Course Descriptions

2014 - 2015

48 Bartlett Avenue
Lexington, MA  02420
English Courses

Overview of middle school language arts program:

The middle school language arts program weaves together four strands of language learning: literature, grammar, vocabulary, and writing. Emphasis is on enjoying the play of words in literature and in everyday speech, on honing self-editing and rewriting skills, and gaining an ever-greater command of the English language for both written and oral communications. Students study a variety of literature including poetry, short stories, novels, non-fiction, and drama.

Language & Literature 6 Grade 6

In Language & Literature 6, students focus on the overarching theme of “The Search for Self. Students will analyze literature by genre including mythology, poetry, and novels with an emphasis on the techniques used by professional writers for communicating effectively. Students are taught a variety of reading strategies to develop greater comprehension of and appreciation for good literature, drawing connections between literature and their lives, while also encouraging the continued development of reading for pleasure. The writing program is a “Writer’s Workshop” approach focusing on the 6 Traits of Writing: organization, idea development, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Writing assignments will often be a response to literature, primarily including paragraph, essay, and creative writing. Major projects may include essays, research and multimedia presentations, and creative visual projects, with an emphasis on the development of both oral and written communication using 21st century literacy skills. Assessments are geared to giving students a firm foundation in all of the components required in language arts.

Language & Literature 7 Grade 7

Language and Literature 7 will focus on the overarching theme of “The Search for our Role in Community.” Students analyze literature by genre including non-fiction, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels with an emphasis on the techniques used by professional writers for communicating effectively. Students are taught a variety of reading strategies to develop greater comprehension of and appreciation for good literature, drawing connections between literature and their lives, while also encouraging the continued development of reading for pleasure.

The writing program is a “Writer’s Workshop” approach focusing on the 6 Traits of Writing: organization, idea development, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Writing assignments will often be a response to literature, primarily including essay and creative writing. Major projects may include writing a short story, a screenplay, oral interpretations, multimedia presentations, and creative visual projects.
Language & Literature 8

Language & Literature 8 will focus on the overarching theme of “The Search for Justice and Redemption” by reading a variety of literature from many cultures and places in the world. Students analyze literature by genre including non-fiction, short stories, poetry, drama, and novels with an emphasis on the techniques used by professional writers for communicating effectively. Students are taught a variety of reading strategies to develop greater comprehension of and appreciation for good literature, drawing connections between literature and their lives, while also encouraging the continued development of reading for pleasure.

The writing program is a “Writer’s Workshop” approach focusing on the 6 Traits of Writing: organization, idea development, voice, sentence fluency, word choice, and conventions. Writing assignments will often be a response to literature, primarily including essay and creative writing. Major projects may include a “This I Believe” essay and presentation, multimedia presentations, creative visual projects, and an extensive multi-genre portfolio project on WW II in conjunction with U.S. History. Students will use a variety of technology tools including Interactive Study Guides, WebQuests, and wikis to enhance their knowledge and skills. Assessments will be geared toward preparing students for the rigor of high school English classes.

Foundations of Language and Literature

Foundations of Language and Literature is a college preparatory course which focuses on communication skills and literature. Literature is taught as a genre study with emphasis on literary forms and techniques. Students will be challenged to apply to their lives the ideas presented in the literature. They will develop their Christian world-and-life-view as they are guided through materials written by both Christian and non-Christian authors. The works have recognized literary merit in the literary canon and address a variety of themes.

Communication skills will be taught through grammar, vocabulary, public speaking, essay and research writing, and creative projects. The emphasis in all areas is on using language Christianly; that is, honestly and effectively to build up other people and to glorify God.
World Literature – CP & H

Grade 10
1 Credit

World Literature is a survey course in world literature and culture. Students study masterpieces of world literature in translation, analyzing the role of cultural and historical placement, the world- and life-view of the author, and the relationship between literature and their own lives. Students continue to develop their Christian perspective as they are guided through materials by both Christian and non-Christian authors. The works to be studied have status in the literary canon, address a variety of themes, and present various historical periods, cultures, and geographical locations.

Skills will be taught primarily through the writing of essays, research papers, and oral presentations. Students will master language mechanics, diversify sentence structure and build vocabulary to prepare the students for the SAT and other related tests. The emphasis in all areas is on using language Christianly; that is, honestly and effectively in order to edify other people and to glorify God.

Admission to the honors course is by invitation only. Transfer students will be required to submit a writing sample for review by the English department. The pace of the honors course is noticeably faster; more texts are covered; writing is more intensive, with a focus on close, argumentative analysis.

American Literature – CP & H

Grade 11
1 Credit

American Literature is a survey of American literature and a communication skills course. Students will explore the major epochs in American literary history and develop a comprehensive understanding of American culture and philosophy by studying the literature that each era produced. Students will learn to think critically about the American worldview by reading the works of both Christian and non-Christian authors from each time period, analyzing their works in light of biblical truth. All the works selected have outstanding literary merit, address a variety of themes and represent a wide range of cultural viewpoints.

Students will develop their communication skills in a variety of ways. They will study vocabulary and grammar, design and give oral presentations, write and revise analytical essays and research papers and prepare for the SAT. In addition, honors-level students will begin to prepare for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Test. All writing and language skills assignments are designed to further the student’s ability to use the gift of language to the glory of God.

Admission to the honors course is by invitation only. Transfer students will be required to submit a writing sample for review by the English department. The pace of the honors course is noticeably faster; more texts are covered; writing is more intensive, with a focus on close, argumentative analysis. Students will also begin preparation for the Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition Test; however, taking this course does not ensure an invitation into Advanced Placement British Literature.
AP English Language & Composition  Grade 11
1.25 Credit

The purpose of the AP English Language and Composition course is to enable students to read complex texts with understanding and to write prose of sufficient richness and complexity to communicate effectively with mature readers. Students will be encouraged to move beyond an emphasis on writing structure toward an emphasis on content, purpose, and audience, which will guide the organization of their writing. In this class, students will read a significant amount of nonfiction prose and will study the rhetorical devices of these essays and personal narratives. Added to this study of rhetoric and composition is a blend of poetry, short stories, novels and plays, mostly by American authors. Students who take this course are being prepared to take the AP English Language and Composition test and are committed to taking this AP exam in the spring. Students who do not want to prepare for this AP exam, but who want a full survey of American literature should consider the American literature honors course.

The AP English Language and Composition course is distinct from the AP English Literature and Composition course, which is offered in the senior year. The AP English Language and Composition course focuses on the study of nonfiction writing and rhetoric and is meant to emulate a college level introductory composition class. The AP English Literature and Composition course focuses on the analysis of literature and analytical writing, and it is meant to emulate a college level introduction to literature.

Admission to the AP English Language and Composition course is dependent on a number of factors including the student’s performance in Honors World Literature.

