

### Secondary Course Description Guide

2024-2025

# Learning, Leadership & Service

43065 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187 734.459.3505 www.plymouthchristian.org

#### **MISSION STATEMENT**

Plymouth Christian Academy, in partnership with parents, educates students from a biblical worldview and equips them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, service and as faithful followers of Christ.

#### 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.

### **Expected Student Outcomes**

We aspire to graduate students with a Christian worldview who live out the following expected student outcomes. Applying strong academic knowledge, our students are prepared to think biblically with the ability to utilize critical thinking skills and influence our world for Christ. These outcomes reflect the core values and mission of Plymouth Christian Academy and serve as a foundation for life.

#### A Vibrant and Growing Follower of Jesus:

- · Knows God's Word and has demonstrated an ongoing commitment to studying and apply it to their lives
- · Active in their local church and has a plan to continue to be involved in fellowship with other believers post-graduation
- · Has demonstrated an ongoing, regular, and disciplined prayer life
- · Can articulate the Gospel and has demonstrated an ongoing practice of sharing it with others

#### Prepared Intellectually and Socially for the Transition to College and a Lifetime of Learning:

- Has been challenged with academic rigor that has stretched their individual capability each year K-12
- Capable of Entering a Top 250 National University
- Able to articulate their individual identity as a follower of Christ
- Has been exposed to a broad spectrum of experiences and opportunities including athletics, the arts, clubs, and ministries to identify and build God's unique gifting in each graduate

#### **Established in the Foundations of Leadership and Service to Others:**

- Has participated as a mentor and a mentee throughout their Secondary school years
- During each of their K-12 years the Graduate has been involved in a community service projects with increasing levels of engagement and leadership
- Can articulate how their relationship with Jesus integrates with their long-term vocational plan Has a thorough understanding of Biblical worldview and the dignity and worth of every human being as created in the image of God

### School Counseling and Educational Services

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.

#### **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.

### **Grading Scale**

PERCENTAGE	LETTER	NUMERICAL	NUMERICAL (AP CLASSES)
93 - 100	A	4.0	5.0
90 - 92	A-	3.7	4.7
87 - 89	B+	3.3	4.3
83 - 86	В	3.0	4.0
80 - 82	B-	2.7	3.7
77 - 79	C+	2.3	3.3
73 - 76	С	2.0	3.0
70 -72	C-	1.7	2.7
67 - 69	D+	1.3	2.3
63 - 66	D	1.0	2.0
60 - 62	D-	0.7	1.7
0 - 59	F	0.0	0.0

### **Dual Enrollment**

10th-12th grade students may elect to take college level courses through Concordia University-Ann Arbor, Schoolcraft College, Spring Arbor University, University of Michigan, and other local colleges and universities. Students can earn both high school credit as well as college credit for their Dual Enrollment (DE) courses. Please see the Secondary School Counselor to discuss which courses qualify.

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

- 1. Be in good academic standing as a 10th-12th grader.
- 2. Be accepted to the college/university after completing the admission application.
- 3. Obtain signed approval of the counselor before taking a class outside of PCA. Classes taken without the consent of the counselor may not be accepted.
- 4. Unable to schedule the course at PCA.

Students and parents must decide at the beginning of the semester if the credit will be used for high school credit, college credit or both. If the course is used for high school credit, it will appear on their PCA transcript, along with the grade earned and the appropriate amount of credit.

- 1-2 credit college course = 0.5 high school credits per semester
- 3-4 credit college course = 1.0 high school credits per semester

The student is responsible to check with the college of their choice as to whether the course work completed in the dual enrollment class is acceptable for college credit. Special scheduling to allow enrollment in college classes cannot be guaranteed.

The student's family will be responsible for paying tuition and fees that are above the designated amount paid to the college/university by the State of Michigan. 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. The State of Michigan will cover a maximum of 10 dual enrollment courses in high school.

### **Online Learning**

Online classes are available for all high school students. Some online classes are offered free of charge through PCA. Students may elect to take courses online 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. Students must be in good academic standing at PCA.
- 3. The online course name, final grade and credit will be listed on the PCA transcript at the end of each semester.
- 4. A parent authorization form must be completed at the start of each semester.

### Off Campus Academic Source

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. Students 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**

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 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 in the fall. For each AP course enrolled, the student's family will receive an invoice or incidental billing on their account for the annual AP exam fee as set by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corp.

