**Willamette Valley Christian School**

**High School Course Descriptions**

**(updated fall 2023)**

**LANGUAGE ARTS**

**ENGLISH I**

**Grade 9 (Full Year)**

English I will focus on building strong writing skills. Students will practice these skills through in-class activities and various writing assignments with particular attention paid to the 6-traits writing foundation in the basic four modes of writing: descriptive, narrative, persuasive, and expository. Students will also be introduced to a variety of literary forms: short story, novel, poetry, and drama. The focus of literature will be on three divisions: marks of literature (imaginative comparisons, sound and syntax, and thought and theme), the modes of literature (allusions, symbols, and irony), and the forms of literature (biography, short fiction, lyric poetry, drama, and personal essay). In addition, students will be exposed to the classics through such novel units as *Great Expectations*. Vocabulary, spelling, grammar, and punctuation will also be studied to reinforce writing, reading, and communication skills.

**ENGLISH II**

**Grade 10 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: English I**

English II will continue student exposure to a variety of literary forms: short story, novel, poetry, and drama. The students will practice written forms of expression, concentrating on the four modes of writing: narrative, descriptive, expository, and persuasive while focusing on the 6-traits of writing and developing their own voice and style. Students will also study the fundamentals of prose and poetry (conflict, character, theme, point of view, moral tone, meter, and rhyme). In addition, class novel units will be incorporated. In order to reinforce basic communication skills, students will continue in vocabulary and spelling as well as grammar and punctuation.

**ENGLISH III**

**Grade 11 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: English II**

English III is designed to help the student improve communication through the written word by mastering advanced writing and reading skills, while studying American literature. Novel units will focus on such classics as *The Scarlet Letter* and *To Kill a Mockingbird.* The course will also reinforce basic communication skills in the forms of vocabulary, grammar, and speaking and will improve critical thinking skills through reading, evaluation and writing about literature. Focus will also be on developing the students’ voice and style in writing. MLA style documentation will be taught through a formal research paper.

**ENGLISH IV**

**Grade 12 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: English III**

English IV combines British Literature and Composition for the college-bound student, including an increased use of literary criticism. Students will study several authors and novels using analytical writing and reading skills. Novel units will focus on such classics as *The Tale of Two Cities* and *Lord of the Flies.* Throughout the year, students will be enhancing their essay writing skills through the modes of narrative, descriptive, literary analysis, comparison/contrast, and a peer-reviewed summary. The students will also prepare an expository or persuasive paper or project to combine with a formal speech and powerpoint presentation as part of the students’ senior project.

**Concurrent Credit College Writing: (credits through Northwest University)**

**COURSE PREREQUISITES**:

Successful completion of Junior English including the study of American literature. Students must meet minimum writing/grammar skills as approved by the WVCS English instructor.

**COURSE TITLE: ENGL 1013 COMPOSITION I**

**CREDIT HOURS: 3**

This course develops the written skills and cognitive processes necessary for the production of effective discourse. Through the study of British literature, novel units, short stories and poetry, students will develop critical reading skills and write formal and informal essays in response to their readings using the MLA style guide. This course will also expand the writing process to include meta-writing, multiple drafts, and revision and editing techniques. In addition to possessing a clear command of the outcomes necessary for successful completion of ENGL 1013, students will participate in editing activities, reading responses, process drafts, multiple revisions, and other writing-intensive activities.

**COURSE TITLE: ENGL 1023 COMPOSITION II**

**CREDIT HOURS: 3**

This course enables students to sharpen critical and analytical thinking skills through reading and writing. The course enables students to develop research skills using library and internet research to develop the ability to analyze and present arguments. Although students compare Modern Language Association (MLA) and American Psychological Association (APA) formats, the writing standard for this course is the APA format.

