



Course Catalog
2022

SOUTH MERRIMACK CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Course Catalog 2022

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HISTORY

Geography - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: World Geography presents a physical-cultural study of the earth and mankind from a Christian perspective. Basic to this perspective is the conviction that God is the Creator of the earth and of man. By applying to the study of geography their knowledge of the Creation, the Flood, the beginning of nations at Babel, and God's dealing with mankind throughout the ages, students can better understand the physical features of the earth as well as the cultures of its people,

Instructional Philosophy: In class discussion of the national identities of individual countries. Building on what students have previously learned, this class presents a deeper, more thorough study of the religions, languages, customs, historic backgrounds, resources, and industries to expand the students' knowledge of each continent, region, and country presented.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain knowledge of both the physical and political world.
- Students will learn location and topography, weather and climate, and natural resources and wildlife.
- Students will work with and understand maps, statistics, charts and graphs.
- Students will study cultural characteristics: religion, language, forms of government, economic systems.

World History - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is to emphasize the fact that God is the controller of history. Students study how God used events before the birth of Christ to prepare the world for his coming. Then, after His birth, they trace the impact of Christianity on the events of world history. This course helps students see the sovereign hand of God in history, as well as the consequences of man's choices.

Instructional Philosophy: There will be in class discussion of the foundations for studying history. A thorough study of the beginning of civilization throughout Asia and Africa will lead to the beginnings of western civilization in Europe. Study will require students to take an in-depth look at the Middle Ages- from the ancient to the modern, from the Dark Ages to the Age of Exploration. World History continues its story when the Modern Age begins with the Reformation Era and the Age of Ideas and leads into the Twentieth Century.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain knowledge of the history of our world at large.
- Students will explore language and writing through the ages.
- Students will have insight on the people and events of history.
- Students will be evaluated through quizzes, tests, geography map projects, and current events.

US History - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The United States has attained a position of world stature hitherto unknown in the history of mankind. Therefore, it is of paramount importance that students study the history of such a nation to learn why and how it has been blessed. The

spiritual thread which has always run prominently through United States history is carefully interwoven throughout the text with the facts, dates, and places that make up history. A thorough coverage of key historical events, reinforced by pictures, maps, and biographical sketches, helps to make the past come alive. After affirming the roots of American history in Europe, this course traces the progress of America through its stages of colonization, independence, and growth to its emergence as a world power in the twentieth century.

Instructional Philosophy: In this course, students will learn by instruction and class discussion. From the land of new beginnings of discovery and exploration, diversity, industry, trade, advanced learning to the birth of our great nation-students will gain knowledge of our nations past. The course will progress into the United State's expansion in the 1800's and the conflict that it faced. The Age of Industry will push its way in the Progressive Era of the 1900's and students will end the year studying the Global Age from the 1940's till our present day United States.

Course Goals:

- Students will learn the value of the foundation of United States history.
- Students will learn about great influential Americans.
- Students will know facts about American symbols, details of historical events, and government concepts for a better understanding of US History.
- Students will learn important US documents: Declaration of Independence, Preamble to the Constitution and Lincoln's Gettysburg Address.
- Students will be evaluated through quizzes, tests, and editorials.

Government – semester 1, ½ credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course seeks to give students a clear understanding of the historical and philosophical elements that make the United States a unique nation. Only when students fully understand these foundational elements will they be able to love and appreciate our republic. American Government traces the roots of our political institutions and examines the Constitution itself. Through a clear explanation of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, students learn how a republic actually functions. Students will also study state and local government and be better able to understand local systems, which will in turn develop a better understanding of and a greater appreciation for American philosophy and ideology.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be taught the foundations of American Government, how it was shaped and its steps toward unity. Historical facts will be captured and emphasized as the student learns that such a nation has come about through time as a constitutional republic. Federalism and state and local government will be covered.

Course Goals:

- Students will understand the foundations of American liberty.
- Students will acquire knowledge of the operation of opposing government systems.
- Students will learn symbols and concepts of American government.
- Students will understand the state and local government by completing the study outline for their state.
- Students will be evaluated through quizzes, tests, and current events.

Economics – semester 2, ½ credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The purpose of this course is to teach basic economic principles and to give students a clear understanding of free-enterprise capitalism, individual moral responsibility, and the biblical work ethic from a conservative perspective. This course emphasizes the idea that a man's thoughts

and actions should be held to a higher standard where man should depend on God rather than upon government. It stresses acceptance of moral responsibility and accountability to God and man. Finally, this course strengthens the link between economic freedom and the political and individual freedoms America enjoys.

