

EXCELLENCE
— in —
ACADEMICS

*Preparing students
for tomorrow's world*



SECONDARY PROGRAM

2009-2010

EXCELLENCE — in — ACADEMICS

*Preparing students
for tomorrow's world*

Northland Christian School is committed to preparing all students for the world of tomorrow and to offering each student directed academic planning, giving them the best opportunities for the future. In our continued pursuit of these goals, NCS presents "Excellence in Academics".

Excellence in Academics . . . easy to say, hard to explain. Is it a program? Is it an initiative? Is it a goal? Yes, it is all of these and, we hope, much more. At NCS, Excellence in Academics is a culture. It is our strategic plan for immersing students in a culture of excellence – in a culture where achievement is valued and excellence is encouraged; or even better, where excellence is required. It is designed to move students to an understanding of their God-given gifts. We are intentional about our claim to be a college prep school. Excellence in Academics is our action plan to vault our graduates into their college choices, excited to embrace all that each university can offer them.

2009-2010 Secondary Program

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This Academic Program book is designed to help students plan an effective course of study for both their middle school and senior high school years. It is the responsibility of students and their parents to read and discuss this information in order to make appropriate, effective academic plans. Administrators and counselors are available for advisement.

Academic Policies for Middle School and High School

- 1.** All classes are offered based on sufficient enrollment, teacher availability, and consideration of circumstances which may warrant change.
- 2.** Enrollment in all Honors, Advanced Placement, Dual Credit, and Online courses requires teacher recommendation in addition to other specific qualifying criteria.
- 3.** Middle School students who qualify and are eligible may choose to take Algebra I, Spanish I, IPC (Integrated Physics & Chemistry), Communications Application and/or Health to earn high school credit. Grades earned in these courses will not be included in the student's cumulative high school GPA.
- 4.** No credit can be given, or accepted, for tutoring by an individual acting privately or a tutoring business offering credits not approved by Northland Christian School.
- 5.** Students can make up a failed course in an NCS approved summer school program. All students needing to take a course during summer school must receive prior approval from the appropriate administrator.
- 6.** The NCS Summer Reading Program is required of all 6th - 12th grade students. Teaching units and/or assignments based on the summer reading will be a part of the beginning activities of the school year.
- 7.** Students will be counseled to take courses commensurate with their ability, interests, and future plans for post-secondary schooling.
- 8.** Due to the curricula and level of difficulty, Honors and Advanced Placement courses receive an increase in grade points. The numerical grade is not changed on the transcript or the report card. The increase is reflected only in the calculated GPA.
- 9.** Transcripts will reflect a grade for each semester of every high school course a student completes. If a student repeats a semester of a course due to failure, both grades will be reflected on the transcript and calculated into the GPA. The student will receive credit for the repeated semester. If a student repeats a semester for any reason other than failure, both grades will be reflected on the transcript; however, credit will be earned and calculated into the GPA for the original semester only.
- 10.** Only those grades earned at NCS may be considered for the averaging of two semesters in order to receive a full year's credit in any course.

NCS Middle School Plan of Study (Per Semester)

Requirements for All Middle School Students

1. All students entering 6th grade and above are required to take a math placement test.
2. Fifteen service hours per year are required for all NCS Middle School students.

6th Grade Courses

1. Bible
2. Reading 6
3. English 6
4. Math 6
5. Science 6
6. Social Studies 6
7. P.E./Athletics
8. Elective

Electives

Choose a Year-Long Elective

- Choir
- Orchestra
- Exploration
 - Study Skills (9 weeks)
 - Art (9 weeks)
 - Technology 6 (1 semester)

6th Grade Athletics

(Try-out required)

BOYS

Baseball
Basketball
Soccer
Track

GIRLS

Basketball
Cheerleading
Soccer
Softball
Track
Volleyball

7th Grade Courses

1. Bible
2. English 7/English 7 Advanced *
3. Math 7/PreAlgebra *
4. Life Science
5. Texas History
6. P.E./Athletics
7. Elective/Enhanced Reading
(1 semester each)
8. Elective

* *Must Qualify*

Electives

- Choose a Year-Long Elective & one Semester Elective
OR
- Three Semester Electives

Year-Long Electives

- Choir
- Orchestra
- Yearbook

Semester Electives

- Art
- Drama
- Technology 7
- Spanish Intro
- Yearbook
- Online Courses **

** *See VHS Middle School Level Course offerings.*

7th Grade Athletics

(Try-out required)

BOYS

Baseball
Basketball
Football
Soccer
Track

GIRLS

Basketball
Cheerleading
Soccer
Softball
Track
Volleyball

NCS Middle School Plan of Study (Per Semester)

Requirements for All Middle School Students

1. All students entering 6th grade and above are required to take a math placement test.
2. Fifteen service hours per year are required for all NCS Middle School students.

8th Grade Courses

1. Bible
2. English 8/English 8 Advanced *
3. PreAlgebra /Algebra I * **
4. Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)**
5. U.S. History
6. P.E./Athletics
7. Elective
8. Elective

Electives

- Choose two Year-Long Courses
OR
- Choose one Year-Long Course and two Semester Electives
OR
- Choose four Semester Electives

Year-Long Electives

- Choir
- Orchestra
- Spanish I* **
- Health/Communication Applications** (one semester each)
- Yearbook

Note: You may choose Spanish I or Health/Communication Applications, but not both.

Semester Electives

- Art
- Debate
- Drama
- Technology 8
- Yearbook - 1st semester only
- Online Courses***

* Must Qualify

** Will receive High School credit

*** See VHS Middle School Level Course offerings.

8th Grade Athletics

(Try-out required)

BOYS

Baseball
Basketball
Football
Soccer
Track

GIRLS

Basketball
Cheerleading
Soccer
Softball
Track
Volleyball

NCS Graduation Requirements

	RECOMMENDED DIPLOMA	DIPLOMA WITH DISTINCTION*
Bible	4	4
English	4	4
Math	4	4
Science	4	4
History/Economics	4	4
Foreign Language	2	3
Communication Applications	0.5	0.5
Health	0.5	0.5
Fine Arts	1	1
Technology	1	1
P.E./Athletics	1.5	1.5
Electives	3.5	2.5
Total Credits	30	30*

***Four courses must be chosen from the following list to receive the Diploma with Distinction.**

On Campus Courses

AP Art
 AP Biology
 AP Chemistry
 AP Language & Composition
 AP Literature & Composition
 AP Spanish
 Calculus Dual Credit
 Calculus Honors
 College Algebra Dual Credit
 Economics Dual Credit (½ credit)
 Humanities Dual Credit
 Physics Honors
 Spanish IV Honors
 U.S. History Dual Credit

Online Courses

(Online Courses are held at the Secondary Campus during regular school hours)

AP Calculus
 AP Computer Science
 AP Economics (½ credit)
 AP Environmental Science
 AP Government (½ credit)
 AP Music Theory
 AP Physics
 AP Spanish IV
 AP Spanish V
 AP Statistics
 AP U.S. History

Requirements for All High School Students

1. All students at NCS are required to take Bible each year. Students transferring into NCS during their high school program are required to take Bible for only the semesters that they are enrolled in NCS.
2. Students are expected to take 8 classes per semester. Seniors are allowed one off-campus period.
3. Two years of the same foreign language are required for the Recommended Diploma. Three years of the same foreign language is strongly recommended to enhance the student's college profile and is required for the Diploma with Distinction.
4. Students are required to earn 4 or 5 high school math credits. A math course must be taken every year during grades 9-12. If Algebra I is taken during the 8th grade, the student will have 5 math credits upon completion of the senior year.
5. Students are required to earn 4 credits in science during high school. It is recommended that a science course be taken each year of high school to enhance the student's college profile. The 8th grade IPC course may be included as one of the 4 science credits only for the Recommended Diploma.
6. All students are required to take a math placement test.
7. Twenty service hours per year are required for all NCS high school students. Service-hour year extends from June 1st – May 1st.
8. All students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly.
9. Dual credit courses require an additional fee.

Criteria for Placement in Advanced Classes

All courses taught at NCS meet a high academic standard and prepare students for college. However, all students are gifted in different ways and it is important that they be placed in the classes that best meet their needs. For interested students who are ready for the challenge, advanced courses are offered in most subject areas.