#### 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 Calculus AB AP Psychology

AP Chemistry AP Spanish Language

AP English Language AP US History
AP English Literature AP World History

AP Government

### **Graduation Requirements**

Total Credits Necessary to Graduate = 26

Michigan Merit Credits(+) PCA Core Curriculum Credits (+) General Elective Credits

 $\underline{18}$  +  $\underline{6}$  +  $\underline{2}$  =  $\underline{26}$  credits

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

Bible 4 credits

Old Testament Survey - 9<sup>th</sup> grade New Testament Survey - 10<sup>th</sup> grade

Christian Thought and Spirituality - 11th grade

Elective options

English 4 credits

English Foundations - 9th grade

Elective options

\*PCA requirement: 2 semesters during Senior year

Math 4 credits

Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Elective options

\*State requirement: Math during Senior year

Science 3 credits

Biology

Elective Options

Social Studies 3 credits

World History U.S. History

U.S. Government (1 semester)

Note: AP U.S. Government (2 semesters)

Economics (1 semester)

Physical Education 0.5 credits

Health 0.5 credits

Fine & Performing Arts 1 credit

World Language (same language) 2 credits

Soar 2 credits

\*Beginning with the class of 2027

Elective Credits 2 credits

Personal Finance Experience N/A

\*Beginning with the class of 2028

SAT (School Day-Spring Junior Year)

N/A

### Graduation

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 3.5 credits each semester (7.5 credits for the year) for freshman, sophomore, and junior years. Seniors are required to take at least five *academic* classes, plus Soar, each semester to be considered a full-time student at PCA. Eligibility for late arrival will be determined by the student's academic record, attendance record, and conduct record.

All failed required courses 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. 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 college of choice for additional information.

### **Planning For Your Future**

#### **FRESHMEN** Year Checklist

- Take the PSAT 8/9 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 websites 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 PSAT 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.

#### **IUNIOR** Checklist

- Concentrate on your GPA.
- Take the PSAT in the Fall, 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

- <u>Fall</u>: Last chance to take the ACT or SAT. Register early.
- Complete 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.
- <u>October</u>: 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 TO VIEW GAME SCHEDULES

### VARSITY SPORTS

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

#### **FRESHMAN SPORTS**

<u>Girls</u>: Volleyball (fall) <u>Boys</u>: Basketball (winter)

#### **JUNIOR VARSITY SPORTS**

<u>Girls</u>: Volleyball (fall), Basketball (winter), Softball (spring) <u>Boys</u>: Soccer (fall), Basketball (winter), Baseball (spring)

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS**

<u>Girls</u>: Volleyball (fall), Basketball (winter), Softball, Soccer (spring)

<u>Boys</u>: Soccer (fall), Basketball (winter), Baseball (spring)

<u>Combined</u>: Cross Country (fall), Track (spring)

#### MIAC

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

The  $\underline{\mathbf{M}}$ ichigan  $\underline{\mathbf{I}}$ ndependent  $\underline{\mathbf{A}}$ thletic  $\underline{\mathbf{C}}$ onference (MIAC) which consists of the following schools:

Charyl Stockwell Prep Academy

Huron Valley Lutheran

Inter-City Baptist

Livonia Clarenceville

Lutheran – Northwest

Lutheran – Westland

Novi Christian

Oakland Christian

Parkway Christian

Plymouth Christian Academy

Roeper School

Southfield Christian

Whitmore Lake

### **Plymouth Christian Academy**

### **Secondary Course Descriptions**

#### BIBLE DEPARTMENT

At PCA, Bible class focuses on studying the Scriptures while learning developmentally appropriate hermeneutics, biblical theology, comparative worldviews, and apologetics so that students' faith might be well reasoned, biblically founded, and wise. These courses equip students to think responsibly about their faith, actions, and spiritual growth from a Biblical Worldview. They are encouraged to develop a deepening, personal relationship with Jesus Christ evidenced in strong character reflecting Christ's love in a God-centered pattern of living. The Bible department impacts more than just Christian minds but holistically seeks to promote growth in the development of students' faith to love God with all their heart, mind, and strength. Teachers at Plymouth Christian Academy are dedicated to educating for eternity!

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL BIBLE

#### GRADE SEVEN: CHURCH HISTORY AND SPIRITUALITY

Prerequisite: None

Required

Full year, 1 credit

Finding tangible links between the past and present, students will begin to explore what God is doing in the world by looking back in time at His enduring grace. This introductory study will trace how God has preserved his Church from Christ's resurrection through the modern era. Beginning with the book of Acts, students will discover the EPIC story of Christian History through the lives, events, and movements that spread the Gospel from Jerusalem, to Judea, and to the ends of the earth discovering that in Christ, they are a part of something way bigger than they ever imagined!

#### GRADE EIGHT: PAULINE LITERATURE & INTRO TO THEOLOGY

Prerequisite: None

Required

Full year, 1 credit

This overview of Paul's Epistles encourages middle school students to explore God's Word for themselves. Teaching students about important themes and topics, such as the role of God as the main character of the Bible and the relationship between Scripture's divine inspiration and human authorship. Students will begin to understand how the foundations of theology introduced in the Bible relate to life's biggest questions, to relationships, to leadership, and so much more!

#### HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE

#### **OLD TESTAMENT SURVEY**

Prerequisite: 9th grade

Required

Full year, 1 credit

Knowing that the entire Bible reveals God, this course will survey the Old Testament while building interpretation skills. Students will unpack the message intended by the OT writers and discover foreshadowing to God's full plan in Christ beginning in Genesis. Tracing the mission of God, students will find the Old Testament as the foundation for Christ's Kingdom message. Students will gain a greater understanding of Israel's sacrificial system through a building project of the temple. God's commitment and kindness to Israel will draw students to encounter the unchanging character and compassion of God.

#### **NEW TESTAMENT SURVEY**

Prerequisite: 10th grade

Required

Full year, 1 credit

Encountering Jesus in his biblical and historical context, this class continues to develop hermeneutical skills while surveying the New Testament. Coursework will emphasize *encountering* Christ as the primary revelation of God. This survey will trace important themes in each NT book and letter. Focusing on what the New Testament authors really care about allows students to pay attention to what the New Testament is saying and why it matters for life today!

#### CHRISTIAN THOUGHT AND SPIRITUALITY

Prerequisite: 11th grade

Required

Full year, 1 credit

Students explore how a well-formed Christian worldview informs all aspects of life; specifically in thought, intention, and deed. Beginning with C.S. Lewis' *Mere Christianity*, students will learn how their theological understanding impacts all of life. Lastly, students will explore how a Christian Worldview produces a vibrant spiritual life utilizing *Understanding the Culture*. Finally, students will gain a working understanding of spiritual disciplines, what they produce in their lives, and how they provide a deepening dependence on Christ.

#### CHURCH HISTORY & HISTORICAL THEOLOGY

Prerequisite: 11th or 12th grade

Elective, Meets 4th year Bible requirement

Full year, 1 credit

A study of the development of the Church from its earliest foundations to the modern church. The first half of the course will cover the foundations of the Christian church from the New Testament period to the Protestant Reformation. The second half will cover the Protestant Reformation through the present day. The development of key doctrines, specific controversies, and major movements/divisions within the church which have created the denominations of today will be the focus of study. Students will also be able to see key figures of the church and their legacy on doctrines and traditions. Students will be challenged to examine primary documents from many of these key figures and events to gain a deeper understanding of how consensus and orthodoxy were reached across the history of the Church.

#### <u>SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP ACADEMY YEAR</u>

Prerequisite: 12th grade; by application only Elective, Meets 4th year Bible requirement

Full year, 1 credit

Spiritual Leadership Academy Year is a leadership development course that equips high school students to grow as leaders while providing service and ministry opportunities. This course is founded on the belief that high school students who are seeking to live out their relationship with Christ can be used by God to impact their spheres of influence. This course will invest in training students as leaders *and* trust them with meaningful responsibilities. Students will be expected to establish relationships, run events, create new ideas, impact communities, and change the cultural expectation for high school students all while growing in Christ together!

#### **WORLD RELIGIONS**

Prerequisite: 11th or 12th grade

Elective, Meets 4th year Bible requirement

Full year, 1 credit

This introduction to World Religions will focus on a survey of religious theory, what various religions believe, and how they are practiced throughout the world. This survey covers the major world religions such as Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism while also taking time to survey some lesser religions like Sikhism, Mormonism, Zoroastrianism, and more. While considering other faiths, the uniqueness of the Gospel of Christ shines clearly and will motivate us to share that gospel with clarity, compassion, and service.

### **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 helps 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.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL ENGLISH

#### **GRADE SEVEN ENGLISH**

Required for 7th grade

Full year

This course continues the learning process that each student has started in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and viewing skills. Students will explore each theme through a variety of units – narrative, informational, argument and descriptive – that enable them to not only discover these themes, but also understand and apply them to their lives. Using a combination of inquiry-based instruction, novels and multiple materials, students will become readers and writers who critically and biblically examine the world around them. On a weekly basis, students will study vocabulary words, build their academic language in both spoken and written texts. Seventh graders will also learn how to construct 4 different essay forms: argumentative, problem and solution, descriptive and informational.

#### **GRADE EIGHT ENGLISH**

Required for 8th grade

Full year

This course furthers the learning process that the students have started learning in seventh grade. Students will dig deeper into the various themes – narrative, informational, argument and descriptive - of English Language Arts through inquiry-based instruction, novel, and theme studies. On a weekly basis, students will continue to study vocabulary words and build their academic language in both spoken and written texts. In addition to genres and literature, eighth grade students will also learn how to write and support a strong argument and back it with solid evidence.

