HERITAGE CHRISTIAN HIGH SCHOOL

CURRICULUM GUIDE

“*Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live. Get wisdom, get understanding: forget it not; neither decline from the words of my mouth. Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she shall keep thee. Wisdom is the principal thing: therefore get wisdom: and with all thy getting get understanding*” (Proverbs 4:4–7).

**1 credit is awarded for each course successfully completed each semester.** Students must earn 46 semester credits. (32 required credits and 14 elective credits).

8 semesters are required in English. ~~Seniors choose British Literature II and/or Speech & Logic their second semester.~~

6 semesters are required in Religion.

4 semesters are required in Mathematics.

4 semesters are required in Social Studies.

4 semesters are required in Science.

2 semesters are required in Business.

2 semesters are required in Fine Arts.

2 semesters are required in PE.

4 semesters of Language are *strongly encouraged* for college-bound students. 2 semesters are *recommended* for all students.

Graduation Requirements

Students should register for a minimum of 5 courses each semester. A diploma will be awarded after a student completes 4 years of attendance, passes all required classes, and earns a minimum of 46 credits beginning with the 2019 graduating class. (Special consideration may be given to students who *cannot* acquire 46 credits.)

Allowances can be made for transfer students; approval for transfer credits from other institutions must come from the Education Committee. As a guideline, a transfer student must earn at least 12 credits from this school in order to receive a diploma from this school; the Education Committee may review individual circumstances.

Graduation will occur once each year. Diplomas will be awarded at this time to all students who have met the requirements.

COURSE LISTINGS

**Department Semesters Semesters**

**Course Required Elective**

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT **2**

Computer Applications 1

Accounting 2

Mechanical Drawing 2

Consumer Economics 1

Business Economics 1

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT **8**

Freshman English 2

Composition 2

American Literature 2

British Literature 2

Speech & Logic 1

Yearbook 1

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT **2**

Art 2

Band 2

Choir 2

LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT **0** (College Prep – **4**)

~~Latin I~~ 2

~~Latin II~~  2

Spanish I 2

Spanish II 2

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT **4** (College Prep – **6**)

Applied Mathematics 2

~~Algebra I~~

Geometry/Basic Geometry 2

Advanced Algebra/Basic Adv. Algebra 2

Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry 2

Precalculus & Discrete Mathematics 2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT **2**

PE I 1

PE II 1

PE III 1

COURSE LISTINGS (continued)

**Department Semesters Semesters**

**Course Required Elective**

RELIGION DEPARTMENT **6**

Church History—Pre-Dordt 2

Church History—Post-Dordt 2

Old Testament Bible Survey 1

New Testament Bible Survey 1

Non-Christian Religions & Cults 1

Practical Theology 1

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT **4** (College Prep – **6**)

Physical Science 1

Health and Wellness 1

Biology 2

Earth Science 1

Space Science 1

~~Ecology~~  1

Chemistry 2

Physics 2

Human Anatomy & Physiology 2

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT **4** (College Prep – **6**)

Ancient & Medieval World History 1

World Geography 1

Western Civilization 1400–1950 2

US History 1 1

US Government 1

Post WWII World History & Worldviews 1

Psychology 1

APPLIED ARTS **0**

Design, Technology & Engineering 1

MISCELLANEOUS

Lab assistants, student librarians, teacher aides, office helpers, and student tutors will receive ¼ credit per semester, but no grade.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Computer Applications

This course briefly covers the history of computing and the parts and functions of a computer. We learn the applications of an integrated office software program that includes word processing, spreadsheet, database, and presentation software. Word processing, spreadsheets and databases are emphasized.

Accounting

Accounting is a beginning bookkeeping course. Because our God is a God of decency and order, it is important to acquaint students with the nature of bookkeeping and the basic procedures needed to keep a proper account of monies. Students learn the basic accounting steps in the operation of a proprietorship, and be prepared to take further courses in accounting. The emphasis is on automated procedures to focus on the concepts. The second semester builds on the concepts of the first semester, focusing on accounting applied to corporations. Students learn more accounting terms and concepts and apply them to simulated merchandising corporations. Topics include purchasing using special journals, uncollectible accounts receivable, assets and depreciation, inventory, notes and interest, accrual-based accounting, dividends, and corporate financial statements.

Mechanical Drawing

Mechanical Drawing is a two-semester sequence, recommended for students interested in engineering, manufacturing, construction, and interior design. The first semester is an introduction to the fundamentals of technical drawing. Topics covered are freehand sketching, geometric constructions, lettering, orthographic projections, and dimensioning. The second semester builds upon the first and includes sectional drawings, auxiliary views, perspective drawing, and some architectural applications. Shop process notes and tolerances are covered. The course is designed to help students prepare and understand technical drawings as an aid to expressing ideas clearly.