Advanced, Honors, Pre-AP or AP

For placement in an advanced, honors, Pre-AP or AP class, the selection committee will use the following criteria:

- Standardized test scores (Stanford and PSAT)
- Teacher recommendations
- Grade in the previous class

The following guidelines will help you decide whether your child is ready for the challenge:

1. Did your child score in the 85th percentile or above on standardized tests in the subject area in which they wish to advance?
 - Math – Math section
 - English – Reading and Verbal skills
 - Biology – Reading and Verbal skills
 - Chemistry/Physics – Math section
 - History – Reading and Verbal skills

2. If your child wishes to advance to a more difficult level, did he or she make a 90 or above in the previous course?

3. If your **high school** child is currently taking an advanced class, did he or she maintain a grade of at least an 80?

If your **middle school** child is currently taking an advanced class, did he or she maintain a grade of at least an 85? Middle school students who do not maintain an 85 may be rescheduled during the first semester or may be required to repeat the course the following year. Due to the importance of the foundation required to advance successfully in math and foreign language, 8th graders taking Algebra I and Spanish I must make an 85 to advance.

4. Has your child demonstrated that he or she possesses the discipline and work ethic necessary to succeed in an advanced class?

Criteria for Placement in a Dual Credit Class

Dual Credit classes allow students to earn concurrent high school and college credit. Therefore, placement in these courses is based on the entrance requirements for Lone Star College. Students must apply to Lone Star College before testing so that scores may be attached to the application. The application and testing procedures can be obtained from the Receptionist in Building 1. Student scores must meet Lone Star College standards on either the THEA, COMPASS or ASSET test unless exempt due to SAT or ACT scores. Test scores must be approved and on file in the Counselor's Office **before** August 1st of the upcoming school year or the student will not be allowed to take the course. Additional fees are required by Lone Star College.

Criteria for Placement in an Online Class

Students requesting to take an online class must be approved by the selection committee. Students requesting to take honors or AP level classes online must meet the same criteria as face-to-face classes. Students wishing to take online classes for enrichment must demonstrate a willingness to learn and the self-discipline to work independently. Teacher recommendations and the online skills survey will be used by the committee to determine a student's readiness for online classes. An online class contract is required for each course.

NCS High School Plan of Study

(Sample Preliminary Plan)

Each student, in consultation with his/her parents, should draw up his/her plan for the next school year. Please note this is a preliminary plan to be considered for consultation and approval by your counselor/administrator. Complete your schedule for each year, both previous and future school years. Please refer to previous page as a guide for requirements.

Name _____

Freshman ___ - ___

Sophomore ___ - ___

1. Bible: _____

1. Bible: _____

2. English: _____

2. English: _____

3. Math: _____

3. Math: _____

4. Science: _____

4. Science: _____

5. World Geography: _____

5. World History: _____

6. Foreign Language: _____

6. Foreign Language: _____

7. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. _____

Junior ___ - ___

Senior ___ - ___

1. Bible: _____

1. Bible: _____

2. English: _____

2. English: _____

3. Math: _____

3. Math: _____

4. Science: _____

4. Economics/Government: _____

5. U.S. History: _____

5. Science: _____

6. _____

6. _____

7. _____

7. _____

8. _____

8. _____

Advanced and Honors Courses: See page 7 of Course Catalog for Selection Criteria
Courses offered based on availability.

What Classes Should I Take?

All students will be required to follow the Academic (College Preparatory) Path. These courses will prepare students for college level work and give them a solid foundation in all academic subjects. Students who wish to accelerate learning in their areas of interest may choose one of the other available paths. Students who qualify and wish to take advanced level classes may do so during any high school year.

Math

NCS students are required to take math every year. Students who are preparing for college need to take PreCalculus to be prepared for college level math and to bolster their college application. Math Reasoning is for students who are not planning to major in a math-related field in college. Math Reasoning will help prepare students for the college math required for Liberal Arts majors.

Level:	Honors Level (math majors)	Honors Level (non-math majors)	College Preparatory Path
Possible College Majors:	Math, Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry	Science, Pre-Med, Business	Liberal Arts, Business, Fine Arts
8th/9th	Algebra I	Algebra I	Algebra I
9th/10th	Geometry Honors	Geometry Honors	Geometry
10th/11th	Algebra II Honors	Algebra II Honors	Algebra II
11th/12th	PreAP PreCalculus	PreCalculus Honors	PreCalculus or College Algebra
12th (If Alg. I taken in 8th grade)	Calculus DC	Calculus Honors or College Algebra DC	College Algebra DC

Science

NCS students are required to take four years of science to meet graduation requirements. Students who take IPC in eighth grade may choose to take a science or non-science elective their senior year.

Level:	Honors Level (math majors)	Honors Level (non-math majors)	College Preparatory Path
Possible College Majors:	Math, Engineering, Computer Science, Physics, Chemistry	Biology, Pre-Med	Liberal Arts, Business, Fine Arts
9th/10th	Biology Honors	Biology Honors	Biology
10th/11th	Chemistry Honors	Chemistry Honors	Chemistry
11th/12th	AP Chemistry or Physics Honors	Anatomy or Honors Physics or AP Biology	Anatomy or Conceptual Physics
	AP Chemistry or Physics Honors	Anatomy or Honors Physics or AP Biology	Elective or Anatomy or Conceptual Physics

English

NCS students are required to take four years of English at the high school level.

Level:	AP	Honors (non-English major)	College Preparatory Path
Possible College Majors:	English, Liberal Arts, Pre-Law, History	Liberal Arts, Pre-Law, History	Liberal Arts, Business, Fine Arts
9th	PreAP English I	PreAP English I	English I
10th	Pre AP English II	Pre AP English II	English II
11th	AP Language & Composition	AP Language & Comp or English III Honors	English III
12th	AP Literature & Composition	AP Literature & Composition or English IV Honors	English IV

GRADE POINT SCALE

Effective Jun 1, 2005

Numerical Grade	Academic Classes	Honors Classes	AP Classes
A100	5.0	6.0	6.5
A99	4.9	5.9	6.4
A98	4.8	5.8	6.3
A97	4.7	5.7	6.2
A96	4.6	5.6	6.1
A95	4.5	5.5	6.0
A94	4.4	5.4	5.9
A93	4.3	5.3	5.8
A92	4.2	5.2	5.7
A91	4.1	5.1	5.6
A90	4.0	5.0	5.5
B89	3.9	4.9	5.4
B88	3.8	4.8	5.3
B87	3.7	4.7	5.2
B86	3.6	4.6	5.1
B85	3.5	4.5	5.0
B84	3.4	4.4	4.9
B83	3.3	4.3	4.8
B82	3.2	4.2	4.7
B81	3.1	4.1	4.6
B80	3.0	4.0	4.5
C79	2.8	3.8	4.3
C78	2.6	3.6	4.1
C77	2.4	3.4	3.9
C76	2.2	3.2	3.7
C75	2.0	3.0	3.5
D74	1.8	1.8	1.8
D73	1.6	1.6	1.6
D72	1.4	1.4	1.4
D71	1.2	1.2	1.2
D70	1.0	1.0	1.0
F69 (and below)	0.0	0.0	0.0

Note: Concurrent (dual credit) classes will be awarded grade points on the honors scale.

Northland Christian School Secondary Course Selection

BIBLE

6th Grade Bible

Sixth Grade Bible class is a survey of the Old Testament. The course begins with a study of evidences that God is the creator of the universe and that the Bible is the Word of God. Students are then introduced to each of the books of the Old Testament. As the students “travel” from Genesis to Malachi, they are introduced to great men and women of God and learn lessons that apply to their lives. In addition, the students will begin to see the overall plan of God to bring salvation to the world through His son, Jesus Christ.

7th Grade Girls Bible

Seventh Grade Girls Bible uses the SurvivalQuest Series. SurvivalQuest presents an in-depth Scriptural study of the life of an Old or New Testament character. Using both positive and negative examples, students learn from the context of the individual’s life how to face both the challenges of everyday living and the challenges of overwhelming experiences. The emphasis extends beyond surviving to thriving in the midst of such circumstances as they learn the true meaning of Romans 8:37, “*yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us*”.