Instructional Philosophy: Through class discussion and instruction, students will answer the question, "Why bother about economics?" Learning what makes goods valuable and studying early economic history will teach students ways to prosperity. Factors of natural resources, labor, capital, and entrepreneurship will be discussed as well as the good that competition does. The students will gain knowledge of healthy competition, monopolies and monopolistic competition and competitive encouragement

in the free market. Instruction in efficiency and saving will be given.

Course Goals:

- Students will understand the importance of responsibility in economics.
- Students will learn the importance of saving.
- Students will learn the functions of money.
- Students will study Government and macroeconomics.
- Students will understand the successes and difficulties in the market economy.
- Students will be evaluated by quizzes, tests, and current events.

ENGLISH

English 9- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Through the integrated study of grammar, literature, composition and vocabulary, English 9 students further develop their skills in each component of language as a tool for learning and thinking. Students practice identifying, analyzing, and composing with different elements, structures and genres of written language. Grammar instruction reviews the eight parts of speech, five basic sentence patterns, usage, mechanics and the writing process. Relative pronouns, pronoun reference problems, and indicative/imperative mood are introduced. Literature instruction is implemented using the *Fundamentals of Literature*. The students are taught to be discerning readers by focusing on the fundamentals of literature – conflict, character, theme, structure, point of view, and moral tone. The students study contemporary and classic American, British, and world authors in four genres: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Critical thinking skills are encouraged. Composition instruction exercises and implements the writing process throughout the course. Composition projects include a comparison/contrast paragraph, a personal narrative, a research essay, and a personal response to literature. Vocabulary concludes the emphasis on Latin word roots, discusses the difference between denotative and connotative meaning and expands the discovery of word meaning through context.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be challenged with opportunities to write for various audiences and purposes, to strengthen skills in paragraph and multi-paragraph writing, and to create multiple types of writing. Students will draw upon their literary background, grammatical knowledge, and understanding of a higher level of vocabulary to refine and produce standards specified during instruction. The

students will work on composition assignments individually and will peer edit in group settings.

Course Goals:

- Students will demonstrate knowledge of grammatical elements.
- Students will analyze literary works and discuss findings in a group setting.
- Students will apply proper word selection when composing various writing assignments.
- Students will assess their own compositions through drafts of a specific writing assignment.
- Students will evaluate peer compositions.

English 10- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10

Prerequisite: English 9

Course Description: English 10 reinforces and continues to make full use of many of the activities and skills of English 9. Grammar instruction reviews basic grammatical principles and introduces more complex forms of punctuation along with the writing process. The formal study of grammar, usage, and language mechanics is integrated into the study of writing. Literature instruction is implemented using the *Elements of Literature* in which students learn how to analyze literature from a biblical perspective. Instruction encourages critical thinking skills through a collection of classic works in many genres and from many cultures and countries. Emphasis is on the literary elements that define lasting artistic literature. Composition instruction exercises and implements the writing process throughout the course. The students are provided with opportunities to write for various audiences and purposes. Compositions assignments include an editorial, an eyewitness report, a research essay, a cause-and-effect essay, a persuasive

essay, a short story, and poetry. Vocabulary instruction focuses on Greek word parts and discusses the contribution of Greek to modern English vocabulary. The course emphasizes the importance of proper word selection for effective writing and seeks to expand students' vocabulary.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be challenged with opportunities to write for various audiences and purposes, to strengthen skills in multi-paragraph writing, and to create multiple types of writing. The students will work on composition assignments individually and will peer edit in group settings. Students will be encouraged to draw upon their literary background, grammatical knowledge, and understanding of a higher level of vocabulary to refine and produce standards specified. Students will be provided opportunity to respond critically, reflectively, and imaginatively to literature.

Course Goals:

- Students will demonstrate a higher level knowledge of grammatical elements.
- Students will analyze literary works individually, as well as, in group discussions.
- Students will select higher level vocab when composing essays.
- Students will assess their personal essays through drafts of a specific writing assignment.
- Students will evaluate peer compositions.

English 11- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11

Prerequisite: English 9, 10

Course Description: Through the integrated study of advanced grammar concepts, American Literature, composition, and vocabulary, English 11 students further develop their use of language as a tool for learning and thinking. Students move from predominately analyzing and using the elements of written language to making judgements based on those analyses. Grammar instruction reviews verbal phrases,