**Spanish I**

**Grade 9 (Full Year)**

Spanish I is an introductory high school class for students to develop Spanish conversational skills. Students will practice greetings, verbs, conjugations, vocabulary, and verses in order to be able to communicate with Spanish speakers. Being able to communicate in another language is a beautiful opportunity to love others and to share the hope we have in Christ Jesus. This course will attempt to include many real life experiences in the class to enhance memory and appreciation of the language and culture of Spanish speaking people.

**Spanish II**

**Grade 10 (Full Year)**

This is a yearlong course in Spanish language and culture. Students will learn correct pronunciation, present, past and future tense conjugations and heighten their ability to converse through daily vocabulary review, dialogue practice, listening and interacting with audio, and memorizing Scripture. Being able to communicate in another language is a beautiful opportunity to love others and to share the hope we have in Christ Jesus. This course will attempt to include many real life experiences in the class to enhance memory and appreciation of the language and culture of Spanish speaking people.

**ASL (American Sign Language)**

**Grades 9-10**

American Sign Language is an introduction to sign language. This class includes basic grammar, vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, and cultural information related to the Deaf Community. This course is a two-year course designed to develop the skills, knowledge and understanding of the Deaf Community and its culture.

**Speech**

**Grade 12 (One Semester)**

In this class students will be instructed in different styles and formats of public speaking and presentations. This will include the processes necessary for students to present thorough and comprehensive communication, including research, information organization, written preparation, and oral presentation methods. This course is specifically designed to complement and prepare the senior students for their Senior Project presentation to be given at the end of the first semester.

**Computer Literacy**

**Grade 12 (One Semester)**

This course will provide an introduction to PowerPoint for design, digital photography, toolbar functions, text manipulation and special effects, and the use of PowerPoint as part of their senior project. Students will use HTML and demonstrate the ability to create a basic web page using HTML code (Head, Title, Body), add images to a page, add content to web page, create a hyperlink on a page, create background and font color, and link to a downloadable file on a web page. Students will use Microsoft Excel and a set of data to create worksheet-data entry, charts and graphs.

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

**Geography**

**Grade 9 (Full Year)**

The study of World Geography focuses on the relationships among people, places, and environments that result in geographic patterns on the earth. Students will use geographic methods to compare and analyze landforms, climates, and natural resources, as well as cultural, political, economic, and religious characteristics of the world regions. Students will use a variety of interdisciplinary sources, both primary and secondary, such as maps, pictures, and documents to learn about the geography of different world regions.

**World History**

**Grade 10 (Full Year)**

This course explores world history beginning with the ancient civilizations of Egypt and Mesopotamia, continuing through classical Greece and Rome, medieval Europe, the Renaissance, the Enlightenment, the Industrial Revolution, and concluding with the modern world. This is primarily a survey course; however, because of the complexities of the study of history, students will be expected to know and understand different historical perspectives. In addition, students will understand the broad purpose of the study of history and some of the forces that shaped western historiography.

**United States History**

**Grade 11 (Full Year)**

This course will cover the entire scope of United States history from the early exploration of North America to the year 2016. This is mainly a survey course; however, because of the complexities of the study of history, students will be expected to understand and explain differing historical interpretations in American history. In addition, students will understand the broad purpose of the study of history and some of the forces that shaped American historiography.

**American Government**

**Grade 12 (One Semester)**

This course seeks to prepare students to be informed American citizens. Students will begin by learning about different forms of government throughout history and around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the moral basis for government, and the process which led to the adoption of the U.S. Constitution, as well as American political parties, policies and politics.

**Contemporary Issues**

**Grade 12 (One Semester)**

This course is designed for students to examine the various religious, social and ethical issues of our day through the lens of multiple worldviews which students will study and analyze in class. These include Theism, Naturalism, Humanism, Nihilism, Existentialism, Eastern Monism, and Postmodernism. Ultimately, however, the orienting perspective of this class from which we will approach the material is the Christian worldview.