7th/8th Grade Boys Bible

The Seventh and Eighth Grade Boys’ Bible curriculum is a 40-week character development program published by Mark1 entitled “*Changing Lives*”. The first semester focuses on laying a strong foundation of inward character; the second semester builds on that foundation by emphasizing demonstration of outward character. This program is enhanced by the use of Bible Gateway internet software to cross-reference applicable Scriptures with the weekly topics. Service projects are an important aspect of these courses. Students are always excited to ‘put their faith to the test’ by helping others through participation in these projects.

8th Grade Girls Bible

Eighth Grade Girls’ Bible begins with a study of Lee Stroebel’s book of Christian evidences, *The Case For Christ*, followed by a relationship study in the book of Ruth. Second semester is devoted to a study of various people in the Bible using the SurvivalQuest Series, making personal application to life issues. Emphasis is placed on memorizing scripture and using God’s Word to solve problems in daily life.

BIBLE *continued*

HIGH SCHOOL BIBLE OVERVIEW

The NCS High School Bible Program is designed to teach spiritual, historical, and behavioral lessons in a consistent, interactive format. Within our proprietary curriculum, NCS High School Bible courses use a variety of teaching techniques and approaches to personally challenge each student in a non-doctrinal environment. Thus, all students have maximum opportunity to benefit from their understanding of the Bible as they progress through the High School Bible Program.

Bible 9th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Freshman Bible focuses on the life of Moses and the book of Hebrews. This course provides the student with a solid understanding of Mosaic law, contrasted with New Testament grace. Students are challenged with small group and individual service projects throughout the school year. Historical focus: 2500 B.C. – 1400 B.C. (*establishment of codified spiritual law*).

Bible 10th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Sophomore Bible focuses initially on the life of Ruth, then on the life of David. This course provides the student with a solid understanding of male-female relationships, leadership issues, and a wide variety of topical issues. Students are challenged with small-group discussions and individual writing projects throughout the school year. Historical focus: 1400 B.C. – 900 B.C. (*spiritual leadership transition from Judges to Kings*).

Bible 11th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Junior Bible begins with 'Question Authority', a series designed to address the upper-classman's desire to challenge institutions and conventions. Moving forward in Bible history, the course covers the life of Esther as well as The Acts of the Apostles. This course provides the student with a deep understanding of personal commitment, church-development, leadership issues, and a wide variety of topical issues. Students are challenged with small-group discussions and individual creative projects throughout the school year. Historical focus: 900 B.C. – 60 A.D. (*spiritual state transition from captivity to redemption and freedom*).

Bible 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Senior Bible begins with 'How to Know the Will of God for Your Life', a series designed to draw three years of High School Bible study together into one clear understanding of God's expectations. Senior Bible then focuses for the balance of the year on a survey study of the book of Romans. This course provides the student with all necessary tools to make informed decisions regarding spiritual life. Students are challenged with small-group discussions and individual writing projects throughout the school year. Historical focus: 33 A.D. – present (*personal responsibility for spiritual redemption and freedom*).

Advanced Bible - 12th Grade 11th Grade with Approval

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Advanced Bible is a highly intensive, collegiate-level course that begins with 'Powerful Christianity: Twelve Essential Elements of Influential Presence', a series designed to prepare young Christians for leadership roles in a variety of environments. Advanced Bible then focuses for the balance of the year on an intensive study of the book of Romans. This course provides the student with all necessary tools to make informed spiritual decisions and assume spiritual leadership responsibilities, by means of intensive small-group and whole-group discussion and analysis. This course is academically challenging, with a substantial writing component. Historical focus: 33 A.D. – present (*personal responsibility for spiritual redemption and freedom*). Note: Advanced Bible material does not repeat; therefore, students may take this course during both their junior and senior years.

COMMUNICATION

Communication Applications 8th or 9th Grade

½ Credit Communication

1 Semester

Communication Applications is designed to help students develop a broad spectrum of communication skills to include face-to-face presentations, electronic communications, and multimedia based communications. Face-to-face communications will include learning to write and present a process speech, expository speech, persuasive speech, and oratory. Electronic skills will include e-mail, discussion groups, electronic etiquette, electronic slides, multimedia, video, and interactive presentations.

Introduction to Debate & Public Speaking 8th Grade

1 Semester

The purpose of the course is to develop and enhance verbal, organizational, research and critical thinking skills, as well as self-confidence through the preparation and presentation of speeches within the classroom. Students will learn the fundamentals and participate in Lincoln Douglas Debate, make informative and persuasive speeches, Impromptu Speaking, and write and deliver original oratories on topics of personal and public interest. All students will be required to attend one Middle School debate and speech tournament outside of Northland Christian School, where they will compete against middle school students from other public and private schools.

Debate & Public Speaking 9th - 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Can only be taken one year.

This class is intended to provide classroom focus for learning speech and debate skills. The course focuses on debate and public speaking events exclusively such as Public Forum Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oratory, Impromptu Speaking and Student Congress. The course is designed to foster critical thinking and argumentative abilities, which are crucial to success in college and beyond. Students will be introduced to various reasoning devices, research skills, organizational skills, and critical verbal persuasive skills. Through public speaking practice in the class room and in limited competition, students will develop the communication skills that they will utilize in the academic, social, and workplace settings. Students are required to attend two local high school speech & debate tournaments to demonstrate mastery of fundamental skills.

Debate & Public Speaking-Competitive 9th - 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Application required.

Students must submit an application and be approved by the faculty advisor. Designed to prepare students for competition in interscholastic debate and speech tournaments against both public and private schools in the State of Texas and nationally. The course focuses on debate and public speaking events exclusively such as Cross-Examination Debate, Lincoln-Douglas Debate, Extemporaneous Speaking, Oratory, Impromptu Speaking and Student Congress. Oral interpretation events such humorous, prose, poetry and dramatic interpretation are coached on an extracurricular basis. The course is designed to foster critical thinking and argumentative abilities, which are crucial to success in college and beyond. Critical thinking tools and arguments are central to understanding complex issues, forming beliefs/opinions, shaping decisions, and resolving controversies/conflicts. Students will be introduced to various reasoning devices, research skills, organizational skills, and critical verbal persuasive skills. Through public speaking practice in the class room and in competition, students will develop the communication skills that they will utilize in the academic, social, and workplace settings. The Debate and Public Speaking curriculum is designed to balance lecture with skills development in a practical, fun environment. All students will be required to compete in a minimum of five tournaments during the school year.

Debate & Public Speaking Competitive Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The honors level is for students who are participating in Debate for the third or fourth year in high school. Students are expected to serve as leaders and mentors to other students while advancing their own skills to a higher level.

ENGLISH

English 6th Grade

This course emphasizes grammar and writing with the purpose of making clear to the students the orderly structure of language. Grammar is taught in a useful, practical way -- in conjunction with composition and oral usage. The student sees how each word has a job, how words fit together to form sentences, how sentences fit together to make paragraphs, and how paragraphs fit together to make compositions. The student is guided to develop complete and orderly thoughts -- to learn to reason and think. Students who use this program are not afraid of composition.

Reading 6th Grade

This course emphasizes skills such as word study, thinking skills, comprehension, main idea, literary language, flashback, time sequence, paraphrasing, and a study of different types of literature. Story elements are introduced and reviewed periodically to ensure the students mastery of these reading skills. Students are required to read different kinds of literature, including poetry, and will generate writing of various types and lengths.

English 7th Grade - Academic

This course will emphasize literature study, writing skills, vocabulary development, and the elements of language and grammar. Students will be introduced to the novel, the short story, and poetry. They will practice writing skills, incorporating their knowledge from the studies of grammar and spelling. Vocabulary development takes place by studying words in conjunction with reading selections as well as a study of words in preparation for college entrance exams.

English 7th Grade - Advanced

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

This course will emphasize literature study, writing skills, grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Students will move beyond grammar review and will explore the constructs of language in depth. In order to develop knowledge of literary terminology and literature appreciation, students will participate in a study of poetry, the short story, drama, and novels. Students on this track will have a goal of Pre-AP, AP, and Honors classes in high school English.

Enhanced Reading - 7th Grade

1 Semester

Enhanced Reading is a comprehensive course designed to improve reading speed, comprehension and retention, study skills, test taking, and technical reading ability.