Creative Writing – Elective  Grades 10-12
Prerequisite – Approval by current English teacher .50 Credit

Creative Writing is an elective course that functions as an introduction to various forms of creative writing, including short fiction/non-fiction, poetry, and drama. Students will participate in reading and writing assignments focused on developing techniques specific to the many types of creative writing, as well as participate in regular writers’ workshops. The emphasis in all areas is on using language Christianly; that is, honestly and effectively in order to edify other people and to glorify God.
12th Grade English:

Core classes: all students are enrolled in core classes.
- First semester: all students take a British literature core.
- Second semester: all honors students take Honors English Seminar;
- AP students are enrolled in a full-year course which includes the 2nd semester

British Literature Honors

Grade 12
.50 Credit

English for grade 12 Honors students is a survey of British literature and history during the first semester of their senior year. The class will explore the development of the rich, multi-layered English language and its literature through a historical survey of British culture and literary works. Students will consider how language and society impact each other and how the values of different time periods are reflected in their stories. By studying the writing and ideas of great British writers and thinkers, students will also stretch and develop their own literary, intellectual, and expressive powers. More importantly, students will explore the vast scope and power of the written and spoken word, consider how we have used the gift of language for good and ill throughout history, and discuss how we, as Christians, are called to use language righteously.

Writing, communication, and research skills will be taught through a variety of short analytical essays and creative writing pieces; individual and group presentations on aspects of major works and British history; the interpretation, production, and performance of a scene from Shakespeare; and a formal literary term paper.

Honors English Elective: .50 Credit

Honors English Seminar is a second semester course for 12th grade students who will have the opportunity to create their own curriculum with certain guidelines. The semester will therefore be planned according to each section’s interests. The goal of the seminar is to focus on three major ways of story-telling in Post-Modern culture: the cinema, the novel, and the play. Each section will be given choices of texts based on each of these categories, and then the class will democratically vote for the texts they would like to read/view and critically study for the semester.
Advanced Placement English Literature

This course is by invitation only, based on a number of factors which include the student's performance in 11th Grade AP or American Literature. AP English Literature is a challenging college-level survey course of British Literature and its history. Students read many more texts; writing is intensive with a focus on literary technique and in-depth close/argumentative analysis. Students are prepared for the AP exam and are encouraged to commit to taking it in the spring. Students who are selected for this course have demonstrated a higher level of thought, independence, and commitment to the study of literature; they have also demonstrated a significant progression in their writing and critical thinking, as well as promise in this subject area.

Writing and research skills are furthered through timed essay tests, papers, and creative writing pieces while effectively integrating British history, literary genres, and cultural influences. The interpretation, production, and performance of a scene from Shakespeare and a formal literary term paper are also required.

Publications

Students in this course publish the Lantern, the Academy's yearbook, as well as the Cadence, the school's literary journal published for the Spring Fine Arts Festival. They learn design, layout, copy writing, photo scanning, and cropping, using the Yearbook Publisher's web-based tool. Further, students learn valuable independent project management skills.
Math Courses

Math Course 2  Grade 6

This course uses the Common Core curriculum and an investigative approach to help students learn basic operations on signed integers, decimals and fractions, learn the use of percents, improve their understanding of geometry, and learn the concepts of ratio, rate, and proportion. Students learn the basic topics of algebra (formulas, variables, expressions, equations), work with the coordinate plane, and use scales and conversion factors to solve real-world problems. Throughout the course, applying problem-solving strategies to solve new problems and to analyze data is emphasized. A scientific calculator is used as a tool, though proficiency in computational skills is required. Students use calculators and Excel or Google spreadsheets to display and analyze data.

Pre-Algebra  Grades 6 & 7
Prerequisite: Course 2

This course is designed for seventh grade students who have taken Math Course 2 and for sixth graders who qualify based on entrance test scores and teacher recommendations. Using Common Core curriculum and an investigative approach, students improve their ability to perform operations on signed rational numbers by evaluating expressions and solving equations using algebraic manipulation. Their work with variables, expressions, equations including graphing linear equations, inequalities, and polynomials gives students the tools necessary for success in Algebra I. They expand their understanding of ratio and proportion by using similarity in geometry. Students learn to evaluate square roots while using the Pythagorean Theorem. Their knowledge of exponents is used to introduce scientific notation. Development of problem solving skills is stressed and critical thinking is practiced. Students will work with Excel and Google spreadsheets to display and analyze data. A scientific calculator is used as a tool, though proficiency in computational skills is required.

Algebra I  Grades 7&8

In this course students will master algebraic manipulation and will study linear and quadratic relationships, data and real-life situations as they prepare for Algebra II. This course makes use of graphing calculators, online web resources, and spreadsheets. Students will use Excel or Google Spreadsheets to display and analyze data. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required. This course is designed to prepare students for Algebra II-Honors.
Geometry
Prerequisite: Algebra I

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of geometry and to develop their ability to think logically. Using an investigative approach, students discover properties which are stated as conjectures; they use the logical process of constructing proofs using these conjectures. This course stresses the practical application of geometric principles rather than a more theoretical study. Geometer’s Sketchpad on a computer will be used for additional geometry explorations. A scientific calculator is required for this course.

Algebra I
Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

In this course students will master algebraic manipulation and will study linear and quadratic relationships, data and real-life situations as they prepare for Algebra II. This course makes use of graphing calculators, online web resources, and spreadsheets. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required. Students will work with spreadsheets using Excel or Google Spreadsheets.

Algebra II
Prerequisite: Algebra I

This is the second-year Algebra course in upper school mathematics, designed to prepare students for pre-calculus. This course extends the tools of Algebra I used to solve linear systems and includes quadratic, polynomial and radical functions. Exponential and logarithmic functions are examined with special emphasis on transformations. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required for this course.

Algebra II – H
Prerequisite: A grade of 91% or higher in Algebra I

This is a second-year Algebra course in upper school mathematics designed to prepare students for a comprehensive pre-calculus course. This course integrates the standard topics of Algebra II with data analysis and graphing calculator technology. Functions (linear, quadratic, polynomial, exponential, logarithmic, and rational) are explored from algebraic and geometric perspectives. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required for this course.
Geometry CP, H
Grades 9 -11
Prerequisite:  Algebra I
(an Algebra I grade of 91% or an Algebra II Honors grade of 83% or higher is required for Honors)

This course is designed to provide students with a working knowledge of geometry and to develop their ability to think logically. Geometry involves an exploration of properties which are stated as theorems and the logical process of constructing proofs using these theorems. This course stresses the practical application of geometric principles as well as focusing on some of the more theoretical aspects of the subject. The computer and the Geometer's Sketchpad will be used for additional geometry explorations. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required for this course. Students will work with spreadsheets using Excel.

Precalculus
Grades 11-12
Prerequisite:  Algebra II

This course provides an introduction to topics fundamental to Calculus, emphasizing the behavior of functions both analytically and graphically. The TI-89 graphing calculator will be used extensively for this latter purpose. Real world problem solving will be emphasized in this course.

