relationships and German-language literature.

### **GERMAN IV**

**Prerequisite: German III**

**Elective**

**Full Year, 1 credit**

At this level, students will build their ability communicate with others in a variety of contexts relating not only to the familiar and predictable, but also will refine and deepen their proficiency in unfamiliar situations. Students will be able to carry out a variety of language functions, including socializing, identifying and describing, exchanging information and exchanging opinions, and engaging in conversation about more abstract topics and issues.

German IV students will build upon the skills acquired in German III. German will be the language of classroom instruction, and students will be expected to interact in and comprehend instruction in the target language. German III students will explore relevant cultural topics such as politics and current events, religion, music, art and architecture and German-language literature. Students in German 4 will be equipped to continue study of German at the college level and will explore ways in which their German language skills can be applied to enhance their individual careers and future courses of study.

**SPANISH I****Prerequisite: none****Two years of same language****Full year, 1 credit**

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. It covers basic vocabulary and grammar. Students will have sufficiently mastered the sound system of Spanish, correctly pronounce new words, communicate in basic social situations such as ordering food at a Mexican restaurant, reading and understanding narrative and writing paragraphs or short letters with correct grammar. Hispanic culture and geography are incorporated into each unit of study.

**SPANISH II****Prerequisite: Spanish I****Two years of same language****Full year, 1 credit**

At the completion of Spanish II, our students will have increased their proficiency in the goals attained during their first year of study. In addition, they will have demonstrated a solid elementary proficiency in the following areas: They will be able to express both in written and spoken form their opinions and preferences, sustain conversation on familiar topics, ask for information for routine problem-solving situations and have reading and aural comprehension by understanding details of conversations or narratives. The students will be aware of the basic historical and social contributions of Hispanic countries.

**SPANISH III****Prerequisite: Spanish II****Elective****Full year, 1 credit**

To build on the foundations established in Spanish I and II, this course is designed to expand the proficiency in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) as emphasized by university placement tests. Students will be introduced to prose and poetry in the Spanish language. Students will be expected to converse in and aurally comprehend Spanish in the classroom. The students will now be at an intermediate level in the same areas as Spanish II. Students will be able to read aloud an unfamiliar passage with the correct intonation and pronunciation.

**SPANISH IV****Prerequisite: Spanish III****Elective****Full year, 1 credit**

To build on the foundations established in Spanish I, II and III, this course is designed to expand the proficiency in the four language skills (reading, writing, speaking and listening) as emphasized by university placements tests. Students will be expected to converse in and aurally comprehend Spanish in the classroom. The students will explore prose and poetry in the Spanish language, as well as other facets of the culture and history of the Spanish-speaking world. The

students will now be at an intermediate level in the same areas as Spanish III. Students will be able to read aloud an unfamiliar passage with the correct intonations and pronunciation.

**AP SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE**

**Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, III, see AP Policy on pg. 9**

**Elective**

**Full year, 1 credit**

This course presents a thematic approach to the exploration of Spanish Language & Culture. It requires that students demonstrate knowledge of the Spanish Culture and be able to use the language in real life settings. Global challenges, Science & Technology, Contemporary Life, Personal & Public Identities, Families & Communities, Beauty & Aesthetics. This course prepares students to be fluent in spoken and written Interpersonal Communication, Presentational Communication and Interpretive Communication in Spanish, which is necessary for success in this course and the AP Spanish Language & Culture exam.

## **SPECIAL ELECTIVES**

### **EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One or two semesters, .5 credit each**

This class can be taken for one or two semesters and is designed to introduce students to careers in early childhood education, child development or other related fields. Experience with preschool education is gained by assisting teachers at Plymouth Christian Academy's licensed preschool. The school counselor coordinates the student's assignment with the preschool director.

### **ELEMENTARY EDUCATION TEACHER ASSISTANT**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One or two semesters, .5 credit each**

This class can be taken for one or two semesters and is designed to introduce students to careers in elementary education or child development. Experience with elementary children is gained by assisting teachers at Plymouth Christian Academy's Elementary School. The school counselor coordinates the student's assignment with the elementary staff.

### **OFFICE/TEACHER AIDE**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup>**

**One or two semesters, .25 credit each**

Student can serve as an aide to a teacher or in the office. The student can request what teacher they would like to serve under, but the final decision of their placement is up to the school counselor, who considers all factors.

### **ACADEMIC STUDY HALL**

**Prerequisite:** none

**Elective**

**One or two semesters Pass/Fail with no credits**

Students can use this study hall to do homework, make-up tests, etc. Students must attend this class as normal class attendance rules apply. This is a Pass/Fail class. The grade does not affect GPA, but it will show up on your transcript.

### **ACT or SAT TEST PREPARATION (Online – PrepWorks/Oxford Virtual Schools)**

**Prerequisite:** None

**Elective**

**Full Year, .5 credit (Pass/Fail)**

PrepWorks test prep programs, powered by their multi-award winning LPS adaptive technology, deliver personalized instruction based on each student's needs. Combining hundreds of animated HD videos, thousands of practice questions with step-by-step solutions, and engaging instructional activities, PrepWorks explores essential foundational concepts and teach proven test strategies that help students significantly improve test scores.

**2020-21**

# **Plymouth Christian Academy**

*Learning, Leadership & Service*