New Bible Curriculum Introduction & FAQ

The basic design of the Bible Curriculum at LCA is to (1) engage the life of the heart & mind, (2) seek to build & shape our students perspectives & lives by the Scripture, and (3) create healthy Biblical literacy. In order to accomplish this we seek to help students gain Biblical Literacy, allowing them to engage in faithful & thoughtful Biblical Interpretation, and therefore participate in Critical Christian Reflection on all areas of life and practice. So that we may better accomplish this task of moving students through this sequence, we have arranged our classes so that grades 6-10 fall under building Biblical Literacy, grades 9-10 fall under building Biblical Interpretation, and grades 9-12 focus on Critical Christian Reflection. These classes are not exclusive in their focus, but this gives an idea of some of the primary aims. What follows are some FAQ that will help to explain changes in the Upper School Bible curriculum.

What are the new changes?

There are two major changes to the curriculum. (1) Instead of students taking 4 years of Bible, they will be required to take six 1-semester classes of Bible in order to graduate from LCA (the equivalent of 3 years). These classes will move from meeting 3 times a rotation to meeting 4 times, thus effectively amounting to the same amount of classroom instruction that is currently being offered to students by requiring them to take 4 years of Bible that meets only 3 times a rotation.

(2) Also, instead of students all taking the same course they will have some choices. For five of the six semesters, students will choose one class from each of 5 broad categories:
- Introduction to Christianity
- Old Testament
- New Testament
- Church History
- Ethics, Culture, & Christianity
Students may choose a course from any one of the categories for the sixth and final course.

Does this mean students are taking less Bible?

No. Currently students take 4 years of Bible and meet 3 times a rotation. With the new system they will take 6 semesters (3 years) of Bible and meet 4 times a rotation. Because classes will meet more often, students will have the same number of hours of instruction in Bible. Based on a 24 rotation year (two 12-rotation semesters), in the old system students would have 288 hours of Bible (4 years x 24 rotations x 3 meetings), and within the new system they will also have 288 hours of Bible instruction (6 semesters x 12 rotations x 4 meetings).
What students do these changes affect?

These changes will be applicable to the current 9th graders (Class of 2018). The Foundations of Christianity class they took as 9th graders in 2014-2015 will count as credit for their required Introduction to Christianity and Old Testament courses. So next year (2015-2016) all 9th and 10th graders will be on the new system.

Is there any difference for students that enter in 9th grade?

Yes. While most students who were at LCA for Middle School will start 9th grade in Introduction to Christianity, students who were not at LCA for Middle School will take a Bible Survey class their first semester, which will cover the large scope of the Biblical narrative. This will count as their open elective. If a student/family feels like they have sufficient background from another Christian school or from the church background, the student may take a placement exam prior to the fall of their 9th grade year to test out of this introductory class and enter into the Introduction to Christianity class. Dates for this placement exam will be published and announced each year for new students.

Why are we making these changes?

As a college preparatory school that is centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ, we want to constantly rethink and retool how we are teaching and what we are teaching to meet the needs of students and to fulfill our mission to educate students in the context of a commitment to the gospel of Jesus Christ. We believe that these changes will help students to gain Biblical literacy and the abilities to interpret the Biblical text and reflect critically about the world and life from a Christian perspective. Furthermore, the more focused scope and more frequent meetings of these classes allows us to dig deeply into the narrative and truly make Bible classes the sixth core class for our students.