#### HIGH SCHOOL ENGLISH

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

Prerequisite: None 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. Argumentative and synthesis writing is a focus, along with reading many novels and texts from the AP College Board Literature list. 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: AP Language & Composition

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 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. **Students who choose to take both AP Language & Composition and AP Literature will be exempt from the Senior Capstone project.** 

#### AMERICAN LITERATURE & COMPOSITION

Prerequisite: None

Required for 10th grade, unless taking Honors English 10

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 periods and history affect 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 extensive research and advanced essays. MLA essay writing will be used throughout this course.

#### **CREATIVE WRITING**

Prerequisite: None

Elective for 11th, 12th (10th by recommendation)

Full year, 1 credit

This writing course is an in-depth study on many various types of creative writing. It is designed to be a creative, enjoyable class with minimal work outside of class. There is a focus on understanding the writing process and emphasis is put on incorporating descriptive writing and various literary devices into one's own writing. Genres of writing include personal compositions, short stories, poetry, and script writing, as well as many others. The class also collaborates to create a class magazine that is published and printed for the student body at the end of each semester. This is an excellent opportunity for those who love to write and want to improve their creative writing skills. This course does not meet requirements for English and Capstone for Senior Year.

#### **DEBATE & REASONING**

Prerequisite: None Elective for 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> One full year, 1 credit

This course is designed to provide high school students the opportunity to practice the quote "All men are my teachers" as they learn how to research and argue professionally and participate in a variety of debates, including Policy Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Student Congress, Public Forum, and Mock Trials. It is also an excellent chance to evaluate and research what they believe from social issues such as immigration and socialism to biblical issues such as abortion and identity. All discussions will be given from a biblical perspective, with the goals being to respect those with differing viewpoints and to speak the truth in love. Students will be taught how to do in-depth research and analysis, write an argumentative case, deliver a rebuttal, have discussions about current, real-life issues in a diplomatic way, perform a cross-examination, and how to stand firm on what they believe while really seeking to understand and value those around them. Skills learned include reasoning, reading, writing, critical thinking, and speaking.

#### **ENGLISH FOUNDATIONS**

Prerequisite: None Required for 9<sup>th</sup> grade Full year, 1 credit

Grammar, communication skills, and literary analysis are integrated into this course to enhance the abilities of our students. English 9 concentrates on communicating effectively through speeches, in studying the structure of academic essay styles, and on grammatical form and technique. First semester will have students reading both a nonfiction biography and a Shakespearean drama. The second semester contains literature units on a poetic novella, Greek mythology/drama, and a historical fiction novel. Each unit throughout the year lays a foundation for further study of literature in the years to come. These literary forms are analyzed from a Christian worldview.

#### **HONORS ENGLISH 10**

Prerequisite: None

Required for 10th grade, unless taking American Literature

Full year, 1 credit

This course introduces the reading and writing strategies that will be studied in AP English. It focuses on a professional writing structure and requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students will learn to evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments as well as read literature through the eyes of the author and the characters presented in the text. Throughout the course, students will begin to develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students will 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 will begin reading literature from the AP Reading list and develop higher order thinking skills. This is an advanced English course for Sophomores only and is designed to be a bridge connecting Freshmen English to AP English courses.

#### SENIOR LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION

Prerequisite: None 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. APA essay writing will be used throughout the course. Students in this course will also complete the Senior Capstone project, in cooperation with our Bible Department.

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

Prerequisite: None

Required for 11th grade, unless taking an AP English course

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. APA essay formatting will be introduced and used throughout this course.

#### **YEARBOOK**

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

Students will gain proficiency in layout, design, copywriting, journalistic writing and interview practices, sales, and photography. Work outside of class is sometimes expected in order to photograph events, work on projects, and complete other yearbook business. Students practice organizational and time management skills in meeting deadlines, develop the soft skills needed for working as a team in a business-like environment, learn how to communicate with businesses for the purpose of sales transactions, and are responsible for every aspect of yearbook production. Multi-year enrollment in this course is encouraged, and returning students have the opportunity to take on leadership roles. There is an application process for this class. See Mrs. Crouson for more information.

#### 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 FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

ART

Prerequisite: None

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.

#### **CONCERT BAND**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

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.

#### **VOCAL MUSIC**

Prerequisite: None

Elective Full year

This course is designed to encourage each student to use his/her voice to honor and glorify God. Each choir student will 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.

#### HIGH SCHOOL FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS

#### **ACTING AND INTERPRETATION**

Prerequisites: None

Elective

One Semester, .5 Credit

This acting course provides students with opportunities for learning the basic techniques and skills of improv, dramatic, and comic performance, as well as the specific nuances of acting for the camera. In addition, time will be spent on theatrical analysis of comedic and dramatic works. Theatre games and exercises, monologues, and duet scenes are taught. Individuals are considered separately, but the majority of the work is group-oriented. As a final project, students will film a promotional video.

#### ADVANCED DRAWING

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

Elective

#### One Semester – .5 credit

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.