English 8th Grade - Academic

This course stresses literature study, writing skills, vocabulary development, and the elements of language and grammar. Students will be expected to be able to discuss themes and literary elements. Items covered include short stories, modern drama, essays, creative writing, and response journals. Students generate pieces of writing of various lengths and kinds throughout the year. There will be an emphasis on vocabulary development by studying words in conjunction with reading selections, as well as a study of words in preparation for college entrance exams.

English 8th Grade - Advanced

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, see page 7.

This course will emphasize literature study, writing skills, grammar, mechanics, vocabulary, and critical thinking. Students will polish grammar skills, deepen reading comprehension and literature appreciation, and work toward exemplary writing. To increase knowledge of literary terminology and literature appreciation, students will participate in a study of poetry, the short story, drama, and novels. Students on this track will have a goal of Pre-AP, AP, and Honors classes in high school English.

English I (9th Grade)

1 Credit

2 Semesters

English I stresses literature study, writing skills, vocabulary development, and the elements of language and grammar. Items covered include short stories, modern drama, essays, creative writing, and response journals. Students generate pieces of writing of various lengths and kinds throughout the year. Vocabulary development takes place by studying words in conjunction with reading selections as well as a study of words in preparation for college entrance exams. Language and grammar are emphasized in writing and will include a review of usage and mechanics.

English I Pre-AP (9th Grade)

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

English I stresses literature study, writing skills, vocabulary development, and the elements of language and grammar. Students will be expected to be able to discuss themes and literary elements. Items covered include short stories, modern drama, essays, creative writing, and response journals. Students generate pieces of writing of various lengths and kinds throughout the year. Vocabulary development takes place by studying words in conjunction with reading selections as well as a study of words in preparation for college entrance exams. Assignments for Pre-AP English classes vary in length and scope. Students will be expected to stay current with the fast pace of this class.

ENGLISH *continued*

English II (10th Grade) World Literature

1 Credit

2 Semesters

English II includes the study of World Literature, composition, and vocabulary. Language and grammar study are emphasized in writing. Since the students have had several years of intense grammar study, the problems that show up during writing units are now the only ones isolated and studied independently. The students will study World Literature through essays, poetry, and short stories.

English II Pre-AP (10th Grade) World Literature

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

English II Pre-AP includes the study of World Literature, composition, and vocabulary. Language and grammar study are emphasized in writing. Since the students have had several years of intense grammar study, the problems that show up during writing units are now the only ones isolated and studied independently. The students will study World Literature through essays, poetry, and short stories from the textbook, *Elements of Literature*. This Pre-AP course is fast paced and students will be expected to keep up with the reading requirements.

English III (11th Grade) American Literature and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is defined as a survey of American literature with a study of grammar and composition. Students will follow a writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review. Preparing a research paper, and all it involves, is taught in the spring semester. College preparatory vocabulary is emphasized.

English III Honors (11th Grade) American Literature and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

This course is defined as a detailed survey of American literature with an advanced study of grammar and composition. Students will follow a writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review. Preparing a research paper, and all it involves, is taught in the spring semester. College preparatory vocabulary is emphasized.

English III AP (11th Grade) Language and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

This course is defined as an advanced study of composition for those students with the ability to succeed in an accelerated program. The course is designed to hone analysis and creativity in students who have mastered the skills for written language. Essays from well-known writers frame this study, as well as certain classics from American literature. The College Board AP Exam is required of students at the end of the year. Students will receive college credit based upon the advanced placement policy of the college they choose to attend. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by The College Board yearly.

English IV (12th Grade) British Literature and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is defined as a survey of British literature with a study of grammar and composition. Students will follow a writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review. Preparing a research paper, and all it involves, is taught in the spring semester. College preparatory vocabulary is emphasized.

English IV Honors (12th Grade) British Literature and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

This course is defined as a detailed survey of British literature with an advanced study of grammar and composition. Students will follow a writing process with careful attention to inquiry and research, drafting, revising, editing, and review. Preparing a research paper, and all it involves, is taught in the spring semester. College preparatory vocabulary is emphasized.

English IV AP (12th Grade) Literature and Composition

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Previous levels of English and selection criteria, page 7.

The Advanced Placement Program is sponsored by the College Board and provides an opportunity for secondary school students to pursue and receive credit for college-level course work completed at the secondary level. The successful completion of a standardized national examination can qualify a student for as many as 6 hours of college credit in English. Through close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of the ways writers use language to provide both pleasure and meaning for their readers. Consideration is given to structure, style, and themes as well as the writer's use of imagery, symbolism, and tone. Student writing is an integral part of the course, as the AP Exam consists of writing about various forms of literature. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam at the end of the year. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly.

FINE ARTS

Middle School Art

1 Semester

Middle School Art is a one-semester course designed to expose students to a variety of media and techniques. A field trip to the art museum is an important part of the course, as students learn to think and talk about art as well as create it. Students experience drawing, painting, print making, and clay.

Art I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Art I is for students without previous high school visual arts experience. It includes a general overview of art concepts and some art history, as well as a variety of studio experiences. Learning basic techniques and design concepts is stressed.

Art II

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Art I

For students who have completed Art I, Art II provides a chance for a deeper exploration of traditional media and experimentation with new subject matter. Students will also learn to talk and write about their own art and others through critiques, studying historically important works, and researching and developing their own philosophical stance towards art.

Art III Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Art II

For students who have completed Art II, Art III provides a chance for students to focus on media of their choosing and continue to experiment with that media, study its history, and apply its concepts and uses in society and as a tool of expression.

Art IV Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Art III Honors or Digital Art II

Art IV provides an opportunity for serious art students to create works of art on a much larger scale. It also provides the opportunity for the creation of a portfolio that will help when applying for a future in the art field.

Digital Photography I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

An art course that emphasizes visualization and composition skills, as well as the technical aspects of photography. Students are not required to use digital cameras, but most do. Students practice taking photographs and improving and printing them in Photoshop. Group critiques enable them to think and talk about photography with an eye to improving their own work. Outstanding photographs will be displayed and entered in competitions.

Digital Photography II

1 Credit

2 Semesters

A continuation and extension of Digital Photography I, Digital Photography II enables students to concentrate on expression and to explore photography concepts in more depth. Also involves advanced Adobe Photoshop CS3 techniques.

Digital Art I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Art I or Digital Photography I.

Photoshop, Illustrator, and Painter are used to explore graphic design and expressive content using digital media.

Digital Art II

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Digital Art I.

Digital Art II gives students much more freedom to explore different digital media of their choice. A digital portfolio will also be created for use to display their art and designs.

AP Studio Art

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Application required.

Students must submit an application and be approved by the faculty advisor. For highly motivated students with at least two years of high school Art, AP offers the opportunity to earn college credit. By completing twenty-four high quality pieces, students break through to new levels of technical proficiency and expressive strength. Portfolios are graded by the College Board in slide form. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly. Teacher approval required.

Middle School Theatre Arts

1 Semester

This course serves as an introduction to the theater and develops an ability to perform and speak in front of others. The course focuses on performance through improvisation exercises, communicating through movement, persuasive speaking, and a class play production. The skills gained in this course help the student develop a stage presence, vocal and physical techniques ensemble skills and character development skills. There is an additional fee of \$30 which includes Comedy Sportz Improv Workshop, play script, t-shirt, and dinner on the night of the class play.

High School Theatre Arts

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Middle School Theatre Arts and/or permission of the instructor.

Theatre Arts is designed to assist students in discovering the dramatic skills necessary to develop his/her creative talents. This is done through participating in NCS Theatre productions and class room acting activities. By participating in NCS Theater productions students gain an understanding of on stage and off stage skills used in the theater. In class acting exercises and performances build a foundation of knowledge necessary for acting and dramatic skills necessary for performance. Projects are individually catered based on student ability and experience. Students will also get a basic foundation of technical theatre, theatre history, and playwriting.

FINE ARTS *continued*

Jazz Ensemble

1 Credit

2 Semesters

NCS Jazz Ensemble is an intensive performing jazz environment that challenges student musicians at every level. Students are introduced to jazz composition representing a broad spectrum of world-wide jazz idioms and styles, including music theory and underlying principles of composition. Due to the performance requirements of this course, auditions are required for all students who wish to register for Jazz Ensemble, whether new or returning.