Precalculus – H
Grades 11-12
Prerequisite:  A grade of 83% or higher in Algebra II - H

This course provides an introduction to topics fundamental to calculus, emphasizing the behavior of functions both analytically and graphically. The TI-89 graphing calculator will be used extensively for this latter purpose. Real-world problem solving will be emphasized in this course. This course will move at a faster pace and go into more depth than the college prep course. Students will work with spreadsheets using Excel.
Calculus

Grade 12
1 Credit

The purpose of this course is to provide an introduction to the essential topics of calculus. The topics in this course are similar to Advanced Placement Calculus. The goal of this course is to acquaint the student with the fundamental concepts and nomenclature of calculus including limits, differentiation and, as time permits, integration. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required. Students will work with spreadsheets using Excel.

Advanced Placement Calculus – AB

Grade 12
Prerequisite:  A grade of 83 or higher in Precalculus - H 1.25 Credit

The purpose of this course is to introduce the student to college-level calculus. The theory of limits, differentiation and integration and their applications are covered. Methods include a correlation with physics. Students are encouraged, but not required, to take the AP exam in May. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required for this course. Students will work with spreadsheets using Excel. This course meets 5 times per rotation.

Advanced Placement Statistics

Grade 12
Prerequisite:  Algebra II - H 1.25 Credit

AP Statistics is an introductory course in statistics that is equal in content to a collegiate course. The class delves into formal statistical concepts and procedures. The objective is to acquire a deep understanding of statistics and its applications, and to prepare for success on the AP Statistics exam. The emphasis is more on understanding, and ability to communicate this understanding clearly is at least as important as the need to compute accurately. Several projects done throughout the year, help students show what they have learned.
Bible Courses

Intro to the Old Testament I Grade 6

The sixth grade Bible course is the first part in a two-year chronological overview of the Old Testament. The first year covers the major events in the Old Testament books from Genesis through Ruth, emphasizing God’s revelation of Himself to mankind, His redemptive purposes, and His loving relationship with His people. Students will carefully read the Biblical narrative, delve into the details about key figures in the Bible, learn the geographical context of events, memorize important verses, and understand the vital concepts interwoven throughout the Old Testament. Throughout this course, students will reflect on their own lives and be encouraged to pursue a personal and transforming relationship with God, enabling them to live a dynamic life of faith, hope and love in a broken and sinful world.

Intro to the Old Testament II Grade 7

The seventh grade Bible course is the second part in a two-year chronological overview of the Old Testament. The second year covers the major events in the Old Testament books from 1 Samuel through Malachi, emphasizing God’s revelation of Himself to mankind, His redemptive purposes, and His loving relationship with His people. Students will carefully read the Biblical narrative, delve into the details about key figures in the Bible, learn the geographical context of events, memorize important verses, and understand the vital concepts interwoven throughout the Old Testament. Throughout this course, students will reflect on their own lives and be encouraged to pursue a personal and transforming relationship with God, enabling them to live a dynamic life of faith, hope and love in a broken and sinful world.

Gospel & Acts Grade 8

The eighth grade Bible course introduces students to the life and times of Jesus as portrayed in the Gospel accounts of His life, death, and resurrection. Students will be introduced to the concept of the synoptic gospels before undertaking a careful examination of the Gospel of Luke. Students will then read the Book of Acts and learn about the spread of Jesus’ message through the first apostles as the early church grew (often under intense persecution) throughout the Mediterranean world. Throughout this course, students will reflect on their own lives and be encouraged to pursue a personal and transforming relationship with God, enabling them to live a dynamic life of faith, hope and love in a broken and sinful world.
Foundations of Christianity

This course serves as an introduction to the major teachings and history of Christianity. In order to understand the central theology of Christianity that spans across denominational lines the Apostles Creed is used as an outline for Christian beliefs. An examination is also made of the way these beliefs have been enacted throughout the history of the Church. The major idea of the class will be to see the manners in which the beliefs of Christianity (content) are enacted (practiced) within the world.

New Testament Theology

This course focuses on the major theological themes of the New Testament. The first semester involves looking at the person of Jesus through the gospel accounts in order to understand the theology of the Kingdom of God. The second semester deals primarily with the impact of Pauline theology upon the early church. Students will be taught to examine the writings of the New Testament in their historical context in order to understand their meaning for the early church and thereby understand that message for the contemporary church.

Christian Ethics & Church History

This class is broken into two distinct semesters that dovetail together in order to orient students to the life and practice of Christianity in both the past and present world. The first semester focuses attention on Christian Ethics in which students will exam major philosophical issues influencing ethics such as logic, reasoning, cultural issues, and ethical theories. These topics will be evaluated and examined in light of the Christian narrative and then applied to specific issues facing Christianity in the present world.

The second semester will be devoted to an examination of Church History. Here students will explore the growth and expansion of the church throughout time. Along with this special attention will be given to seeing the development of doctrine and theology as well as the ways in which the church has successfully and unsuccessfully interacted with the world in which they live.
Seminar in Christian Ethics & Church History - H

Grade 11

1 Credit

This class is broken into two distinct semesters that dovetail together in order to orient students to the life and practice of Christianity in both the past and present world. The first semester focuses attention on Christian Ethics in which students will exam major philosophical issues influencing ethics such as logic, reasoning, cultural issues, and ethical theories. These topics will be evaluated and examined in light of the Christian narrative and then applied to specific issues facing Christianity in the present world.

The second semester will be devoted to an examination of Church History. Here students will explore the growth and expansion of the church throughout time. Along with this special attention will be given to seeing the development of doctrine and theology as well as the ways in which the church has successfully and unsuccessfully interacted with the world in which they live.

This class will focus on primary readings, student presentation, and a seminar format for learning. A traditional seminar is based on a small group of students interacting together with an instructor over common readings, a common topic, and student questions. This class is open to all who are interested, but because a seminar requires a small number of students to be profitable, permission from the instructor is required and will be based on demonstration of critical thought, the ability to complete independent work, commitment to reading and participation in the topic, as well as progression in written work.

Christian Theology and Lifestyle

Grade 12

1 Credit

John Calvin began his famous Institutes by explaining “nearly all the wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists of two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves” (Institutes Book I.1.1.). Beginning here, this class seeks to explore both God and our own lives in order to understand what Jesus means when he declares himself to be “the way and the truth and the life” (John 14:6). We will seek to examine our lives and our world in order to understand who we are, who God is, and to discover the ways in which we live toward God and for his glory. The class is designed to be part theological investigation, part cultural study, and part self-examination.
Social Studies & History Courses

**World Geography**

*Grade 6*

This is the first year of the two-year world geography program. This course introduces students to the world's people, places, and environments with an emphasis on North America, South America and Asia. Students study the world's landforms, climates, natural resources and natural hazards. Special focus is on the relationship between physical geography and cultural and economic geography. Resources include texts, maps, graphs, pictures, diagrams, charts, the Internet, and guest speakers. The course includes a study of world events, issues, and trends.

**World Geography**

*Grade 7*

This course is the second of LCA’s two-year geography program. Students entering at grade 7 will only take this second year of the program. The course reinforces the themes, knowledge and understanding of global environments, economies and cultures, and introduces students to an in-depth study of the geography, culture and the history of three world regions. The focus of study is the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and Europe. Particular emphasis is placed on world events, issues, and trends. Interpretation of geographical data, map and research skills are important outcomes of this course.