Consumer Economics

Profitable for all students, this course instructs in basic consumer skills. Given our daily bread, we should be skilled in using it wisely. Secular abilities as consumers are presented, promoting the understanding and wisdom that are ours as God’s children. Topics include market systems, governments’ role, budgeting, investments, credit, loans, insurance, transportation, housing options, and taxes.

Business Economics

Micro and macroeconomic principles are introduced. The free market system, monetary and fiscal policy, inflation, employment, and business ethics are covered. Principles of business operation, ethics and finance are presented in theory and practiced through business and corporation simulations. The importance of making sound, Christian business decisions is stressed.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Freshman English

There is a heavy emphasis on grammar and writing in this course, though language in all its forms is addressed. This emphasis is important for all students because we need a working knowledge of the English language for service in the kingdom. Topics covered include Usage (Tense and Voice of Verbs, Case of Pronouns, Subject and Verb Agreement), Grammar (Parts of Speech, Phrases, Clauses), Mechanics (Capitalization and Punctuation), and Composition (Applying the grammatical rules in writing). We also study the grammar, usage, and mechanics of various famous poems. We look at the history of the English language from time to time by studying certain vocabulary words, their definitions, and origins. We address the art of reading by studying one novel.

Composition

The basics learned in Freshman English are further developed and explored through composition. Students follow examples of good writing and engage in process writing to develop skills in narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and expository writing. Proper sentence and paragraph structure is stressed.

American Literature

American authors, their writings, and the historical context from colonial days to the present are covered. We use authors and their writings to introduce various genres of literature and literary terms and devices. This course helps the student read with comprehension, appreciate the beauty of the written word, increase his vocabulary, memorize various authors and some of their writings, understand how various authors reflected the times in which they lived, and uses literature as a springboard for creative writing in response to literature in papers and oral presentations.

British Literature I

Students explore the history of our own literary language through a survey of English literature from the Old English period to the present day. The contributions of Anglo-Saxon poets, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, Wordsworth, Dickens, Eliot, and Auden receive special emphasis as their writings exemplify various periods of Western social and political history. This required semester course acquaints students with classic British literature and emphasize the literary and religious changes that have occurred in Britain since the fall of the Roman Empire.

British Literature II

In this elective semester course students, we read and write about six classic British literary achievements. Students explore a classic work from each of the major eras of British literary history: the Middle Ages (449–1485), Reformation and Renaissance (1485–1660), the Age of Reason (1660–1789), the Romantic Age (1789–1832), the Victorian Age (1832–1900), and the Modern Age (1900–Present). Students read these classics in their entirety and examine them discerningly through a variety of writing exercises.

Speech & Logic

This one semester elective course is designed to help students develop their logical thinking, reading and listening skills and use them in public speaking. Students learn to recognize and make good arguments while avoiding common fallacies. Additionally, students gain confidence speaking in front of others while developing skills in impromptu, descriptive, explanatory, and persuasive/argumentative speaking.

**Journalism I/Yearbook**

A 1 credit course that meets first semester, this class concentrates on planning, funding, and producing the school’s yearbook. Students learn business, communication, computer, writing, designing, and decision-making skills as they raise funds, take photographs, write copy, and develop page layouts. We emphasize creating a book that keeps good memories for all our students and values the great gift of our school. The purpose of this course is primarily to teach journalistic skills, either through the yearbook work or by additional journalistic and creative writing activities.

**Journalism II/Yearbook**

This is a 1 credit course that meets second semester. Although a continuation of Journalism I, students may take this course without having Journalism I as prerequisite. Though this course continues the work of producing the school’s annual yearbook, bringing it to completion, the main purpose of this course is to teach students journalistic skills while producing the school’s newspaper. Students learn business, communication, computer, writing, designing, and decision-making skills as they plan, take photographs, write copy, do peer editing and make editorial choices, and consider layouts. Young writers gain valuable experience, and learn to use their God-given talents not for self-promotion, but for the promotion and joy of others.

FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Art I & II

This two-semester course offered to juniors and seniors emphasizes the elements of art and the principles of design using various media, especially pencil, colored pencil, watercolor, and acrylic paint. Realism is stressed as we desire to “behold the beauty of the Lord” (Ps. 27:4), training ourselves in close observation of the “most elegant book” (Art. 2, Belgic Confession). Art I is primarily pencil drawing, while Art II explores color.

Band

Students of band will gain musical ability in the playing of an instrument. Sight reading and dynamics and performance skills are increased as we work toward presenting concerts. The course features programs throughout the year. Attendance by the students is required at these programs.