**BIBLE**

**Grade 7 & 8 (Odd Years/Even Years)**

**Old Testament Survey / New Testament Survey**

The student will develop an understanding of the Bible as a whole. The major historical periods, characters, and events of the Old Testament/New Testament will be discussed and applied to the Christian walk today. The goal will be for the student to fall in love with the Bible and see how relevant it is today.

**Grades 9 & 10 (Odd Years)**

**Survey of the Life of Jesus Christ and the book of Acts**

The student will develop an understanding of the life of Jesus Christ. The student will learn the basic geography of the Holy land and the culture of 1st century Judaism. The life of Christ will be studied along with the life of the disciples and how they led the early church.

**Grades 9 & 10 (Even Years)**

**Essential Christian Doctrine and the Parables of Christ**

This study will focus on the 16 essential doctrines of Christianity, what they mean and why they are important. Time will be given to explore other “non-essential” doctrines in an attempt to understand why there are so many Christian denominations. The remainder of the class will be spent learning about the many parables that Jesus used in His teaching.

**Grades 11 & 12 (Odd Years)**

**Christian Spiritual Disciplines and Advanced Theology**

The first part of the year will be an overview of the major biblical disciplines and how to use them for spiritual growth. Time will be spent in class practicing those spiritual disciplines for proficiency. The second part of the class will survey the major theological teachings of the Bible.

**Grades 11 & 12 (Even Years)**

**How to Defend the Bible and How to Study the Bible**

This class will focus on teaching students how to defend their faith. Students will know what Christians believe and why and be prepared to give an answer for the hope that lies within them. Lastly; students will learn how to study the Bible. This will help in their understanding and application of future Bible passages in the rest of their lives. Students will also be able to conduct their own personal Bible studies. The book of Philippians will be used as our sample study.

**SCIENCE**

**Physical Science**

**Grade 9 (Full Year)**

Physical Science is an overview course which deals with the study of earth and geology, space, chemistry, and physics. Topics include plate tectonics, mountain structure and formation, rock identification and classification, the nature of the solar system, stars, galaxies, and deep space objects, history of space exploration, meteorology, composition of matter and the relationships between matter and energy, stoichiometry, Newtonian laws of matter and motion, forces, sound, light, and electromagnetism.

Students learn essential skills in laboratory work, measurement in the metric system, accuracy in measurements, problem solving and graphing. Learning techniques include laboratory experiments, demonstrations, class discussion and problem solving.

**General Biology**

**Grade 10 (Full Year)**

Biology is a class that covers the essential topics of cell biology, including prokaryotic and eukaryotic cells, organelles and their functions, cellular metabolic processes, cellular division, and cellular membrane processes, of genetics, including Mendelian laws, punnett squares, the nature of DNA, replication transcription, and protein synthesis, mutations and mutagens, and biotechnology of taxonomy, including microbiology, botany and zoology, and of origins biology, including Darwinian evolution, punctuated equilibrium, intelligent design and Creationism, as well as critical critiques of all of these. Format is primarily lecture and discussion, with weekly reading assignments, written assignments, and a minimum of two weekly labs added to reinforce lecture. Use of the microscope is an emphasized laboratory technique and laboratory work also includes dissection, DNA extraction and problem solving.

**Human Biology**

**Grades 11-12 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: General Biology**

Human Biology is a university level introductory course to functional anatomy and physiology. The course will cover a review of Biology and Chemistry as it pertains to Human Systems, terminology, the relationships of structure to function, the anatomy, physiology, diseases of, and interrelations among organ systems, and the relationship of each organ system to homeostasis. In addition, students will be taught the techniques of dissection and laboratory testing, clinical analysis through case study, and careers in the health field. May be used for Health II credit.

**Forensics**

**Grade 11-12 (Full year)**

Students in this Forensic Science course will develop knowledge in the core disciplinary ideas of forensics, including evidence gathering, interdisciplinary scientific methodologies (e.g. biology, chemistry, and physics) for analysis, and the development of a fair and reasonable picture of what happened.