**United States History – Twentieth Century**

*Grade 8*

Industrialization, the Gilded Age and the Spanish American War set the stage for this course. A study will be made of American history and the changing role of the USA in the world through the twentieth century. Students will study the social, economic and political conditions in the USA, as well as war and peace at home and abroad. Topics include the Progressive Era, World War I, the twenties, the Great Depression and New Deal, World War II, the Cold War, the civil rights movement and the Vietnam conflict.
Foundations of the Modern World

The foundations of the modern world were firmly established long ago in times of turmoil that somehow led to a flowering of human creativity and invention. Today’s global community of competing civilizations and diverse cultures was shaped by the great innovators of the past. This course will focus on the world’s civilizations in the distant past and then explore the roots of Western civilization, East Asian civilization, South Asian civilization, and Islamic civilization. Students will explore what these seemingly disparate patterns have in common and how cultural groups have sought both cooperation and competition. Students will identify the various factors that have provided a civilization with comparative advantage over another. Particular emphasis will be given to the origins of the world religions, classical periods of Greece, Rome, and China, and the clashing of civilizations as demonstrated by the Crusades.

Modern World History - CP & H

Prerequisite: Enrollment in the honors section is by invitation after review of past grades, writing sample and teacher recommendation.

“Modern World History” examines the historical processes by which “modernity” as a way of living and thinking confronted “traditionalism,” first in Europe and then, through commercial and colonial expansion, throughout the globe. After a brief review of medieval institutions and concepts, the course traces the rise of modern thought from the Renaissance through the French Revolution, and the modernization of European society from the Age of Exploration and rise of merchant capitalism to the urbanization and mass production of the Industrial Revolution. Finally, the course shows the encounters between modernizing Europe and other parts of the world, through trade, conquest, and cultural interaction. Students will be asked to think comparatively and analytically, addressing essential questions posed by both academic historical inquiry and theological reflection. There will be a special emphasis on development of good reasoning and writing skills.
United States History          Grade 11
1 Credit

This course provides an overview of United States history from the voyages of exploration to the post-Cold War era. In the first semester instruction focuses on the period of colonization, the revolution and establishment of the new Republic, the rise of sectionalism and the Civil War. In the second semester the course covers the rise of American industry and cities, America as a global power, World War I, the 1920’s, the Great Depression and World War II the Cold War, civil rights and the post-Cold War era. United States History is a graduation requirement, generally taken in the junior year.

Advanced Placement United States History        Grade 11
1.25 Credit

Prerequisite: Enrollment is by invitation after review of past grades, writing sample and teacher recommendation.)

Intended to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination, this course provides an overview of United States history from the voyages of exploration to the post-Cold War era. In the first semester instruction focuses on the period of colonization, the revolution and establishment of the new Republic, the rise of sectionalism and the Civil War. In the second semester instruction focus on the rise of American industry and cities, America as a global power World War I, the 1920’s, the Great Depression and World War II the Cold War, civil rights and the post-Cold War era. United States History is a graduation requirement, generally taken in the junior year. In the AP section, students explore topics in greater depth, cover additional material and practice the Document-Based-Question format needed for the Advanced Placement test.

Introduction to Psychology        Grade 12
1 Credit

The first semester provides the student with an overview of psychology as a social science, comprised of several diverse, but interrelated, sub-disciplines, which are involved in the scientific study of behavior and mental processes. Topics include research methods, biology of behavior, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, thought and language.

In the second semester students are introduced to the topics of intelligence, motivation and emotion, sexuality and gender, developmental psychology, personality, health psychology, psychological disorders and social psychology.
U.S. Government and Politics  
Prerequisite: U.S. History  
Grade 12  
1 Credit

This course is designed to prepare students for active participation in the American political process. Students will examine the constitutional framework, political belief and behavior, interest groups, mass media, the Congress, the presidency, the judiciary, the bureaucracy, policy formulation, civil liberties and civil rights. The course will also include an overview of the positions historically taken by Christian thinkers regarding the Christian’s relationship to earthly politics. The goal is to develop an analytical perspective on American political life and to prepare students for responsible citizenship. Students are expected to follow current political events as they unfold.

Intro to Logic and Critical Thinking  
Grades 11-12  
.50 Credit

This course is intended to help develop students’ skills at logical reasoning. Topics will include informal analysis and evaluation of arguments, recognition of fallacies, and an introduction to truth-functional and categorical logic.

Advanced Placement European History  
Grade 12  
1.25 Credit

Prerequisite: Enrollment is by invitation after review of past grades, writing sample and teacher recommendation.

This course in modern European history is designed to prepare students for the Advanced Placement Examination. The course begins at the dawn of the modern era with the late Middle Ages and the Renaissance. The course covers the Reformation, absolutism, Enlightenment, French Revolution, Napoleon, nineteenth century nationalism and imperialism, World War I, the Russian Revolution, the rise of Fascism, World War II, the Cold War, and the fall of Communism. Students will practice for the AP exam with special emphasis on Document-Based-Questions.
Science Courses

Life Science
Taught alternating years

This science course is designed to give students an understanding of the world around them and to develop in the students a desire to investigate their environment. The course is structured so that the students learn about the environment as a direct result of their own investigative activities. This course makes extensive use of inquiry learning. Through experimentation, evaluation of results, and discussion, students will develop the skills of asking and answering pertinent questions to solve problems.

Earth Science
Taught alternating years

This science course covers topics in earth science, including meteorology, astronomy and geology. It is designed to give a student insight into the earth’s position in space and the forces acting on the earth, which help to shape the land, the oceans, and our weather. The course topics lend well to hands-on and explorative activities.

Introduction to Physical Science

The theme of Introductory Physical Science is the atomic theory. Evidence from students’ experiments is used to establish methods of separating and identifying substances; the characteristics of mixtures, compounds and elements; the law of constant proportions; and, finally, an atomic model of matter. The goal for this course is for the student to become a sharper observer and a more critical thinker. Students learn to collect and analyze data and draw conclusions from their data. Laboratory work is a major part of this course. Pre-lab and post-lab discussions take place to guide learning.

Physics CP
Physics H: Prerequisite enrollment in Algebra II H

This science course offers six units, each based on an extended project where students consolidate what they have learned, create a product, and explicitly demonstrate their understanding of the material and their skills. The units include kinematics, forces and motion, electricity and simple circuits, generators and diodes, and energy. A TI-89 graphing calculator is required for this course.
Chemistry Grades 10
Prerequisite: Algebra I 1.25 Credit

This course first introduces the ideas of measurement in chemistry, the properties of matter, and atomic and molecular structure. Areas of physical chemistry, nuclear chemistry, organic chemistry, and biochemistry are studied next. Illustrations from everyday life and applications to industry, medicine, and home life are provided whenever applicable. A TI-89 graphing calculator is a requirement for this course and its use is part of the pool of techniques that are used for solving problems.