Choir

In a Christian school setting, Students will grow in their abilities to sing and in their appreciation for sacred music. Sight reading and dynamics and performance skills are increased as we work toward presenting concerts. The course features programs throughout the year. Attendance by the students is required at these programs.

**LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

~~Latin I~~

~~An introductory course in Latin, we cover basic vocabulary, comprehension, and grammatical structures. In general, the objectives are reached by introducing basic grammar and syntax through history and culture. In particular, listening and speaking, syntax studies, vocabulary work, and Latin readings are employed. The course contents include 1~~~~st~~ ~~through 4~~~~th~~ ~~noun declensions, adjective declensions, pronouns, numerals, 1~~~~st~~ ~~through 3~~~~rd~~ ~~verb conjugations, tenses, voices, and moods.~~

~~Latin II~~

~~This second course in Latin builds on Latin I with further vocabulary and comprehension, and cultural studies of the Greek and Roman worlds, promoting reflective thinking. In general, the objectives are reached by studying Caesar’s Gallic War and Civil War, and selected Latin literature through the ages. Each unit of grammar and syntax includes relevant sight translations on some aspect of Roman history, daily life, or mythology. Included in the grammar work are the subjunctive mood, clauses, gerunds, infinitives, and conditions.~~

Spanish I

This is an introductory course to the Spanish language. Through a study of vocabulary and grammar, students begin to be able to communicate in Spanish. Students practice using new vocabulary and conjugating verbs in a variety of ways in order to build oral and written comprehension and communication ability. A study of the culture of some Spanish-speaking countries is also included in this course.

Spanish II

Spanish II is a continuation of Spanish I. Students build and expand on the vocabulary and grammar presented in Spanish I in order to become more fluent in the Spanish language. Continued emphasis is placed on oral and written comprehension and communication skills.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Applied Mathematics

Applied Math is designed to provide instruction in basic mathematics needed for personal and business life. It is suitable for students who will not be pursuing further high school mathematics beyond beginning algebra and for all students wishing to develop a better understanding of practical mathematical applications. The proper use of a calculator is stressed. There are no prerequisites**.**

Algebra I

This is a first-year algebra course for students who have previously completed an appropriate pre-algebra course.The course goal is to provide a rigorous development of the student’s mathematical skills and provide him the tools to enable him to proceed into the higher math subjects. The student successfully completing this course not only achieves the basic algebra skills, but also has had exposure to basic geometry and statistics. Algebra I is offered in 8th grade and is included on the high school transcript.

Geometry

This course gives the student experience drawing, constructing, measuring, visualizing, comparing, transforming, and classifying geometric figures. With these activities students learn to reason about those figures and separate fact from opinion.

Advanced Algebra

This course contains the mathematics that educated people around the world use in conversation, and that most colleges want or expect high school students to have studied. Familiar ideas such as properties of numbers, graphs, expressions, equations, and inequalities appear, as well as new topics, including matrices, logarithms, trigonometry, and conic sections. Throughout the course, we use the concept of function to help organize ideas; the graphing calculator is used for this purpose.

Functions, Statistics & Trigonometry

Functions, Statistics, and Trigonometry covers a wide range of topics and brings them together in a unified discipline. This course extends learning about functions into technology, statistics, and trigonometry, preparing the student for calculus. Even if the student takes no further math in college, this work will apply to many fields, including engineering, physical sciences, social sciences, and business.

Precalculus and Discrete Mathematics

Most of the math a student has taken involves Precalculus topics, such as properties of functions, sequences and limits, algebraic expressions of equalities and inequalities, and formulas for slope, distance, areas, and volumes. These topics and others are used to prepare the student for calculus, which is about sets of continuous elements. In contrast, discrete means separate or not continuous, as in the space between consecutive elements, so discrete math refers to a collection of topics important for computer science.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Physical Education

Students are required to take 2 semesters of Physical Education. In the first course, a health unit is presented in addition to the skill building activities of team and individual sports. The second semester builds upon the first, with further skill and strategy development in a variety of team and individual sports. The third elective course expands the experience through participation in sports and activities not encountered in the first two courses.

The goal of the P.E. curriculum is to develop a reformed Christian attitude regarding our bodies, athletics, competition, recreation, and professional sports. Personal health issues and choices that affect our health will be explored in the first course. Skill development, learning rules and strategies, working as a team, and improving our physical health are additional goals.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Church History—Pre-Dordt

Church History is taught from the basic premise that the Son of God from the beginning to the end of the world powerfully gathers, defends, and preserves his church through the events and history of the church militant and the church institute. Special emphasis is given to the christological heresies, Pelagianism, the development of the anti-Christian papacy, and the history of the Reformation in England and Europe up to the synod of Dordt.