#### **CERAMICS**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

Elective

One Semester - .5 credit

Ceramic processes include 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.

#### **CHOIR**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

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.

#### FILM STUDIES

Prerequisites: None Elective for 11th, 12th One Semester, .5 Credit

This course explores a wide variety and range of film types and units of study, including film history, shot composition, scriptwriting basics, story mapping and editing techniques, and individual genre-based units of study. Additionally, students are introduced to basic script formatting, writing, "pitching," and rewriting skills. Focus includes the development of techniques for analysis in shot composition, story structure mapping, appreciation of silent and scored films, and character development through the visual medium of film. Students begin to analyze works of cinema, research film history and genres, and create original scripts using techniques studied in class. Students have the opportunity to submit a creative writing portfolio, pilot episode script, first act excerpt from a full-length motion picture screenplay, and/or original short film at the end of semester.

#### **GRAPHIC DESIGN**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> One Semester – .5 credit

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.

#### **INTRODUCTION TO ART**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

#### One Semester, .5 credit

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.

#### **JAZZ BAND**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

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.

#### **MUSIC THEORY**

Co-requisite: Band/Choir or Director Approval

Elective

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.

#### **PAINTING**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

Elective for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> One Semester, .5 credit

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

#### **PHOTOGRAPHY**

Prerequisite: Introduction to Art

Elective

One Semester - .5 credit

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.

#### SYMPHONY BAND

Prerequisite: None

Elective

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.

#### TECHNICAL THEATRE

Prerequisites: None

Elective

One Semester, .5 Credit

Technical Theatre is an introductory course which explores the backstage world of theatre. Students will investigate several areas of production and design from both a practical and a theoretical base. Technical elements studied include scenery (set), costumes, props, lights, sound, music, makeup. Additionally, students will create props, sets, and various other projects for the Spring Musical. As a capstone project, the Technical Theatre class will run the Secondary Fine Arts Spring Concert.

#### **VOCAL STUDIO**

Prerequisite - 1 year of choir, audition, teacher approval

Elective

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 taught in a studio setting. These students will compete at MSVMA competitions twice a year, as well as perform at concerts. They will begin building their Repertoire Portfolio which they will take with them for any continued performance or study. This course may culminate in a public recital performance.

#### 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  $\rightarrow$  Algebra 1  $\rightarrow$  Geometry  $\rightarrow$  Algebra 2

Algebra 1 → Geometry → Algebra 2 → Precalculus or Statistics or Financial Math

Algebra  $1 \rightarrow$  Geometry  $\rightarrow$  Algebra  $2 \rightarrow$  Precalculus  $\rightarrow$  AP Calculus or Statistics or Financial Math

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH - BIG IDEAS COURSE 1

Prerequisite: None

Full year

This course strengthens math foundational concepts and builds skill levels.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH - BIG IDEAS COURSE 2

Prerequisite: Big Ideas Course 1

Full year

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

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL MATH - BIG IDEAS COURSE 3

Prerequisite: Big Ideas Course 2

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.

#### **HIGH SCHOOL MATHEMATICS**

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CALCULUS AB

Prerequisite: Precalculus

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

This course is an introductory college-level course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students will accomplish this by using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions. This course has preparation for the Advanced Placement examination given in May.

#### ALGEBRA FOUNDATIONS

Prerequisite: None Elective for 9<sup>th</sup> grade 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: Big Ideas Course 3 or Algebra Foundations

Required

Full year, 1 credit

This course will serve as an introductory class that will prepare students for upper-level mathematics courses and will meet the State of Michigan graduation requirement for Algebra 1. The performance expectations of the course will focus on mathematical practices such as: making sense of problems and persevering to solve them, reasoning abstractly and quantitatively, critiquing the reasoning of others, developing and using models, and attending to precision. The course focuses on the real number system, expressions, equations, inequalities, functions, systems of equations and inequalities, linear relationships, exponential relationships, quadratic relationships, polynomials, probability, and data analysis.

#### ALGEBRA 2

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Required

Full year, 1 credit

This is an advanced algebra course which includes number systems, review of linear equations, polynomials, rational expressions, systems of equations and inequalities, functions, exponents, logarithms, trigonometry, conic sections, sequences, probability, and statistics. This course meets the State of Michigan graduation requirement for Algebra 2.

#### **BUSINESS FINANCE**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

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.

#### **GEOMETRY**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (unless taking concurrently with Algebra 1)

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.

#### **PERSONAL FINANCE**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

One semester, .5 credit

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

#### **PRECALCULUS**

Prerequisite: Geometry and Algebra 2

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

This course is designed for students with above average interest in Mathematics who are preparing for Calculus. Strong algebra skills are a must for taking on complicated operations with polynomial and rational functions. This course includes a thorough investigation of intercepts, asymptotes, and transformations, as well as sequences and series, conic sections, matrices, exponential and logarithmic functions, vectors, trigonometric identities, polar and parametric equations, limits, and an introduction to differential calculus.