Chemistry - Honors Grades 10
Prerequisite: Algebra II 1.25 Credit

This course is a study of the fundamental principles of chemistry. Topics covered include atomic theory, stoichiometry, gas laws, the properties of liquids and solids, bonding and intermolecular forces, chemical kinetics, theories of acids and bases and oxidation-reduction. Demonstrations and laboratory exercises illustrate the concepts presented in lecture. A TI-89 graphing calculator is a requirement for this course, and its use is part of the pool of techniques that are used for solving problems.

Biology Grade 11
Prerequisite: Chemistry 1.25 Credit

This survey course will introduce students to the general areas of biology, including molecular biology, genetics, diversity, human biology, and ecology. The focus will be on real-life applications and hands-on experiments, including dissection, which will provide the foundations for college-level biology courses and prepare students to make decisions as biological issues arise in current events and their lives. A full year of Biology or Biology Honors is required for graduation.

Biology - Honors Grades 11
Prerequisite: 85% or better in Honors Chemistry 1.25 Credit

This course covers the major topics in biology such as molecular biology, genetics, diversity, human biology, and ecology, which will be reinforced through a mandatory lab component which includes dissection. The emphasis will be on the molecular level, which will help the student perform well in future biology classes and on standardized tests. A full year of Biology or Biology Honors is required for graduation.
Advanced Placement Biology

Grade 12
1.25 Credit

Prerequisite: A minimum grade of 85% in Biology - Honors, Principles of Chemistry – Honors, and instructor’s permission.

This course is equivalent in scope and difficulty to a first-year college class. It is designed both for non-majors who want to complete a college-level science course while in upper school, and for biology majors seeking to strengthen their biology fundamentals. Students prepare for the Advanced Placement test, which they should plan to take in May. Dissection is required. This course meets 6 times per rotation.

Advanced Physics - CP

Grade 12
1.25 Credit

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or concurrent registration

Students explore the basic concepts of the mechanics of motion, wave phenomena, electricity and circuits, and modern physics. The emphasis is on concept development, multiple approaches to problem solving, and using technology to acquire and analyze data. Students must be proficient in the use of their TI-89 calculator, spreadsheet analysis, and Graphical Analysis software. This course meets 5 times per rotation.

Advanced Placement Physics B

Grade 12
1.50 Credit

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus or concurrent registration

Students explore the basic concepts of the mechanics of motion, wave phenomena, electricity and circuits, and modern physics. The emphasis is on concept development, multiple approaches to problem solving, and using technology to acquire and analyze data. Students must be proficient in the use of their TI-89 calculator, spreadsheet analysis, and Graphical Analysis software. This course meets 6 times per rotation.

Anatomy/Physiology CP & H

Grade 12
1.25 Credit

Prerequisite: Biology and Chemistry

Anatomy and Physiology is a course designed for students who would like to pursue a career in the life science area. The course involves the study of the mammalian body structure and the body’s basic physiological functions. The students apply their classroom knowledge in laboratory exercises and required dissections.
World Languages

**Linguistics: Greek and Latin Roots**

Through systematic study of Greek and Latin root words, students will gain understanding into the meaning and history of many English words, sharpen their word attack skills, and deepen their appreciation of the richness of English. Attention will also be given to French and Spanish derivatives.

**Linguistics 8**

Through systematic study of Greek and Latin root words, students will gain understanding into the meaning and history of many English words, sharpen their word attack skills, and deepen their appreciation of the richness of English. Attention will also be given to French and Spanish derivatives.

*In seventh and eighth grades French and Spanish are offered on a rotating basis determined by the Academy. Students will take the same language for both years. Students do not choose a language until ninth grade.*

**French I-A**

*(taught alternating years)*

This begins a two-year course in which the student will complete the first year of a foreign language by the end of the eighth grade. The course focuses on learning basic grammar, vocabulary and phrases. Conversational skills are stressed. Geography and culture are included as are games and projects.

**French I-B**

*(taught alternating years)*

**Prerequisite:** French I-A or equivalent.

This is a continuation of French I-A, in preparation for French II in grade nine. Conversational skills are emphasized, along with vocabulary and grammar.

**French I**

**Grades 9-12**

**1 Credit**

This is an introductory course for students with no background in French or minimal exposure to French. It is designed to aid the beginner in acquiring the four skills of language: listening comprehension, reading, writing and speaking; to establish a basic grammatical foundation in preparation for the next level; and to awaken in the student an interest in French culture to widen his/her view of the world.
French II
Grades 9-12
Prerequisite: French I
1 Credit

Building on the foundation laid in French I, French II is designed to increase the student’s competence in the four skills of language learning: listening comprehension, reading, writing, and speaking. The basic grammatical foundation begun in French I is furthered. Students will increase their ability to read for comprehension material of greater difficulty, widen their vocabulary, and write accurately within the scope of this acquired vocabulary.

French III – H
Grades 10-12
Prerequisite: French II
1 Credit

French III continues the balanced-skills approach of French I and II (listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing). This course consists of thematic vocabulary and language development, reading opportunities, varied writing practice, and a wide range of communication activities. Emphasis is placed on developing and expanding effective communication through the use of daily-life themes and developing cultural awareness of France and the French-speaking world.

French IV – H
Grades 11-12
Prerequisite: French III
1 Credit

This advanced course builds on the foundations taught in the first three years of French language study. Students will have opportunity to develop listening comprehension, speaking, reading and writing skills. They will review grammar, learn vocabulary thematically, and read and discuss short stories and a novel. Students will have practice writing compositions and journals in French. They will learn about various aspects of culture in the Francophone world.

French V- H
Grade 12
Prerequisite: French IV
1 Credit

This final course builds on the foundations taught in the first four years of French language study. Oral participation, formal and informal, is required. The course is designed to expand the student’s knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and syntax as well as to continue the exploration of the French-speaking world and its culture. Students will have practice writing compositions, journals, and reports in French. Students wishing to take the AP test should consult with the instructor.
Spanish I-A (taught alternating years)  

Grade 7

This is the beginning course of a two year (seventh and eighth grade) study of Spanish I, in preparation for Spanish II in grade nine. The same text is used for both years. Through learning how to start a conversation and how to ask and answer basic questions, students learn conversational skills and acquire a large vocabulary. There is also an emphasis on Hispanic culture and its presence and influence in the United States.

Spanish I-B (taught alternating years)  

Grade 8

Prerequisite: Spanish I-A or equivalent

This is a continuation of Spanish I-A in preparation for Spanish II in grade nine. Conversational skills are emphasized, along with vocabulary and grammar.

Spanish I  

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

This is an introductory course for students with little or no background in Spanish. It is designed to aid the beginner in acquiring the four basic skills of language: listening comprehension, reading, writing, and speaking. Various aspects of Hispanic culture are also taught.

Spanish II  

Grades 9-12

1 Credit

Prerequisite: Spanish I

This course begins with a review of the grammar and vocabulary covered in Spanish I and builds on the language fundamentals, emphasizing written and oral communication skills. Five new verb tenses are introduced, as well as topical vocabulary and cultural elements of the Spanish-speaking world.