Church History—Post-Dordt

The student is brought to see the importance of sovereign, particular grace and the unconditional covenant of grace in light of the rich heritage God has given his church. Special attention is given to the development of the Reformed faith in the Netherlands and America culminating in the history of the Protestant Reformed Churches. Because the student must know and understand the spiritual culture in which he lives, this course teaches the history of the contemporary Christian scene in America and provides an understanding of the mainline denominations and churches found around us. We study the Puritan movement, Revivalism, the rise of Fundamentalism, and the history of Presbyterianism in America.

Bible Survey

Two one-semester courses are offered in Bible survey—Old Testament Survey and New Testament Survey. The student is led through the Old and New Testament canon and their history, developing a sense of the chronology of the periods and the canonical significance of the individual books as they reveal the history of the covenant, point to the coming of the Messiah, and proclaim the fulfillment of that promise.

Non-Christian Religions and Cults

This course’s purpose is to help students identify the differences between Christianity and other false ideas and religions that bombard us in the 21st century. We focus on such heathen religions as Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, etc. The course also teaches the history and basic errors of the 19th century cults that arise in the U.S. (Seventh-Day Adventism, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Mormonism, Christian Science, and Spiritism). In addition, we discuss the contemporary proliferation of occult movements such as Scientology, Transcendental Meditation, and the Unification Church. Our study includes the method and content of defending Christianity from heresy by trying the spirits and refuting false teachers who bring damnable heresies.

Practical Theology

This course focuses on various contemporary issues and modern challenges that confront the student as he strives to live as God’s covenant friend in the midst of the world. The goal is to encourage students to apply the truth of God’s Word to all of life for the glory and honor of God. Sections include the subjects of prayer, missions, discipleship, social action, Christian philosophy, developing a Protestant Reformed worldview, and living the antithesis.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Physical Science

God’s order and control of His creation is clearly revealed as we learrn about the physical world. As a study of physical science, topics covered include motion, forces, work, energy, waves, sound, light, optics, electricity, and sound. Students utilize and develop their reasoning, writing and math skills as they explore topics in labs.

**Health & Wellness**

This required course focuses on the human body. As the students study the various systems of the human body, they learn and apply good health habits to know how to care for the body as God’s temple.

Biology

In this required course, we see how God has created a tremendous number and variety of living organisms, called “kinds” in Genesis 1, and how man has tried to organize these living creatures into 5 kingdoms. Students learn about living things and their relation to each other and their environment. Topics covered include the cell and its functions, microbiology, ecology, animal and plant behavior, reproduction, and genetics. We describe the representative types of organisms in each kingdom, discussing their created function in nature, their effects on man, and man’s use of them. We face evolution and refute it, using the Word of God as our rule of faith.

Earth & Space Science

Earth & Space Science looks at a broad spectrum of God’s creation. Students not only learn facts about earth, water, the atmosphere, and space, but they also develop the ability to refute errors prevalent in secular science. Topics covered in the earth science units include the Big Bang versus Creation; Earth’s geological surface features like mountains and canyons; identification of different types of rocks, minerals, and gemstones; effects of erosion, volcanoes, and glaciers; fossils; plate tectonics; the great biblical geologic events in reference to Creation, the Fall, and the Flood; weather and the atmosphere; oceans and groundwater. Within the space science units, we study the moon, planets, stars, galaxies, nebulae, asteroids, comets, meteors, supernovas, black holes, and constellations. Students learn about the errors of the past and present with regard to astrology, extra-terrestrial life, and UFOs. If time permits, an overview of NASA and various space missions may be included. We concentrate on earth science first semester and on space science second semester. Students may enroll in either one of the semesters, or both.

~~Ecology~~

~~This course stresses the calling to be good stewards of the Earth God has created for us to inhabit. God’s care and providence are seen when looking at the living and non-living components of ecosystems, food webs, populations, and biomes. His steadfast faithfulness is seen in the regular cycles in time, matter, and succession. Environmental problems in this fallen world are discussed as well as solutions for living sustainably, biblically.~~

Chemistry

This is a course in the nature of matter and how it reacts. Algebra I is prerequisite. We obtain a good understanding of the materials with which God has fashioned His creation. Topics include atomic structure, electron configurations, periodic table, chemical formulas and bonding, reactions and equations, mole calculations, states of matter, gas laws, chemical equilibrium, solubility, acids and bases, oxidation/reduction, reaction rates, stoichiometry, aqueous reactions, thermochemistry, molecular geometry and bonding theories, intermolecular forces, chemical kinetics, chemical equilibrium, acid-base equilibria, electrochemistry, metallurgy, coordination compounds, and nuclear, organic, nonmetal, and biological chemistry.