Jazz Ensemble Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The honors level is for students who are participating in the Jazz Ensemble for the third or fourth year in high school. Students are expected to serve as leaders and mentors to other students while advancing their own skills to a higher level.

Orchestra Middle School

2 Semesters

Incoming students may be required to pass a proficiency test for admittance into the class. This class is designed to emphasize the art of ensemble playing for stringed instruments and expand on the learning experienced prior to a student's enrollment in the class. Emphasis will be placed on musicality, the ensemble setting, and performance practice. Example performance venues might include chapel, a Christmas concert, spring concert, and others. Qualified students may be invited to participate in quartets or small ensembles outside the overall group.

Orchestra High School

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Students should have completed two full years of study on their instrument.

Incoming students may be required to pass a proficiency test for admittance into the class. This class is designed to emphasize the art of ensemble playing for stringed instruments and expand on the learning experienced prior to a student's enrollment in the class. Emphasis will be placed on musicality, the ensemble setting, and performance practice. Example performance venues might include chapel, a Christmas concert, spring concert, and others. Qualified students may be invited to participate in quartets or small ensembles outside the overall group.

Orchestra High School Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The honors level is for students who are participating in Orchestra for the third or fourth year in high school. Students are expected to serve as leaders and mentors to other students while advancing their own skills to a higher level.

Choir 6th Grade

2 Semesters

Students participating in 6th grade choir must display a positive attitude toward music and performing. Students will learn to read music and be instructed in good vocal technique. All students must purchase the choir uniform to be worn for concerts and music competition.

Choir 7th & 8th Grade

2 Semesters

Students participating in 7th & 8th Grade Choir must display a positive attitude toward music and performing. Since the choir travels several times per year, students signing up for choir should be in good academic standing. Students will learn to read music and be instructed in group vocal technique. All students must purchase the choir uniform to be worn for concerts and music competition.

Choir High School

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Participation in NCS choir requires placement by the director. Students must display a positive attitude toward music and performing. Since the choir travels at various times of the year, students signing up for choir should be in good academic standing. Students will build music reading skills and healthy vocal technique. Students in choir will be required to sing in several languages and many different musical styles. Students must purchase the choir uniform and are encouraged to purchase a year subscription to Smart Music for practicing music at home on their computers. To travel with the choir during the spring, students must be in choir the entire school year.

Choir High School Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The honors level is for students who are participating in Choir for the third or fourth year in high school. Students are expected to serve as leaders and mentors to other students while advancing their own skills to a higher level.

Music Theory & Composition I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is for the serious music student who is considering majoring in music in college or is highly motivated to compose. This class will cover music composition, analysis, melodic and harmonic dictation and basic keyboard skills. Students enrolled in this class will have Finale, Auralia and other specialized software programs loaded on their laptops to complement the text and workbook for the class.

Music Theory & Composition II - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

A continuation and extension of Music Theory I which offers students the opportunity for deeper exploration of music concept and composition.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Introduction to Spanish - Middle School

1 Semester

Introduction to Spanish has been prepared as a Middle School elective course. It is arranged in such a manner that a student could take the course several different times during their middle school years—each time adding both mastery and interest in the language. Grammar, vocabulary, and basic conversational skills are covered in a wide variety of ways to reach each learning style. The language itself, as well as culture, foods, and even modern missionary experiences are discussed and experienced through special speakers, video clips, games, activities, and written work. The goal of this class is not only to give information and beginning speaking skills to the student, but also to create an excitement and anticipation towards his/her High School Spanish coursework.

Spanish I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language and assumes no previous knowledge or limited knowledge. The class will use Spanish in speaking, writing, reading and listening skills. The students will be given opportunities to use the language through games, drama, celebrations, special projects and field trips.

Spanish II

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Spanish I or permission from the teacher

This course is a continuation of Spanish I. The students will continue to use the language in speaking, writing, reading and listening skills – with a deeper exploration into the written language. The students will be given opportunities to use the language in holiday projects, role-plays, games, videos, stories and field trips.

Spanish III - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Spanish II or permission from the teacher

This course is a continuation of Spanish II. The students will delve deeper into the spoken language, literature and writing skills. The students will also study cultural similarities and differences as well as geography and history of Spanish-speaking nations. The students will be given opportunities to show their skills using videos, audio materials, student-centered projects to share with lower level students and field trips.

Spanish IV - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Spanish III and Selection criteria, page 7.

Spanish IV is designed as a continuation of Spanish III. In-depth study of the language and grammar will be emphasized along with literature, history, customs, traditions and current events.

AP Spanish

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Spanish III, Spanish IV (optional) or by specific teacher recommendation and Selection criteria, page 7.

This advanced course focuses on Spanish for active communication—concentration is specifically on using and fine tuning verbal skills as the well as writing of expository compositions. Major emphasis is placed on reading, writing, and speaking using ‘real-life’ texts, interviews, and short stories. The varied accents, vocabulary and idiom usage from different Latin Countries are discussed and used as well. The last weeks of the course are dedicated toward the final preparation and practice for the AP Spanish Language Examination. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly.

Other Foreign Languages

For enrichment purposes students may pursue other Foreign Language options through the online schools that partner with NCS. Other languages include:

- Latin
- Basic Mandarin
- AP French
- Portuguese
- Spanish Culture and 20th Century Hispanic Literature
- Writing in Spanish

HISTORY

Social Studies/Ancient World - 6th Grade

In this course students are led through a survey that begins with the rise of civilization and ends with a study of Ancient Rome. The approach used to teach this curriculum is unique in that it uses an approach that differs dramatically from lectures, recitation, and seatwork. The approach consists of a series of instructional practices that allow students of all abilities to experience key social studies concepts. The lessons incorporate the six types of multiple intelligence activities, (verbal, logical, visual, kinesthetic, rhythmic, interpersonal, and intrapersonal), that ignite all students' passion for learning. The use of cooperative group work promotes higher student achievement and increased student interaction. With this curriculum, what was once a dusty, dry area of learning is now fresh, exciting, and engaging.

Texas History - 7th Grade

Texas history relates the history of the land of the peoples of Texas from the prehistoric era to the present. Major emphasis is on periods prior to the twentieth century. The contributions of various cultures and the interaction of these cultures are presented early and are a major theme throughout the course. Map reading skills are a vital element of this course. The study of Texas history will incorporate lecture, reading skills, note-taking, map-making, videos, and a large variety of hands-on projects for most of the units covered including multicultural heritage, geographical influences, technological advancement, democracy and civil rights, individual and family life, intellectual and religious development, free enterprise and economic development, conflict and cooperation.

U.S. History - 8th Grade

This course is an introductory study of United States history. The adventure will begin with early American Indian settlers and will discuss the social and cultural development of the United States through the Civil War. The course attempts to create a spirit of love and appreciation in students for their country as well as a realistic view of the people and events that shaped this great nation. An optional field trip is offered in the spring.

World Geography - 9th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
This is a survey course on the history of man from the development of early civilization to the Age of Exploration. Students see parallels in development across nations and note the differences that make nations unique. The study is flexible to allow for reevaluation of events in light of new historical events. Students are exposed to various cultures from Eastern, African, and Western civilizations. The semester begins with an introduction to physical and cultural Geography using Glenco *World Geography*, by Richard G. Boehm. As the history of the world is taught, the cultural and physical aspects of geography are covered with relation to the countries involved.

World History - 10th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
This is a survey course on the history of man from the English Civil War to the twentieth century. Students see parallels in development across nations and note the differences that make nations unique. The study of World History is flexible to allow for reevaluation of events in light of new historical events. Students are exposed to cultures of Eastern, African, and Western nations. Cultural and physical geography are integrated into the curriculum as each country is covered.

U.S. History - 11th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
This course is a survey of American history from the founding of the colonies to the present. The adventure will begin with European exploration and will cover the social and economic development of the United States, its foreign relations, wars, and key political events today. An emphasis is placed on past events and the relationship to present-day conditions. Research, writing, and critical thinking are stressed.

U.S. History Dual Credit - 11th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.
A survey of U.S. History from the end of Reconstruction to the present. Special emphasis is placed on the emergence of the United States as a world power and our subsequent assumption of international responsibilities. Other topics will include westward expansion, industrialization, immigration, World War I, World War II, the subsequent Cold War, Vietnam, and the collapse of the Soviet Empire.