Spanish III – H  

Grades 10-12

1 Credit

Prerequisite: Spanish II

This course consists of a variety of oral, written, comprehension, and listening skills, building upon the skills learned in the first two years of Spanish. There is a focus on knowing all the tenses for use in all these areas. Various works of Hispanic literature will be read and analyzed.
Spanish IV – H  
Grades 11-12  
Prerequisite: Spanish III  
1 Credit  

This is an advanced course that builds on the foundations taught in the first three years of language study. An emphasis is placed on helping the student build comprehension skills in reading progressively difficult literature leading to "liberated" reading in Spanish. The student is exposed to a wide variety of modern authors and the cultures each represent. A research paper dealing with selected cultural topics of the Hispanic world will help improve the student's ability to express himself/herself in written format.

Spanish V – H  
Grade 12  
Prerequisite: Spanish IV  
1 Credit  

This course is offered to students who have demonstrated skills in speaking, writing, reading, and understanding Spanish after four years of lower-level study. The course is conducted in blocks of Spanish, from lecture to conversation. Oral participation, formal and informal, is required. Spanish V has the following objectives: 1. The ability to comprehend formal and informal spoken Spanish; 2. The acquisition of vocabulary and a group of structure to allow the easy, accurate reading of newspaper and magazine articles, as well as of modern literature in Spanish; 3. The ability to compose expository passages and to research and compose a term paper on an appropriate cultural topic; and 4. The ability to express ideas orally with accuracy and fluency. Students wishing to take the AP test should consult with the instructor.

Latin I  
Grades 10-12  
1 Credit  

This is an introductory course for students with no background in Latin; however some experience in either French or Spanish will be helpful, as we look at similarities between Latin and the modern Romance languages. The course is designed to teach basic Latin grammar and vocabulary, allowing students to read simple Latin texts, as well as some passages from the Latin Bible. In the process students will improve their command of English grammar, and gain a deeper understanding of English word meanings through examining their Latin etymologies. In addition students will become familiar with Roman civilization, literature and mythology.
## Arts

### Experiencing Theatre  
**Grade 6**

Introduction to theatre through games and improvisation culminating in a presentation for Arts Fest. Meets once a rotation for the entire year.

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### Middle School Play Production  
**Grades 7-8**

Audition-based performance opportunity meeting after school for one third of the year.

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### Introduction to Theatre  
**Grades 9-12**

This course is a comprehensive introduction to theatre. Using the current season of productions, students will learn about the collaborative process of theatrical production and its various roles, including producing, directing, acting, design, tech, stage and house management, and pr. This is a required course for those who want to do further study of theatre at LCA, and it includes a crew requirement for each of the season’s productions.

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### Acting  
**Grades 10-12**

**Prerequisite:** Intro to Theatre

This course is an introduction to acting, including improvisation, documentary, playback, and method acting approaches. Students will work both individually and in groups to develop theatre pieces in a variety of styles, gaining vital performance and public speaking skills. When possible, performance venues will be created to allow students to showcase their acting class work for an audience.

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### Technical Theatre  
**Grades 9-12**

This hands-on elective course is an introduction to the technical elements of theatre including lighting, sound, set and costume design, and stage management. Students taking this course will grow in their creative problem-solving and group work skills while gaining a richer understanding of theatre design. Students will also have the opportunity to put their learning to immediate practical use through the course’s crew requirement. Students have opportunities to help to design, assemble, and run the technical aspects of LCA theatre productions, chapels, and special events.
Directing, Improv & Playwriting  
Grades 10-12  
Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre, Acting  
.50 Credit

An elective course offered to students who have completed Intro to Theatre, Acting, and/or the equivalent, which emphasizes the study and practice of play and scene analysis, staging, improvisation, and scene writing. When possible, performance venues will be created to allow students to showcase their directing and original work for an audience. This course is offered every other year in rotation with Musical Theatre Performance.

Musical Theatre Performance  
Grades 10-12  
Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre, Acting  
.50 Credit

An elective course offered to students who have completed Intro to Theatre, Acting, and/or the equivalent, which emphasizes the study and performance of musical-based songs and scenework. We will focus on character development, vocal production, and basic movement and staging. When possible, performance venues will be created to allow students to showcase their musical work for an audience. This course is offered every other year in rotation with Directing, Improv & Playwriting.

General Music  
Grade 7

General Music classes meet once a rotation for one semester and are required for grade 7. These classes are designed to be both a historical look at music and a hands-on experience. Major performance works and composers will be studied, and students will be introduced to the basics of reading and writing music through projects incorporating various musical instruments. Homework will be assigned and some tests/quizzes will be given.

Middle School Chorus  
Grades 6 - 8

Middle School Chorus is required for Grades 6 & 7, and is an elective in grade 8. Chorus meets twice a rotation (once as a full ensemble and once in separate grades.). Music studied will be from various genres and in a variety of languages. Areas of focus include vocal production, choral technique, musical interpretation, and performance practice. The Middle School Chorus performs at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Arts Fest, and other school assemblies and functions.
Select Chorus  
Prerequisite: by audition

Select Chorus is an auditioned ensemble of approximately 25 students. The music which is rehearsed and performed is primarily unaccompanied choral literature for sopranos, altos and baritones (SAB). Areas of focus include vocal production, choral technique, musical interpretation, and performance practice. Select chorus performs at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Arts Fest, and other school assemblies and functions.

Middle School Instrumental Ensembles  
Grades 6-8

**Beginning Band** is open to those middle school students interested in beginning a wind or percussion instrument. It is designed for those students who are true beginners although those that have received minimal instruction may be placed in Beginning Band as well. Members will learn the basic skills necessary to play their chosen instruments in an ensemble setting and learn the essential elements of music making. This group will perform at major school concerts and other school functions as appropriate. Members are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school to complement their in-school instruction.

**Middle School Band** is open to wind and percussion instrumentalists who have attained a basic proficiency on their instrument and music reading. Band members will perform exciting and enjoyable literature from a wide variety of genres and eras, develop their instrumental ability and technique through individual and group exercises, and gain a practical musical literacy – a working knowledge of the basic “building blocks” of music. This group will perform at major school concerts and other school functions as appropriate. Members are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school to complement their large ensemble experience.
Wind Ensemble

The Band is divided into two groups (Middle School and Upper School) which rehearse and perform separately. Advanced Middle School instrumentalists may be invited to join the Upper School Ensemble. Wind Ensemble is open to wind and percussion instrumentalists who have attained a basic proficiency on their instrument and music reading. Members of instrumental groups are encouraged to take private lessons outside of school to complement their in-school instruction. Ensemble members will perform exciting and enjoyable literature from a wide variety of genres and eras, develop their instrumental ability and technique through group warm-ups and drills, and gain a practical musical literacy – a working knowledge of the basic “building blocks” of music. This group will perform at major school concerts and other school functions as appropriate.

Chorale

This course is designed to offer students knowledge of choral literature, an understanding of healthy voice production, an opportunity to develop skills of musicianship, and to provide excellent performing experiences. It is open to all students as an elective (no audition necessary) for the full year. Chorale will perform at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and Arts Fest, at school chapel services, at various school functions, and by invitation at a variety of other venues off campus.