#### **STATISTICS**

Prerequisite: Algebra 2

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

In this course students will study experimental design and data collection methods, analyze and interpret data using frequency distributions, graphs, normal distribution curves, confidence intervals, and linear regression equations. Students will perform hypothesis, correlation, and chi square tests. An in-depth study of probability and probability distributions will complete the course. Students will have the option (but not be required) to take the AP Statistics Exam at the conclusion of the course.

#### 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.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

#### PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Prerequisite: None

Required Full year

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.

#### HIGH SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

<u>HEALTH</u>

Prerequisite: None

Required

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

Prerequisite: None

Required

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.

#### WEIGHTLIFTING AND CONDITIONING

Prerequisite: One semester of Physical Education

Elective

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 activities designed to improve their agility and hand-eye coordination.

#### 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.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE

#### **INTEGRATED SCIENCE**

Prerequisite: None

Required Full year

This course introduces students to an integrated approach to studying science. Students will discover how the science disciplines are interrelated while introducing basic concepts and key ideas through experimentation and observation. They will then be challenged to apply their understanding to new situations or design a solution to a problem. Topics include: light and matter, thermal energy, weather and climate, plate tectonics and rock cycling, natural hazards, and contact forces. The course is taught from an inquiry lens where students learn through experiments and apply their learning to real-world situations.

#### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite: None

Required Full year

This course continues the student's journey of understanding science in an integrated way. Students will experiment and observe the world around them to learn important facts and concepts related to each area of study. They will then be challenged to apply their understanding to new situations or design a solution to a problem. Topics include: chemical reactions, resources and human impact, sound, forces at a distance, and Earth's place in the universe. The course is taught from an inquiry lens where students learn through experiments and apply their learning to real-world situations.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SCIENCE

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) CHEMISTRY

Prerequisite: Chemistry and Biology

Elective

#### Full year, 1 credit, Offered every other year (next offering in 2025-2026 school year)

This advanced chemistry course builds on the foundations of Chemistry 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.

#### ANATOMY & PHYSIOLOGY

Prerequisite: Biology

Elective

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.

#### 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.

#### **CHEMISTRY**

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (75% or higher) and Biology

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

Scientists learn by doing: they construct and deploy models of the real world and test their ability to predict new phenomena. This course will give you the opportunity to be the chemist and replicate this process as you conduct experiments, collect data and construct models that offer insight into the field of chemistry— the particle world and how it behaves. This course will prepare you to observe the world more accurately and thoroughly; to understand clearly what you have observed and to express what you know in speech and writing.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite: Biology

Elective

One Semester, .5 credit

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

One Semester, .5 credit

A forensic scientist's job is two fold: the processing and analysis of evidence (science), and communicating the findings of your investigation as an expert witness in court (forensics). This course will give you the opportunity to be the forensic investigator as you learn and are equipped with the tools and methods necessary to process crime scenes, analyze evidence, and present your findings as the expert witness. Through

inquiry-based activities and mock crime scene analysis, you'll learn the basics of crime scene processing and evidence documentation as well as the specific topics of fingerprinting, handwriting and document analysis, firearms/ballistics, drugs/poisons/toxicology, blood/blood spatter analysis, as well as DNA analysis. This course will prepare you to observe the world more accurately and thoroughly; to understand clearly what you have observed and to express what you know in speech and writing.

#### **GEOPHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Prerequisite: None

Elective for 10th, 11th or 12th

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.

**PHYSICS** 

Prerequisite: Biology, Geometry

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

Scientists learn by doing: they construct and deploy models of the real world and test their ability to predict new phenomena. This course will give you the opportunity to be a physicist and replicate this process as you conduct experiments, collect data and construct models that offer insight into the field of mechanical physics- the relationships between energy, force, matter, and motion among physical objects. This course will prepare you to observe the world more accurately and thoroughly; to understand clearly what you have observed and to express what you know in speech and writing.

### 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."

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

#### **WORLD HISTORY**

Prerequisite: None

Required 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.

#### **AMERICAN HISTORY**

Prerequisite: None

Required 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.

#### HIGH SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) PSYCHOLOGY

Prerequisite: None

Elective

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.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) US GOVERNMENT

Prerequisite: World History and US History Required, unless taking 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.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) US HISTORY

Prerequisite: World History

Required, unless taking 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' critical 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) WORLD HISTORY

Prerequisite: None

Required, unless taking World History

Full year, 1 credit

This course is structured to cover the same framework as the general World History course. This course places emphasis on preparation for the end-of-year AP Exam in May as an additional objective. This exam enables students to earn college credits as well as high school credit. Students will be challenged to write effective argumentative essays to prove their positions, develop critical reasoning, and learn how to effectively analyze and annotate college-level material. This class begins by building a picture of the world c. 1200 AD while exploring the first efforts toward a connected world and progresses through the modern global age. Course topics include: Major world empires, the growth of trade networks, political and social shifts of the 16<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, global conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, and concludes with the successes and challenges of the 21<sup>st</sup> century world.