Government

½ Credit **1 Semester**
American Government will provide a foundation in the science of government to increase student knowledge and skills in all facets of government. Students will gain the ability to exercise more control over government at all levels. The course will be comprised of the following: the basic principles on which American government is based; insight into the origins, history, and structure of government; issues of all the American system; political groups and parties; the American system at local, state and national levels; the relationship among local, state and national levels; the interaction among the three branches of the national government, and the rights, freedoms and responsibilities of American citizens. Prominence will be given to the Constitution of the United States. American Government will seek to help students understand these course elements and to recognize how each applies to them personally to enable each person to exercise his or her franchise thoughtfully and effectively.

HISTORY *continued*

Economics

½ Credit

1 Semester

Economics emphasizes the free enterprise system. The focus is on the basic principles concerning production, consumption, and distribution of goods and services in the United States and a comparison with those in other countries around the world. Students examine the rights and responsibilities of consumers and businesses. Students analyze the interaction of supply, demand, and price and study the role of financial institutions in a free enterprise system. Types of business ownership and market structures are discussed, as are basic concepts of consumer economics.

Economics Dual Credit

½ Credit

1 Semester

Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

This course is designed to give college credit as well as high school credit for economics. Microeconomics consists of the study of microeconomic principles. This includes analysis of theories of consumer behavior, production, cost, equilibrium analysis in product markets under different market structures, such as perfect competition, monopoly, monopolistic competition, oligopoly; cartels and conglomerate mergers; antitrust policy, economics of regulation; analysis of different types of factor markets and factor price determination.

Humanities Dual Credit 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

A study of interpretation of human experience through an introduction to music, literature, the visual arts, history, and philosophy. Focus is on gaining practical experience in inquiry, recognition, and assessment.

Psychology and Sociology 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The psychology semester will communicate to the student the facts and details of psychology as a scientific discipline. The course will help students understand psychological concepts as they relate to every-day-life. Topics will include developmental and physiological psychology, sensation, perception, remembering, language, learning, motivation, emotion, personality, mental disorders, and therapy.

The sociology semester is designed to help students understand basic sociological principles and to help them apply them to situations in everyday life. Contemporary topics will be chosen to help students enrich their learning beyond the textbook. Through the participation in different exercises and applications, students will gain an understanding of many different areas of sociology.

MATH

Math 6th Grade

The mathematics course for grade six is designed to not only teach mathematical concepts, but to also provide students with real-life situations in which their math skills can be utilized. Number patterns, decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percent, and measurement are some of the topics covered. Algebra is also introduced through integers and solving equations. An Algebra readiness test will be given in the 6th grade. Use of Technology allows students to progress according to demonstrated ability and readiness.

Math 7th Grade

Focus will be on adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, fractions, decimals, percents, and integers in problem solving. Using numbers in geometry, measurement, statistics, and probability will be emphasized in applying proportional relationships. Describing and interpreting data will be included. Algebraic concepts are also explored through solving one-step equations and inequalities.

PreAlgebra - 7th Grade

Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

In PreAlgebra, topics including numerical operations, estimation, algebraic functions, statistics, probability, geometry, measurement, problem solving, algebraic operations, solving basic equations, and graphing will be covered. Preparation for Algebra I is the main emphasis.

PreAlgebra - 8th Grade

In PreAlgebra, topics including numerical operations, estimation, algebraic functions, statistics, probability, geometry, measurement, problem solving, algebraic operations, solving basic equations, and graphing will be covered. Preparation for Algebra I is the main emphasis.

Algebra I - 8th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

Algebra I reinforces concepts learned in PreAlgebra (such as solving simple equations, linear graphing, proportion and percent) and expands into solving systems of equations and inequalities, factoring and simplifying polynomials, solving quadratic equations and working with exponents and radicals. Students are given a foundation for concepts that will be learned in Geometry, Algebra II and PreCalculus. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Algebra I - 9th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
This course will emphasize the language of algebra and the concept of a variable in studying mathematical relationships and problem solving. Linear equations and inequalities, algebraic operations of polynomials, exponents, radicals, quadratic equations, functions, graphs, and applications will be studied. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Geometry - Academic 9th or 10th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Informal proofs and discovery activities are used to help students develop a foundation in Euclidean geometry, including the study of parallel lines and planes, triangles, quadrilaterals, other polygons, and circles. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Geometry - Honors 9th or 10th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.
Includes Euclidean geometry including the in-depth study of parallel lines and planes, triangles, quadrilaterals, other polygons, and circles. Emphasis is placed on formal proofs and logical thinking. A foundation in trigonometry is developed. This is a rigorous course taught in preparation for calculus. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II - Academic 10th or 11th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Algebra II includes the concepts of solving open sentences in one or more variables, algebraic operations with polynomials and rational expressions, properties of functions, matrices and determinants, graphing, quadratic and higher degree functions, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, trigonometry, and probability. Technological applications of these topics will be integrated into the course. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Algebra II - Honors 10th or 11th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.
Algebra II Honors focuses on the algebraic concepts of solving open sentences of different degrees, polynomials and rational expressions, function analysis, matrices and determinants, graphing, complex numbers, conic sections, exponential and logarithmic functions, sequences and series, trigonometry, and probability. This course emphasizes higher-level thinking and problem solving. Applications and technology are integrated into this course. This course is designed as preparation for calculus. A TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

PreCalculus - Academic 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Precalculus contains elements of trigonometry, analytic geometry, function analysis and graphing, sequences and series, applications of matrices and determinants, and advanced algebraic topics. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

**PreCalculus - Honors
11th or 12th Grade****1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: Algebra II and selection criteria, page 7.

PreCalculus Honors includes the study of trigonometry, analytic geometry, and function analysis. In-depth study of functions, graphs, advanced algebraic topics, proofs, and applications is emphasized in their relation to the calculus. This course is designed as preparation for calculus. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

**PreCalculus - Pre-AP
11th or 12th Grade****1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: Algebra II and selection criteria, page 7.

PreCalculus Pre-AP includes the study of trigonometry, analytic geometry, and function analysis. In-depth study of functions, graphs, advanced algebraic topics, proofs, and applications is emphasized in their relation to the calculus. An introduction to limits, derivatives, anti-derivatives is included. This course is designed for students with the ability and motivation for learning PreCalculus at a rate and depth required for future success in AP Calculus. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required. Receives AP level grade points.

Calculus - Honors - 12th Grade**1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: PreCalculus-Pre-AP or Honors and Selection criteria, page 7.

This course includes the fundamental development of the calculus. Emphasis is placed on analysis of functions, limits, derivatives, integrals, and applications as related to rates of change, velocity, acceleration, graph sketching, and area under a curve. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

Calculus Dual Credit**1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: PreCalculus-Pre-AP and Selection criteria, page 7.

This course includes the study of functions, limits, continuity, differentiation and integration of algebraic and trigonometric functions, applications of differentiation and an introduction to applications of the definite integral. Advanced college calculus curriculum will be covered in this course. A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required.

College Algebra**1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II.

Topics include absolute value and quadratic equations and inequalities, graphing skills, inverse functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, polynomial and rational functions, piecewise-defined functions, theory of equations and systems of equations.

College Algebra - Dual Credit**1 Credit****2 Semesters**

Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

Topics include absolute value and quadratic equations and inequalities, graphing skills, inverse functions, logarithmic and exponential functions, polynomial and rational functions, piecewise-defined functions, theory of equations and systems of equations.

SCIENCE

Science - 6th Grade

The sixth grade general science course provides an introduction to science disciplines which students will study in greater depth in junior and senior high school. Topics covered include selected areas of life sciences, physical sciences, chemistry, and earth sciences. Students are encouraged to observe, classify, interpret, measure, predict, sequence and express information through oral and written communication. The daily format for this class involves motivation activities to spark student interest, reading of scientific information, listening, observing, discussing, performing laboratory procedures and applying information to the students' world.

Life Science - 7th Grade

Life Science is the study of the functions and features of living things. The emphasis of this program is to develop an awareness of living things, the processes that support life, and how organisms are related to one another. The students will be introduced to the concept of lecture and note-taking. Students will perform hands-on activities that correlate with each chapter, with an emphasis on safety. The course is designed to consist of 60% lectures and 40% lab experience.