Chamber Singers

Prerequisite: Chorale

This is a select performing group. Membership is by audition only and will last the full year. Repertoire will generally be a capella (unaccompanied), more challenging, and will cover all time periods. Chamber Singers will perform at the Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, and Artsfest, local churches, tour, admissions function, and other school functions and shows. This ensemble will take an extended tour to churches, schools, and other performing venues in the second semester. This course meets 4 times per rotation which includes participation in Chorale.
Music Theory and Composition  
Grades 9-12
Part I (first semester)
Part II (second semester)

In this course students will have the opportunity to improve or develop their understanding of key signatures, intervals, and rhythm, and gain skills necessary for being an effective sight-reader of music. Students will also learn to write four part harmony and to analyze chordal structure. Skills necessary for musical composition will be developed.

This course is recommended to students who:
- plan to pursue music at the University level and/or
- want to better understand the framework of music and/or
- are interested in composing and/or
- wish to be more competitive in their sight-reading ability.

Chamber Strings  
Grades 6-12  
.50 Credit (US)

This string orchestra will give students the opportunity to supplement their private instruction with a chamber orchestra experience. Proper technique will be emphasized in addition to other skills needed to perform with an ensemble. Music from a variety of historical periods will be studied and performed. This group will perform at major school concerts and other school functions as appropriate.

Art 6  
Grade 6

The sixth-grade course helps students develop basic skills in several media. Both two- and three-dimensional assignments focus on a variety of media and give opportunity to experiment and grow in artistic discernment and familiarity with the elements of design. Fun and serious artwork go hand-in-hand in this class.

Art 7  
Grade 7

In the seventh-grade art course, students work with several mediums in a concentrated effort to develop artistic skills and judgment. A variety of assignments increase the familiarity with the elements of design. The class will develop skills learned in the sixth grade and will introduce design principles through more challenging projects.
As an elective, eighth grade art requires a level of dedication to longer projects. Students grow in their ability to respond to the world around them and use multiple mediums, including the iPad, in applying the Elements and Principles of Design in more formal considerations of composition.

Art I: Basic Design
Grades 9-12
.50 Credit

This survey class is designed to provide experience in many mediums with a deliberate focus on the elements of design and an introduction to the principles of design. Assignments are created so students will gain an understanding of various kinds of art work and expression with an integration of art history. Assignments will span all of the more advanced upper school electives. Students will be encouraged to consider which mediums they would like to explore further as they continue their participation in visual art.

Painting and Drawing
Grades 10-12
.50 Credit

Prerequisite: Basic Design

The focus of this class is the fundamental techniques to drawing and painting and are taught through a series of intensive projects. Students will explore a wide range of media and methodologies to achieve both traditional and more contemporary projects in drawing, painting, and printmaking. First semester will be spent using dry media. Second semester will continue with color and add elements of painting.

Painting and Drawing II
Grades 10-12
.50 Credit

Prerequisite: Painting and Drawing I

The purpose of this class is to allow serious art students to refine their skills and expand their range in painting while engaging with more demanding projects. Students will spend the majority of their year using oil paint and learning a range of methods that will help them discover their own artistic voice.
Graphic Design  
Prerequisite: Basic Design

This course is designed to investigate print graphics only (web design, power point and multi-media are not included). Students will be introduced to Adobe Photoshop CS6. Assignments will include designs in the area of symbolism, logo, advertising, publications, and marketing. Students will also experience graphic design in the corporate/business world through visiting design companies and working with visiting graphic design artists.

Architecture

This course uses the Elements and Principles of Design, the Design Process, design software, and modeling to explore the area of fundamental functional, non functional, existing, and conceptual “forms”. What is architecture in a classical and contemporary approach? Students will sketch, render, plan, and model in a variety of different “environments” including: space with in space, spacial relationships, simple, classical residence and corporate structures, topographical concept designs, the skyscraper city challenge, and thinking to the future. The assignments will reflect social, economic, climate, and political design challenges and conditions. Students will be required to work outside of class.

Photography

This course centers on developing the creative eye with the basic technical aspects of the digital camera, not the developing process. Projects will include black-and-white vs. color, still life, formal and informal portraits, special effects, and presentation techniques. Each student is required to have their own digital camera.

Stained Glass

Stained glass is the art of transformation. Color, shape, and construction are brought together in a celebration of design and light. The stained glass techniques used in this course—foil, slumping, and fusing—can be labeled as craft—an art at its basic constructionist form. Students will go through the design process and accumulate an understanding and application experience in the art of colored glass.
Wheel Throwing

Grades 10-12
.50 Credit

Creating the non functional or functional form on the wheel is one of the more challenging techniques or approaches in the medium of ceramics. It is also one of the most captivating. Students will learn the basic techniques in the introduction to the wheel: centering, pulling, and cylinder forms. The basic techniques and process will be applied to create forms like: mugs, tea cups, plates, and bowls. Students will also be challenged to create the larger vessel and serving forms. Hand construction, sculpture, press molds, and stamping will also be applied. Students will be required to work outside of class.

Ceramics

Grades 10-12
.75 Credit

The art and science of making objects in clay is called ceramics. A person who uses clay to produce a form or works in clay is called a ceramist. The art of ceramics has many characteristics. Clay can be: molded, coiled, pressed into a slab, pressed into a mold, poured, sculpted, thrown on the wheel and many more applications. It is a medium that can be pushed and pulled. We do all that in the ceramics course. From functional to sculptural, the students will experience clay in all its characteristics.

Sculpture: 3D Design

Prerequisite: Basic Design

Grades 10-12
.50 Credit

This sculpture course is intended to guide the student towards the artistic and practical application of three-dimensional design. Students will also gain a basic understanding of the history of sculpture while investigating the third dimension in nature and man-made objects. Students will use a full range of materials including clay, wood, wire, plaster, and carving foam. The class will visit two museums: The DeCordova Art Museum Sculpture Park and the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

AP Studio Art

Grades 11-12
1.25 credits

This elective is a two-year course designed for the student who intends to pursue art in college towards a creative career. This course will be taught in line with the requirements of the AP Portfolio guidelines and will culminate with the submission of a digital and physical portfolio for review by the AP committee. This course will make students eligible for college credit towards introductory art courses.
Supplemental Portfolio  

Grades 11-12  

.75 Credits

This elective is a two-year course designed for the student who is interested in an independent, intensive, in-depth course of artistic study, and who would like to use their artwork as a supplemental aspect of their college application. Students will be required to fulfill certain conceptual assignments towards the goal of producing an individual portfolio of original work to be used for interviews and college/art school portfolio visits. Each student will research the variety of options available in the visual arts as a career opportunity.

Advanced Studio Studies (Directed Studies)  

Grades 11-12  

.50 – 1 Credit

The advanced studio studies, or directed studies, are a time frame within the rotation that students; who have completed the introduction courses, can schedule for advance work within a selected medium. These advanced studies are a minimum of 3 blocks per rotation and require extra dedication in time and concept. Students will be very involved, with the faculty member, in designing their semester and full year curriculum. Assignments are extended with each series ending with an exhibit of the student’s work. Students will be required to work outside of class, 4 - 5 hours minimum, per rotation depending on the medium. Students are expected to participate in rotational discussions and critiques. Art I and the medium introduction course are required. This course is required for portfolio students or any student wishing to include a portfolio in their college applications.