#### **ECONOMICS**

Prerequisite: World History and US History

Required

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.

#### **PSYCHOLOGY**

Prerequisite: None

Elective for 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> One semester, .5 credit

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

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.

#### **US GOVERNMENT**

Prerequisite: None

Required, unless taking 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.

#### **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

Prerequisite: None

Required, unless taking 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.

#### **WORLD HISTORY**

Prerequisite: None

Required, unless taking AP World History

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.

#### **TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS DEPARTMENT**

As technology becomes an ever-present and rapidly evolving aspect of our lives, it's crucial for students to be proficient with computers in the 21st century. The key is ensuring that their use of technology is guided by strong moral and ethical principles rooted in Scripture. The courses provided in this department aim to equip students with a thorough understanding of contemporary hardware and software. Students will have the chance to apply what they've learned in real-world scenarios, exploring potential God-given talents in the field, equipping them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

**Computer Requirements**: Laptop with i5 or better processor, and Windows 10 or 11 Operating System minimum. Chromebooks, Tablets, and Apple devices are not advised. Students are responsible to make alternate arrangements to complete assignments due to any device incapacities.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL CODING

Prerequisite: None

Elective Full year

Ignite your passion for learning to code using Minecraft: Education Edition and Replit. This is a game-based learning platform that offers an engaging way to code using block-based coding and Python and Java. You will also be introduced to 3D printing using a 3D pen and printer. Tinkercad will be taught as a way to 3D print. Requirements: Laptop with i5 or better processor, 7th generation or newer, Windows 10 Operating System. Chromebooks or Apple products are not compatible.

#### HIGH SCHOOL TECHNOLOGY AND BUSINESS

#### **BUSINESS TECHNOLOGY I**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

One semester, .5 credit

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, 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: CYBER TECHNOLOGY**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

One semester, .5 credit

This dynamic and comprehensive course dives deep into the realm of cyber technology, focusing on the critical aspects of security, ethical conduct, and the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) in today's digital world. This enriched curriculum is meticulously designed for a broad audience, from beginners to advanced professionals, aiming to cultivate a deep understanding and practical skills in cyber technology, digital security, ethical online behavior, AI applications, and creating compelling digital content including websites, digital portfolios, podcasts, and blogs.

#### **COMPUTER SCIENCE PRINCIPLES**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

Leveraging Python® as their main instrument, students will dive into the core principles of programming, including data management, cybersecurity, and automating tasks, all while fostering an environment of inclusivity, safety, and ethical practices in computing. This course is designed to enhance computational thinking and introduce the basics of coding, alongside computational tools that encourage creative problem-solving. Through Computer Science Principles, students gain proficiency in programming and deepen their understanding of the Internet's mechanics. Engaging in various projects, learners will tackle challenges such as developing applications, visualizing data, enhancing cybersecurity measures, and creating simulations.

#### **CYBERSECURITY**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

Dive into the world of cybersecurity with this engaging course designed for high school students, where you'll learn to identify cyber threats, defend against attacks, and safeguard personal and organizational data. Through practical exercises and real-world scenarios, you'll gain valuable skills in detecting intrusions, responding to cyber incidents, and understanding the importance of a strong digital footprint. This course not only prepares you for a potential career in the booming field of cybersecurity but also teaches you to adopt an ethical approach to data defense in today's interconnected world. Whether you're looking to protect your own information or aiming for a future in securing corporate data, this course offers the foundational knowledge and skills you need to navigate the complex cybersecurity landscape.

#### **ENGINEERING ESSENTIALS**

Prerequisite: None

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

Embark on an inspiring journey with our Engineering Essentials course, designed to showcase how engineers can significantly impact and improve lives through innovation. This course provides an in-depth exploration of modern engineering tools, including Geographic Information Systems (GIS), 3-D solid modeling software, and prototyping equipment, empowering students to tackle real-world challenges. This immersive program not only introduces students to fundamental engineering concepts relevant across multiple disciplines but also equips them with the practical skills needed for a future in engineering innovation and leadership.

#### ESSENTIALS OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prerequisite: None

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

This course offers a comprehensive journey for students into the world of business creation, management, and growth. Starting with the identification of entrepreneurial characteristics, the guide advances through the complexities of how innovation fuels the start of entrepreneurial endeavors. As students progress, they delve into critical subjects such as financial accounting, business ethics, marketing, and product development, equipping them with the knowledge to successfully navigate and sustain a business venture.

#### WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

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.