clauses, usage, and mechanics while advanced concepts such as tense sequence, perfect verbals, and adverbial nouns are introduced. Literature instruction is implemented using *American Literature* in which students are introduced to more than seventy authors in a study that connects the authors' lives and beliefs as revealed in their writings with the corresponding literary periods. Lessons examine Colonial-Revolutionary, Romantic, Realistic/Naturalistic, and Modern periods and issues relevant to each period such as Darwinism and religious liberalism. An in depth study of *The Scarlet Letter* is done mid-year. The Composition component of language arts provides students with opportunities to produce a variety of forms of text. The formal study of grammar, usage, spelling, and language mechanics is integrated into the study of writing. Writing assignments include the research paper, literary analysis, character analysis, folktale, narrative poem, analytical essay, memoir, in-class essay, and a declaration. Vocabulary instruction introduces some of the ways English acquires words such as allusions, coining, back-information, folk etymology, and borrowing words from other languages.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be challenged with opportunities to write in which the principals of organization and logical development are stressed along with a variety of techniques. Students will be encouraged to draw upon their literary and grammatical knowledge, and understanding of more complex vocabulary to refine and produce standards specified. Previous instruction in research skills will be enhanced by requiring students to demonstrate competence in additional components of a research paper. Using technology, students will be given the opportunity to work on individual research. Students will be encouraged to work in teams to better craft a final draft.

Course Goals:

- Students will demonstrate a higher level knowledge of grammatical elements.
- Students will evaluate selections of literature.
- Students will judge the value of selections of literature.

- Students will create polished writing assignments through drafting and assessing.
- Students will select higher level vocabulary when composing essays.
- Students will support research with a varied selection of works cited.
- Students will evaluate peer compositions / research.

English 12- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: English 9, 10, and 11

Course Description: Grade 12 continues to refine students' ability and desire to learn and communicate about language and literature. While students developed judgments through literary analysis in previous grades, they will now practice explaining and defending their readings to others. Grammar instruction and practice is done primarily through writing. A textbook is used to focus on areas of grammar that may need further examination. Some of these areas may be advanced grammar concepts such as tense sequence, perfect verbals, and adverbial nouns. Literature instruction is implemented using *British Literature* which is used to discuss literature selections and cultural issues from eight literary periods in light of Scripture: Old English, Middle English, Tudor, Stuart, Neoclassical, Romantic, Victorian, and Modern. The literature collection traces English Christianity from its beginning to the present and studies Shakespeare's drama *Macbeth*. Students learn to identify and communicate about broad themes, trends, and cultural issues present in British literature. The Composition component of language arts provides students with opportunities to sharpen their writing. Using technology, students are able to produce polished final documents. Students will be lead through the writing process, using writing strategies such as variety, emphasis, and sentence logic. Writing assignments include a research paper, a literary analysis, a character analysis, a narrative poem, an analytical essay, and an in-class essay. Writing includes reports, essays,

along with critical and creative responses to works studied. Vocabulary instruction explores the way word meanings change over time and introduces more vocabulary borrowed from other languages. Students will practice determining word meaning from context and demonstrate knowledge of common word roots.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be challenged with opportunities to write in which the principals of organization, variety, emphasis and sentence logic are stressed. Students will be encouraged to draw upon their literary and grammatical knowledge, and understanding of more complex vocabulary to refine and produce standards specified. Previous instruction in research skills will continue to be enhanced by requiring students to demonstrate competence in additional components of a research paper. Using technology, students will be given the opportunity to work on individual research. Students will be encouraged to work in teams to better craft a final draft.

Course Goals:

- Students will demonstrate a higher level knowledge of grammatical elements.
- Students will interpret selections of literature.
- Students will defend selections of literature.
- Students will create polished writing assignments through drafting and assessing.
- Students will choose higher level vocabulary when composing essays.
- Students will engage in extensive research, creative projects, and group presentations.
- Students will support research with a varied selection of works cited.
- Students will apply technological skills when producing writing drafts.
- Students will evaluate peer compositions / research.

MATH

Algebra I- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 8, 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will gain understanding of general algebra. The previously acquired fundamentals of math will be reviewed and incorporated into more complex mathematics including algebraic expressions, linear equations, various functions, rational equations, radical equations, and factoring polynomials.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will have the opportunity to open their minds and think outside the box. One of the most important life lessons learned is to gain a problem-solving skill that will be used in everyday life. Students have the opportunity to guide each other in skills they have already mastered.

Course goals:

- Students will review the real number system.
- Students will decipher relations and functions.
- Students will define and solve linear, radical, rational, and quadratic equations.
- Students will compare and contrast linear, exponential, radical, rational, and quadratic functions and their corresponding graphs.
- Students will factor polynomials.
- Students will solve real-world problems.

Geometry- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9-10

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Course Description: In this course students will learn problem-solving skills by studying geometry. Students will develop critical thinking processes that are essential for every day life and future math courses. This is a traditional geometry course requiring the

students to learn how to prove theorems and do calculations with formulas. Students will be required to know and apply geometric theorems and proofs in various ways.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be required to take notes in an interactive notebook throughout this course. This will include several handouts and 3D figures to help aid in their understanding of a particular geometric concept or rule. Homework assignments are essential to practice the concepts talked about and discussed. Students will have an assignment to design their own house according to certain specifications using various unique shapes, they will have to utilize the correct area formulas and calculations as well as keep track of cost and budget. Regular quizzes will allow the student to gage their comprehension of a particular concept before the test. Tests will be given at the completion of each chapter.