Health - 8th/9th Grade

½ Credit

1 Semester

In health education, students acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults and learn about behaviors in which they should and should not participate. To achieve that goal, students will understand the following: students should first seek guidance in the area of health from their parents; personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout the lifespan; health is influenced by a variety of factors; students can recognize and utilize health information and products; and personal/interpersonal skills are needed to promote individual, family, and community health. Students develop skills that will make them health-literate adults. Students gain a deeper understanding of the knowledge and behaviors they use to safeguard their health, particularly pertaining to health risks. Students are taught how to access accurate information that they can use to promote health for themselves and others. Students use problem-solving, research, goal-setting and communication skills to protect their health and that of the community.

IPC (Integrated Physics and Chemistry) 8th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

IPC is the study of matter and energy. The curriculum emphasizes everyday application of the physical laws. The text is divided into two sections: chemistry and physics. To address differences in learning styles of each student, each chapter offers a variety of activities including labs, projects, reading and writing assignments, presentations, and problem solving sections. Students have ample opportunity to work alone and in group situations. IPC will be an investigative, laboratory-oriented study of motion, making forces useful, energy, the nature of matter, particles of matter, and the chemistry of life.

Biology - Academic - 9th or 10th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Biology goals include developing a framework for modern biology. Science is a process. It builds on the bond between structure and function. The themes are taught with lecture and lab in a variety of presentation styles. With Molecular Biology being the foundation of the course, themes of study include Chemistry of Life, Cells, Genetics, Invertebrates, Vertebrates and Plants. All kingdoms are investigated and interrelations between them compared and contrasted.

Biology Honors - 9th or 10th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Selection criteria, page 7.

Biology goals include developing a framework for modern biology. Science is a process. It builds on the bond between structure and function. The themes are taught with lecture and lab in a variety of presentation styles. With Molecular Biology being the foundation of the course, themes of study include Chemistry of Life, Cells, Genetics, Invertebrates, Vertebrates and Plants. All kingdoms are investigated and interrelations between them compared and contrasted. An Honors Biology course would have higher expectations in the reading level of the book, greater depth and detail of topics.

Chemistry - Academic - 10th or 11th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The academic level chemistry class uses the "Living by Chemistry" curriculum developed at the University of California. The goal of this curriculum is to provide an inquiry-based, yearlong high school chemistry course that surpasses both national and state chemistry standards to improve science understanding for all students. Students learn best when they are actively engaged in investigating questions in an interesting context. To accomplish this, the curriculum is organized into five units, each unit covering one of the big ideas of chemistry. Each unit is centered on a contextual theme which holds the interest of the students and provides a real-world foundation for the chemistry concepts. Students taking this course will learn the metric system, how to read and make a proper graph, writing and naming simple compounds, predicting general chemical reactions, the mole, stoichiometry, gas behavior, history of the atom, nuclear chemistry, the periodic table, chemical bonding, solubility and acid/base reactions.

SCIENCE *continued*

Chemistry Honors - 10th or 11th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Biology and selection criteria, page 7.

The honors chemistry course is a problem solving/critical thinking course which is geared toward students who will be taking chemistry in college. It is fast paced. Each chapter will have one lab that will be written up in 'official laboratory form', and several that are designed to help students understand the material 'hands on' but will not have lab write ups. There will also be a test over each chapter. Students completing this course with a 'B' or better should be successful in a college level course. Concepts covered are: graphing, scientific method, metric system, states of matter, history of the atom, structure of the atom, writing and naming compounds, predicting chemical reactions, moles, stoichiometry, bonding, gas behavior, aqueous solutions, energy in chemical reactions, acids and bases, and equilibrium.

AP Chemistry - 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Biology, Chemistry and selection criteria, page 5.

AP chemistry is a very fast paced course that starts where honors chemistry left off. Students are expected to remember the basics from 1st year chemistry. At this printing, the book we use is the most popular AP chemistry book in the country (Zumdahl). To make sure all chemistry subjects are covered at least once, we start with a 6-week refresher course covering chapters 1-8, then go on to oxidation-reduction reactions, electrochemistry, organic chemistry, and nuclear chemistry. We then go back to learn the 1st year topics in more detail. These include molecular orbitals, reactions in aqueous solutions, gases, liquids and solids, thermodynamics, kinetics, and equilibrium. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly. *Offered alternate years.*

AP Biology - 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Biology, Chemistry and selection criteria, page 7.

The two main goals of AP Biology are to help students develop a conceptual framework for modern biology and to help students gain an appreciation of science as a process. The ongoing knowledge explosion in biology makes these goals even more challenging. Primary emphasis in an AP Biology course is developing an understanding of concepts rather than on memorizing terms and technical details. Essential to this conceptual understanding are the following: a grasp of science as a process rather than as an accumulation of facts; personal experience in scientific inquiry; recognition of unifying themes that integrate the major topics of biology; and application of biological knowledge and critical thinking to environmental and social concerns. Major themes studied will be science as a process, evolution, energy transfer, continuity and change, relationship of structure to function, regulation, interdependence in nature, science, technology, and society. AP Biology follows

all college board regulation. Students enrolled in AP courses are required to take the AP exam. Students are responsible for the fee which is determined by the College Board yearly. *Offered alternate years.*

Conceptual Physics - 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is designed for the student that is not gifted in science or math and probably will not take college physics. While this physics course must include the concepts taught in the honors physics course, it does not include the mathematical detail. More attention will be paid to how these concepts will impact their lives. Students taking this course will learn the metric system, how to read and make a proper graphs, velocity, acceleration, projectile motion, properties of matter, heat, sound electricity and magnetism, light, atomic and nuclear physics and relativity. Each student will complete two projects (one in the fall and one in the spring) as assigned by the teacher. Labs do not have a formal write-up. Instead, students need to answer questions related to the lab work which checks understanding of the lab.

Physics Honors - 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Prerequisite and Limitations: Concurrent or previous enrollment in PreCalculus and selection criteria, page 7.

The honors physics course is a problem solving/critical thinking course which is geared toward students who will be taking physics in college. It is fast paced. Each chapter will have one lab that will be written up in 'official laboratory form', and several that are designed to help students understand the material 'hands on' but will not have lab write-ups. There will also be a test over each chapter. Students completing this course with a 'B' or better should be successful in an introductory college level course. Concepts covered are: graphing, scientific method, metric system, velocity, acceleration, forces, vectors, projectile motion, gravitation, momentum, work, energy, fluid mechanics, waves, sound, light, mirrors, electricity, circuits, magnetism, and electromagnetic fields.

Anatomy/Physiology - 11th or 12th Grade

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Anatomy includes information on the organization of the body (chemistry, cells, tissues), body covering, support and movement (skeleton, joints, muscles), regulation and integration (nerves, neural integration, senses, endocrine), maintenance (blood, cardiovascular system, lymph, immune, respiratory, digestive, nutrition, urinary, fluid balance), and continuity (reproduction, pregnancy and development, heredity). Learning activities will include library research, project preparation and presentation and lecture notes.

TECHNOLOGY

Technology 6th Grade

The computer class is to help the students reinforce their current skills as well as allow them to begin exploring new technologies. Concepts will include keyboarding, presentations, animations, video, web pages, and basic office applications. Students will be able to work at their individual levels and be able to use their skills for work in other academic classes. Internet safety guidelines are reinforced.

Technology 7th Grade

This one semester elective technology course for seventh graders is designed to allow students to explore new technologies. Students will be exposed to software and skills to help them explore areas that they may want to pursue in high school. Internet safety guidelines are reinforced.

Technology and Careers 8th Grade

This one semester technology course for eighth graders is designed to reinforce the technology skills that students are expected to have as they enter high school. In the process of using technology students will also explore the gifts that God has given them and relate them to future careers. Internet safety guidelines are reinforced.

Web Design

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
In this course, students will gain an understanding of the Internet and the World Wide Web and learn to create web pages using HTML coding as well as authoring software. Students will learn to create and edit original images and modify photographs for web use. Through the use of animation programs, students will create animated gifs and Flash animations. The course also includes an introduction to programming in Javascript for interactivity on the Web.