#### MIDDLE SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES

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

Prerequisite - None

Elective

Full Year

Students will receive an introduction to world cultures and languages. This course introduces students to the foundations of languages, emphasizing communication and cultural awareness. They will learn vocabulary and communicative phrases using listening, speaking, and writing skills. The students will be introduced to a variety of cultural aspects including: cultural celebrations, historical events, influential people, geography, and food.

#### GRADE EIGHT WORLD LANGUAGES

Prerequisite - None

Elective

Quarter

Students will continue to delve into cultures and languages around the world. This course discusses the foundations of languages, communication, and cultural awareness. Students will learn vocabulary and communicative phrases using listening, speaking, and writing skills. The students will be introduced to a variety of cultural aspects including: cultural celebrations, historical events, influential people, geography, and food.

#### HIGH SCHOOL WORLD LANGUAGES

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) SPANISH LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Prerequisite - Spanish IV

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 Spanish Culture and be able to use the language in real life settings. Families in Different Societies, The Influences of Language and Culture on Identity, Influences of Beauty and Art, How Science and Technology Affect Our Lives, Factors That Impact Quality of Life, Environmental, Political, and Societal Challenges. 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.

#### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) SPANISH LITERATURE AND CULTURE

Prerequisite - Spanish IV

Elective

Full year, 1 credit

This course presents a thematic approach to the study of Spanish literature and culture. The readings span from medieval to modern times, allowing students to examine the universality of literature, and make comparisons and connections through historical and contemporary cultural contexts. Students will explore the interdisciplinary connections between literary works and other artistic forms of expression such as music, painting, architecture, and film. This course prepares students to read and critically analyze representative works of Spanish literature in all genres. Students will focus on the terminology of textual analysis, learn to identify the different elements of style, and interpret texts in correct oral and written Spanish. All the works from the required reading list for AP Spanish Literature and Culture exam are read in full text form. All instruction, discussion, and writing are in Spanish to support the development of students' language proficiency necessary for success in this course and the AP Spanish Literature and Culture exam.

#### FRENCH 1

Prerequisite - None

Satisfies HS World Language Requirement

Full Year, 1 credit

This class gives beginning students the vocabulary necessary to communicate on a basic level with French speakers on a variety of familiar subjects such as school, home, activities, etc. The student will learn how to formulate sentences and dialogue through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Cultural activities will accompany language lessons to acquaint students with food, history, artistic expression, and diversity of the French speaking world.

#### **GERMAN 1**

Prerequisite - None

Satisfies HS World Language Requirement

Full Year, 1 credit

This course is an introduction to the German language that includes reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills. It covers basic vocabulary and grammar. Students will master the sound system of German, correctly pronounce new words, communicate in basic social situations, read, and understand narratives. They will write sentences, paragraphs, or short letters with correct grammar. Culture and geography of Germany and its German speaking neighbors are incorporated into each unit of study.

#### **GERMAN II**

Prerequisite - German I

Satisfies HS World Language Requirement

Full Year, 1 credit

This course builds on the language skills attained in German I and will lead to an increase of language proficiency in the German language. The students will demonstrate solid elementary proficiency in the following areas: They will be able to express themselves in German through writing and speaking utilizing advanced vocabulary and grammar skills. They will express their opinions and preferences, sustain conversation on familiar topics, ask for information for routine problem-solving situations, and exhibit reading and aural comprehension skills by understanding details of conversations or narratives. The students will further increase their knowledge in the cultural, historical, and social aspects of the German language.

#### **GERMAN III**

Prerequisite - German II

Elective

Full Year, 1 credit

This course builds on the language skills attained in German II and will lead to an increase of language proficiency in the German language. 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 exposed to a variety of literary texts and material that deals with global aspects, families and communities, contemporary life, science and technology, and beauty and aesthetics.

**GERMAN IV** 

Prerequisite: German III

Elective

Full Year, 1 credit

This course builds on the language skills attained in German III and will lead to an increase of language proficiency in the German language. 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 exposed to a variety of literary texts and material that deals with global aspects, families and communities, contemporary life, science and technology, and beauty and aesthetics.

#### SPANISH I

Prerequisite - None

Satisfies HS World Language Requirement

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

Satisfies HS World Language Requirement

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 themselves in Spanish through writing and speaking. They will express 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 the Hispanic people and 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 should 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 and understand the written text.

#### 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 literature, prose, and poetry in the Spanish language, as well as other facets of the culture and history of the Spanish-speaking world. They will make connections between their backgrounds and Hispanic culture. 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 and understand the written text.

#### 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 11th or 12th

#### 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 11th or 12th

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

Students 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.

#### **ONLINE COURSES**

Prerequisite - None

Elective

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

Students have the opportunity to take a variety of AP or elective courses online while interacting in a PCA classroom.

## Plymouth Christian Academy

Learning, Leadership & Service