**MATHEMATICS**

**Algebra I (Full Year)**

In this class students will learn how to understand, execute and integrate foundational algebra skills. Emphasis is placed on algebraic forms, functions, linear and quadratic expressions, powers and roots, and real-world applications. Graphing calculators are introduced and used primarily in the second semester.

**Geometry (Full Year)**

Students will extend their experiences with concrete applications of congruence, proportional reasoning and measurement to a more abstract level. They will develop criteria for triangle congruence and develop formal proofs. Students will formalize the criteria for similarity of triangles and apply this to indirect measurement strategies including the Pythagorean Theorem, right triangle trigonometry and the Laws of Sines and Cosines. They will apply analytic (coordinate) geometry to work with parallel and perpendicular lines and properties of quadrilaterals and circles, and connect geometric figures with algebraic equations.

**Algebra II/Advanced Algebra (Full Year)**

Students will use functions to model and solve real-world problems. They will represent polynomial (linear, quadratic and cubic emphasized), exponential and logarithmic, radical and rational, and trigonometric functions with symbols, graphs, words and data. Students will use polynomial (linear, quadratic and cubic emphasized), exponential and logarithmic, radical and rational, and trigonometric functions to model and solve real-world problems. Students will identify normal data distributions and apply z-scores as a measure of spread. They will find probabilities of events using geometric models, appropriate counting strategies and formulas. Students will also have the opportunity to review basic right triangle trigonometry and apply the law of sines and the law of cosines to non-right triangles.

**Financial Algebra**

**Grades 11-12 (Full Year)**

The *Financial Algebra* curriculum will provide students with step-by-step strategies to review and strengthen algebra mechanics and problem-solving skills, while at the same time teaching advanced mathematics topics. The students will become familiar with six financial topics: investing, banking, credit, income taxes, insurance and household budgeting.

**For an additional fee, students have the option to enroll in Chemeketa’s College Credit Now program to receive 10 concurrent college credits.**

**Pre-Calculus (Full Year) Prerequisite: Earn a C or better in Algebra II/Advanced Algebra**

**MTH 111 College Algebra (5 credits)**

This course studies functions and related inequalities using a graphing calculator. It focuses on polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic and related piecewise defined functions. It includes a study of the complex number system, the algebra of functions, the applications of functions in sequences and series. High-order linear systems will be solved using a calculator **MTH 112 Trigonometry (5 credits)**

This course is a precalculus course covering trigonometric functions, conic sections, vectors, parametric equations, and polar coordinates, with emphasis on applications and graphing calculators.

**Calculus (Full Year) Prerequisite: Earn a C or better in Precalculus**

**MTH 251 Differential Calculus (5 credits)**

This course prepares students for further study in mathematics, sciences, engineering and other technical areas. It covers limits, continuity, rates of change, and derivatives with applications. It introduces the indefinite integral.

**MTH 252 Integral Calculus (5 credits)**

This course covers the development of definite and indefinite integrals, the fundamental theorem of calculus, applications of integrals, constructing functions from their rates of change, and techniques of integration. It introduces differential equations.

**CAREER EDUCATION**

**Career I**

**Grade 9 (One Semester)**

One semester credit class designed to give students an overview of daily living and how to manage their life with basic skills once they have moved out on their own. Areas to be covered in class will include, but are not limited to, shopping, cooking, cleaning, sewing, budgeting and preserving memories. We will also touch on other miscellaneous areas as time allows.

**Career II**

**Grade 10 (One Semester)**

Students will be exploring various career options through personal research and community speakers. A college/career portfolio will be a major focus of this class; students will be required to create their own resume, and continue maintaining the portfolio through both their junior and senior years.

**Career III**

**Grade 11 (One Semester)**

Students will be building a college/career portfolio. Information to be covered includes, but is not limited to, SAT practice, college entrance essay writing, financial aid, FAFSA, scholarships, and on-campus college visits. The portfolio will prepare the students for colleges and careers in today’s world, what it takes to be successful, and the preparation needed to achieve one’s goals. Students will go through the process of applying to a college, creating their own resume, and learning about entrepreneurship and business options. As a class, we will visit a variety of local colleges during the school year. A minimum of four hours of job shadowing in a prospective career field will be required of each student.