Broadcast Video Technology

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
The Broadcast Video class allows students to gain a wide variety of video and broadcast experiences. In this class students will create and broadcast news stories, shoot and edit different styles of video projects, learn to understand the language of video, and learn to be a consumer of video. Projects will be formatted for VHS, DVD, CD and the web.

Film Production

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Broadcast Video.
Film production allows students to be creative with film and story. In this class, students will learn how to tell a story visually through the use of film, study editing and filming techniques unique to story telling, and create short films that will allow for creativity and experimentation with film as an artistic medium.

Digital Photography I

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
An art course that emphasizes visualization and composition skills, as well as the technical aspects of photography. Students are not required to use digital cameras, but most do. Students practice taking photographs and improving and printing them in Photoshop. Group critiques enable them to think and talk about photography with an eye to improving their own work. Outstanding photographs will be displayed and entered in competitions.

Digital Photography II

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Digital Photography I.
A continuation and extension of Digital Photography I, Digital Photography II enables students to concentrate on expression and to explore photography concepts in more depth.

Digital Art

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Students who have completed either Art I or Digital Photography may take Digital Art. Photoshop, Illustrator, and Painter are used to explore graphic design and expressive content using digital media.

Multimedia I

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Students in the Multimedia course will learn how to combine graphics, text, animations, sound, and interactivity to create professional level presentations using Macromedia Flash. The first semester of the course gives students the opportunity to create 2-D animations, digital stories, web-banners, tutorials, and simple interactive presentations. The second semester of the course allows students to create more complex and interactive "game-like" presentations using Flash's scripting language.

Multimedia II

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Multimedia I.
The Multimedia II class allows students who have already taken the Multimedia I class an opportunity to expand their skills in areas that interest them. Students will be primarily working on independent projects and will design their path with the assistance of the Multimedia teacher.

High School Yearbook

1 Credit **2 Semesters**
Prerequisite and Limitations: Application required.
Yearbook staff members must submit an application and be approved by the faculty advisor. Students use Adobe InDesign to create the yearbook, and the course can be counted as a technology credit. Working together to create an actual product, students get experience in writing, photography, editing, sales and time management. Working on the yearbook staff is more like real world work experience than any other high school course.

TECHNOLOGY *continued*

Middle School Yearbook - 7th or 8th Grade

1 Semester

Prerequisite and Limitations: Application required.

This class will be a 1st semester only or year long elective that will enable students to be introduced to the process of putting a yearbook together. It will primarily focus on covering MS events, getting quotes, and taking photographs. These students will work under an advisor and the High School editorial staff. These students will be the backbone of the middle school pages to the yearbook!

Computer Science I - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Students will focus on problem solving skills and the Java programming language. Topics will include computer history, programming basics, object-oriented programming and user interfaces. Through collaborative and individual projects, students will practice programming variables, data types, and control structures in an object-oriented style. Students may also have the opportunity to compete in team programming contests.

Computer Science II, III, IV - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Students who have already taken the Computer Science I Honors course may continue to advance their programming skills on an independent basis. Students may also have the opportunity to compete in team programming contests.

Music Theory & Composition I

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is for the serious music student who is considering majoring in music in college or is highly motivated to compose. The class will cover music composition, analysis, ear training and sight reading. Students will need computer access at home to complete assignments and work with computer integrated textbook.

Music Theory & Composition II - Honors

1 Credit

2 Semesters

A continuation and extension of Music Theory I which offers students the opportunity for deeper exploration of music concept and composition.

GenTech Internship

1 Credit

2 Semesters

GenTech Internship students must submit an application and be approved by the faculty advisor and the Network Administrator. The student in the GenerationTECH Internship course will work one-on-one with the Staff Tech Team as both a student and a troubleshooter. The student will learn the technical and communication skills necessary to troubleshoot, fix, and maintain the technology used at NCS. At the same time, the student will be part of the NCS technology support team, helping students and teachers keep their computers running properly. The student will be exposed to troubleshooting, time management, peer mentoring, resource development, problem solving and will have the opportunity to develop competency with numerous computer programs and procedures. This is a great opportunity for individual students to develop their technical skills.

GenerationTECH

(Student Technology Support Team - 9th - 12th grade)

1 Credit

2 Semesters

Students taking the GenerationTECH course will be in the program as both a student and a troubleshooter. Students will learn the technical and communication skills necessary to troubleshoot, fix, and maintain the technology used at NCS. At the same time, students will be part of the NCS technology support team to help students and teachers keep their computers running properly. All students will be exposed to troubleshooting, time management, peer mentoring, resource development, problem solving and will have the opportunity to develop competency with numerous computer programs and procedures.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

High School Athletics (Try-out required)

½ Credit

Boys:	Girls:
Baseball	Basketball
Basketball	Cheerleading
Cross Country	Cross Country
Football	Golf
Golf	Soccer
Soccer	Softball
Swimming	Swimming
Tennis	Tennis
Track	Track
	Volleyball

Middle School Athletics (Try-out required)

Boys:	Girls:
Baseball	Basketball
Basketball	Cheerleading
Football	Soccer
Soccer	Softball
Track	Volleyball
	Track

Physical Education Middle School

2 Semesters

Year long class focusing on conditioning and lifelong recreational sports and games.

Strength & Conditioning

1 Credit

2 Semesters

This course is designed to improve physical strength, muscular endurance, speed, quickness, and agility. Students will follow the Bigger, Faster, Stronger program, as well as the QST Agility, Speed and Power program.

Athletic Training

1 Credit

2 Semesters

The Athletic Training course will allow students to learn the skills necessary to be one of the trainers for our athletic teams. Trainers will not only have classroom time, but will be part of the official training team for NCS athletics.

HIGH SCHOOL GENERAL ELECTIVE

SAT/ACT Prep Course

½ Credit

1 Semester

This class is designed to pinpoint students' strengths and weaknesses and provide customized score improvement advice for the SAT/ACT exam. Objectives of the course will be to explain concepts that are on the SAT/ACT exam and help students to become better test takers. Each student will be taught a number of standardized test taking strategies proven to help them improve their scores. Materials and curriculum that reflect the changes to the SAT/ACT will be used:

- Access to 26 full-length practice SATs and/or ACTs
- 11 Practice Tests for the SAT and PSAT
- 3 full-length practice SATs to be administered during the course
- SAT/ ACT Student Manuals
- All practice exams given during the course will be scored and computer analyzed
- Includes in-class material and homework problems for both math and verbal SAT/ACT questions.

Additional \$300 fee required.

ADDITIONAL SERVICE

Language Enrichment

Language Enrichment uses *Multisensory Reading and Spelling* which is designed for students in grades 6-12 who are reading inefficiently, who have weak word attack skills, and/or have difficulty with spelling and the written language. The course teaches word division into syllables, the division of longer words, reliable spelling patterns, rules for adding suffixes, word origins and frequently misspelled words. Language Enrichment also includes reading comprehension and fluency, cursive handwriting practice, multisensory grammar, composition, and vocabulary building. It is an Alphabetic Phonics based therapeutic curriculum, particularly effective for students who have learning differences. *This service requires an additional fee.*

SERVICE HOURS REQUIREMENTS

Service Hours are required to enhance social and academic learning while developing character and citizenship skills.

Middle School Requirement.....15 hours per year of attendance at NCS

High School Requirement.....20 hours per year of attendance at NCS

High School Service Award100 hours in one year

Service Hour forms are available on our website, www.northlandchristian.org, under Student Life. All forms need to be submitted to the receptionist in Building 1, by April 30, 2010.

The service hour year for 2009/10 will be May 1, 2009-April 30, 2010.

Service Hours should be pre-planned activities such as National Charity Organizations, Mission Trips* and community service volunteer work. Service hours should be limited to the actual hours serving, not travel and sleeping hours. All service hours are unpaid hours.

These numbers are benchmarks only. Upon graduation from middle school or high school, the entire number of hours will be required (per number of years in attendance at NCS).

For the 2009-10 school year, a parent signature can be substituted if the supervisor's signature is not available.

If you are working toward the Middle School Service Award or the High School Service Award, which is 100 service hours in one school year, forms are due by April 30, 2010.

**Some secular colleges and universities will only recognize secular service hours.*

EXCELLENCE
— *in* —
ACADEMICS

*Preparing students
for tomorrow's world*

www.northlandchristian.org

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4/15/09