Physics

Physics is the study of matter and energy and their relationship. God displays his majesty in creation so that we may glorify and honor him as the king of creation. The study of physics reveals a unity and deep beauty in the universe that is not obvious to the casual observer. In physics we study the creation in its simplest form—conditions of far less complexity than the biologist, geologist, or chemist—investigating the most fundamental forces in creation. In physics, we learn to describe what happens in as clear and comprehensive a way as possible. This is why some knowledge of physics is so essential to anyone who plans advanced studies in one of the sciences, mathematics, or engineering. This is an algebra-based course which covers the main divisions of physics: mechanics, including the study of motion, forces, work, power and heat; waves, which covers sound and light energy; electricity and magnetism; and nuclear physics, which includes an introduction to quantum theory and the present model of the atom. Algebra II is prerequisite.

Human Anatomy and Physiology

This advanced biology course concerns the human body. Biology is prerequisite. Students gain a deeper, more grounded understanding of the truth that we are fearfully and wonderfully made, and build on their previous knowledge and understanding of the human body. Topics included are levels of organization, integumentary system, skeletal structure, articulations, muscle system and tissue, neural system and tissue, integrative functions, endocrine system, lymphatic system, respiratory system, metabolism and energetics, and electrolytes.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Ancient and Medieval World History—Abraham to Columbus

This course begins with the study of the great civilizations of the Near East. We explore the idea of civilization and how man goes about fulfilling God’s plan, whether he intends to or not. The basis for Western civilization, Christianity, and humanism are studied as we go from the Sumerian Empire of Abraham’s time, through the empires of Old Testament (using the Bible over against the History text), to the ancient Far East. We continue with the Roman Empire of New Testament times and early church history. The course concludes with medieval Europe—the rise and power of the Roman Catholic Church—up to the time of the Reformation. Study of the Far East is present but not at the expense of Western History.

World Geography

This course is a survey of the Earth and its resources as God created them, use of these resources, and geographic and cultural features of people in the various regions and countries of the world. The course examines the principles of geography with scriptural emphasis. It acquaints the student with the locations of the various regions, countries, cities, landforms, bodies of water, etc. It also provides students with opportunities to evaluate current events from a geographical and biblical perspective. There will be a unit on North American geography.

Western Civilization 1400–1950

The course begins with the Renaissance/Reformation (c. 1300) and continues through World War II (1945). The groundwork is laid for the culture in which we live as we find our own story as a nation, as well as other elective courses in ancient and modern histories.

US History

This course’s primary objective is to teach that our sovereign God governs the events of American history to serve His purpose and establish His church. American history, like all of history, centers on Christ. With this in mind, we study American history from the first voyage of Columbus through the present. Special attention is given to the ideas and worldviews that prompted decisions and events in US History. Students analyze both primary and secondary sources to develop their own logical conclusions. Students use their Bibles and the creeds and confessions to critique specific actions in US history.

US Government

This course is a study of the origin, history, and philosophy of government as an institution of God, and its purpose in this world. We examine our government, how it works, its affect on our lives, and how we are to live as Christian citizens of “two countries,” beginning with the Christian principles for government. We look at our government’s history and development, using the US Constitution as the basis for study. State and local government are incorporated. The course deals with current events and problems associated with the government.

Post WWII World History & Worldviews (1950–present)

Modern World History focuses on 20th Century history—its institutions, impact on our families and communities, and testimony concerning the signs of the Lord’s return. We review the increasing importance of science and technology, political revolutions, nationalism, and the interdependence of nations to give insight into the present world moving toward the end of time. We examine Secular Humanism, Marxism/Leninism, and Cosmic Humanism in light of the biblical reformed worldview. We study the history behind these worldviews and demonstrate their impact on history and current world happenings.

Psychology

Psychology is a one semester elective course. The central concept of psychology regards the truth of the soul. Students who take the class learn about the soul as it relates to: its brain and body, its relationships with God and others, its states of stress and depression, as well as its import in learning and intelligence. Students learn much about themselves as they complete introspective assignments and activities. Tests like IQ tests, stress tests, and personality tests are given and applied. The course prepares students to live actively, conscientiously, and lovingly as members of a body of believers on the earth.

APPLIED ARTS DEPARTMENT

**Design, Technology & Engineering**

This is a one-semester class recommended for students interested in engineering, technology, and construction. Students will learn about the impacts, systems, history, and applications of technology from a hands-on approach.