**Business**

**Grade 12 (One Semester)**

Students will continue building a college/career portfolio. The portfolio will prepare the students for colleges and careers in today’s world by guiding them through what it takes to be successful and how to prepare for what is needed to achieve one’s goals. In preparation for the career world, the students will learn about entrepreneurship and business options and will be asked to create and run a business simulation within the school which will require them to participate in business decision making, team building, and financial planning.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION / HEALTH**

**Physical Education**

**Grades 9-12 (Full Year)**

Team and individual sports, aerobic activities, strength and flexibility, and group games are used to allow students to develop skills that will allow them to increase and enhance their physical activity and understand why these activities are beneficial for their health. Students learn to apply these skills in the culminating activity of creating their own workout and nutrition plan.

**Weights**

**Grades 9-12 (Full Year)**

In this class students will develop skills that will allow them to increase and enhance their muscular strength and endurance and understand why it is beneficial for their health.

**Health**

**Grades 9-10 (One Semester Each)**

Health is a class that will examine lifestyle and decision making for children and adults. Course is divided into modules that study drug alcohol and tobacco, recognition, prevention, and treatment, nutrition, physical activity, and an introduction to athletic injuries, communicable disease recognition, prevention, and treatment, mental health issues, community and environmental health, and reproductive health and decision making. These courses will approach all of these topics from a specifically Christian worldview.

**ELECTIVES**

**Art**

**Grade 11-12 (One Semester)**

The purpose of this course is to present basic art, learn to appreciate God’s creation, and explore our creativity given to us by Him through the learning of drawing, painting, crafting, and art history.

**Culinary Arts**

**Grades 9-12 (One Semester)**

The purpose of this course is to present basic culinary arts skills, learn to appreciate God’s creation, and explore our creativity through cooking, baking, grocery shopping, and keeping a clean work environment. Students will be required to complete a food handler’s certificate.

**Choir (9th period before school)**

**Grades (middle school/high school**

This course consists of an early morning class before school and will focus on learning about the physical anatomy of your singing instrument and how the whole body has a part in creating your musicality. You will develop musical skills including sight reading rhythm, melody, and harmony as well as creating and performing a variety of choral literature, becoming aware of context.

**Drama (after school program)**

**Grades 9-12 (Full Year)**

This course will include the practice and set design for a formal spring performance.

**Home Design (One Semester)**

Students will explore their creativity in the field of home design. Identification of the elements and principles of design are emphasized. Other topics included are furniture arrangement basics, floor plan evaluation, area planning, building design, and careers.

**Worship**

**Grades 9-12 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: Interview with instructor. Instrumentalists must also have taken or be currently enrolled in private lessons.**

Students will expand their musical skills as they learn to lead and facilitate worship as a team. They will rehearse daily in preparation for middle school and high school chapels each week. Opportunities include singing, playing piano, acoustic or electric guitar, bass guitar and drums.

### Videography

**Grade 9-12 (Full Year)**

This class will focus on developing the skills necessary to create a high-quality video production. These skills include basic post-production special effects using Adobe After Effects, audio enhancements via Adobe Audition or free equivalents, and video editing through Adobe Premier and DaVinci Resolve. Moreover, this class will go over the processes of production which include story-boarding, script writing, cinematography, lighting, audio and other miscellaneous tasks and skills. All involved students will be expected to participate as actors in production and subsequently skills related to acting on film will be addressed.

**Yearbook**

**Grade 9-12 (Full Year)**

**Prerequisite: Teacher references and interview**

The yearbook is an extension and a historical account of our school that will represent Willamette Valley Christian School for generations to come. As a class, students work as a team to document the current year for a lifetime of memories for the students and families.