Advanced Stained Glass:  

Prerequisite: Stained Glass

Continued work on classical foil and solder technique with the channeling leading technique added at the marking period. Additional techniques added will be: wire, cut foil, slumping and fusion, drop out molding, and etching. Advanced studies in color theory, textural application, designing around the found object, will round out the advanced student's experience.

Advanced Ceramics:  

Prerequisite: Ceramics

The advanced ceramic student will use a greater variety and application of the ceramic medium including: wheel throwing, high fire functional work, storytelling, and the sculptural element. They will work in a creative series with each concept or design produced a minimum of three times. A student signing up for the advanced ceramic directed study should expect to spend a minimum of three blocks, class time, and 3 hours per rotation outside of class time. Students will exhibit their work and be involved in critiques on regular rotational bases.
Advanced Photography:

Advanced photography begins with the discussion of further developing the student’s ability to visualize and capture the world around them. Advanced classical and abstract approaches will be the foundation for their work. This includes: composing formal and abstract portraiture, site and time structured series, and the integration of other mediums. Each student will maintain a portfolio and is expected to participate in group discussions, individual and group exhibits, and several off site photography trips. The course will be scheduled with 1 block review, critic, and presentation per rotation and a minimum of 2 hours per rotation photographing on site.

Health & PE Courses

Health 6  Grade 6

This course explores human growth and development from conception through old age. Hazards to growth that can shorten the length and quality of life will be examined, and measures for preserving life will be explored.

Health 7  Grade 7

This course stimulates the student to explore the use of tobacco and alcohol products in different cultures over time. The student will assess the health risks these products pose and will be guided to make personal decisions to refrain from the dangers associated with their use. The second semester of the course explores human behavior. Topics include how to set goals and solve problems, how to communicate clearly with others, and how to live comfortably with self and others.

Health 8  Grade 8

This course provides a detailed study of the endocrine system and the parameters of disease. Students will learn the mechanism of disease and be challenged to make wise personal decisions that lessen the chance of obtaining disease.
Health 9

This course examines God’s plan for intimacy (1 Thessalonians 4:3-4) and that of society (practicing “safe” behaviors). God’s plan for fulfilling relationships will be contrasted to that of moral people and to those without moral integrity. Students will study sexually transmitted disease and explore the effects on the individual physically and emotionally. Students will be challenged to abstain from sexual immorality (Acts 15:20) and to keep their bodies pure and holy (Romans 12:1).

Health 10

The student will be challenged to examine current medical technologies and their moral implications. The student will examine the use and misuse of drugs, and will be challenged to think through personal choices to maintain optimal health. Second semester, the course provides a detailed study of nutrition, to enable the student to learn lifelong eating habits that promote healthful living.

College Living

This course prepares students to be more prepared for challenges they will face in college life. The class will tackle financial issues, roommate responsibilities and rights particularly focusing on destructive decisions roommates make in personal shared living space (drugs, alcohol, sexual intimacy), how to maintain spiritual foundations in a difficult environment, how to manage time to meet academic and social obligations, and how to exercise and eat properly in a new situation that does not necessarily reinforce those ideals.

Middle School Physical Education

This course includes a variety of sports (individual and team), activities, and games. There is a great emphasis on participation in class activities and on individual skill improvement. The main objective is for the student to participate in their leisure time in the same activities because of their enjoyment in class.

Physical Education

This course provides the student an opportunity to choose a varied path toward healthful living. The student will participate in classes that teach life sports, team sports and individual activities. The student will be encouraged to improve cardiovascular development and to focus on their strengths to achieve lifelong healthful attitudes.
Information Literacy Courses

Information Literacy

Grade 6

Information Literacy teaches skills required to succeed in this information age.
This course teaches students:
  ▪ information seeking strategies from a variety of sources
  ▪ to locate and access information both in the library and over the Internet
  ▪ to evaluate information for relevance and reliability
  ▪ to organize information in standard bibliographic format
  ▪ to use information ethically

The mission of the library media program is to help students become effective users of ideas and information.

Introduction to Spreadsheets

Grade 6

This course is intended for sixth graders and gives an introduction to the setup and use of a Googledocs spreadsheet. Students begin by learning the fundamentals of cell addresses (inserting and formatting text, cell referencing) and then basic spreadsheet skills are added (selecting and filling a range of cells, sorting, using and constructing formulas and functions) as students demonstrate and print hardcopy showing mastery of skills. Lecture, video tutorials and in-class school laptop use are required. Out-of-class school desktops may be required to finish homework. No prior experience is required.
Information Navigation

Information Navigation teaches skills required to succeed in this information age. This course builds on the skills learned in grade 6 Information Literacy and teaches students:

- information seeking strategies from a variety of sources
- to locate and access information both in the library and over the Internet
- to evaluate information for relevance and reliability
- to organize information in standard bibliographic format
- to use information ethically

The mission of the library media program is to help students become effective users of ideas and information.

Information Navigation

Information Navigation teaches skills required to succeed in this information age. This course teaches newly-admitted ninth grade students:

- information seeking strategies from a variety of sources
- to locate and access information both in the library and over the Internet
- to evaluate information for relevance and reliability
- to organize information in standard bibliographic format
- to use information ethically

This is a required course for all new ninth grade students.
The mission of the library media program is to help students become effective users of ideas and information.
Especially for Seniors

Senior Internship .25 Credits

LCA’s Senior Internship provides a unique opportunity for Upper School students. Each senior is required to spend the last three weeks of the school year gaining experience in a "real life" career field of his or her interest. The goal is to help them use the experiences and insights gained while in the work force as a legitimate exploration of a potential career. LCA seniors have interned in corporations, non-profit organizations, small businesses and start-up companies, schools, and hospitals. They have assisted executives, social workers, entrepreneurs, teachers, physicians, nurses, pastors, graphic designers, salespeople, and others. Because no reimbursement is permitted, students are able to spend valuable time observing, assisting, reading, and researching.

Advanced Senior Research 1 Credit

The Senior Project is a research based class where students are paired with a faculty mentor and allowed to pursue an interest in-depth; either academic or service oriented. Students will be required to make presentations throughout the year to the Senior Project Board to report on their progress and learning. The class will take the place of the Senior Internship. The entire project assumes the integration of faith with learning in such a way that acknowledges all pursuits of truth a ultimately pursuing a better understanding of God and his creation. Admission to this course is by application.

The Student Leadership Challenge .25 Credits

This is a leadership course offered to the prefects. Students will learn about five proven leadership practices. They will be given the opportunity to reflect on how they can become exemplary leaders through activities, videos, reflective exercises and the use of an online survey. The class meets once a rotation; students receive ¼ credit for the class. Enrollment in this class will be determined after the prefect elections/selections in the spring.