Course Goals:

- Students will have an understanding of incidence geometry, lines, subsets, and space, angles and measurement and the postulates and theorems that will aid them in proofs.
- Students will become familiar with congruence, triangles and quadrilaterals, and circles. They will also learn how to use theorems, postulates, and definitions in proofs regarding these topics.
- Students will become proficient in calculating area and volume of both basic and 3D images, as well as some 4D images.
- Students will become familiar with definitions and proofs regarding similarity of figures and shapes.
- Students will be introduced to trigonometry and trigonometric equations.
- Students will discuss real life applications of geometric concepts, definitions, postulates, and theorems.

Algebra II- full year, 1 credit

Intended Audience: Grade 10-11

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Course Description: In this course students will, focus on developing reasoning skills through learning advanced algebra concepts such as quadratic equations, polynomials, complex numbers, logarithms and trigonometry. Students will learn to solve algebraic functions and graph them. Students will also learn to become familiar with graphing technology. The graphing calculator used and demonstrated in class is the TI-84 PLUS. Discussions regarding real world use of mathematical concepts and equations will be had throughout this course.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be required to take notes in an interactive notebook throughout this course. This will include several handouts and 3D figures to help aid in their understanding of a particular mathematical concept or rule. Homework assignments are essential to practice the mathematical concepts talked about and discussed. There will also be several real life assignments applying mathematics. Regular quizzes will allow the student to gage their comprehension of a particular concept before the test. Tests will be given at the completion of each chapter.

Course Goals:

- Students will become familiar with advanced algebraic operations such as linear, quadratic, polynomial, radical, and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions.
- Students will become familiar with graphing all of the above functions and also know how to do so by using graphing technology (TI-84) .
- Students will have a basic understanding of probability and statistics as well as graphing basic scatter plot distributions.
- Students will become familiar with complex numbers, and trigonometry.
- Students will be introduced to matrices.

- Students will be familiar and know several real life applications of mathematical functions.
- Students will be taught what STEM is and the importance of math in technology.

Consumer Math- full year, 1 credit

Intended Audience: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I; Geometry

Course Description: Consumer Math develops consumer skills in a biblical framework. In this course, students will explore fundamental mathematical concepts such as basic order of operations, real numbers, percent, measurement, fractions, ratios, decimals, problem solving, and proportions. It covers “real-life” topics such as taxes, personal finance, banking, housing, insurance, transportation and investment. This course features examples in a problem-solving format that allows students to use mathematical skills in consumer situations.

Instructional Philosophy: The daily lesson includes lectures, videos, and discussions of finance market at global level. Students conduct an investigation in certain areas, such as: loan options, investment in stocks , buying property at lower interest rate and saving for future. They are required to discuss their work in a small group and with the class. The research program provides students with numerous opportunities to engage in the content. Formative and summative assessment is given regularly to help student understand the concepts.

Course Goals:

- Students will learn that the created order in mathematics brings glory to God.
- Students will develop thinking skills, reasoning skills, and problem solving abilities.
- Students will develop speed and accuracy in computation.
- Students will be prepared for standardized test.

Precalculus- full year, 1 credit

Intended Audience: Grade 11-12

Prerequisite: Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II

Course Description: In this course students will be equipped for college with precalculus skills. This advanced math curriculum emphasizes functions, graphing, and trigonometry throughout and introduces differential calculus. Modern graphing technology is a must for this course and the graphing calculator used and recommended is the TI-84 plus.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be required to take notes in an interactive notebook throughout this course. This will include several handouts and 3D figures to help aid in their understanding of a particular mathematical concept or rule. Homework assignments are essential to practice the mathematical concepts talked about and discussed. There will be a paper due midyear about the importance of high-level math concepts/discoveries in our modern world. Regular quizzes will allow the student to gauge their comprehension of a particular concept before the test. Tests will be given at the completion of each chapter.

Course Goals:

- Students will become proficient at working with trigonometric functions, as well as other high level functions such as: polynomial, linear, quadratic, complex, inverse, and rational.
- Students will become familiar with polar functions and their graphs as well as sequences, and differential calculus.
- Students will become proficient with graphing all of the above functions and also know how to do so by using graphing technology (TI-84) .
- Students will become proficient in understanding of probability and statistics as well as graphing basic scatter plot distributions.
- Students will work with and explore matrices on a deeper level.
- Students will be familiar and know several real life applications of calculus.
- Students will be taught what STEM is and the importance of math in technology.

SCIENCE

Physical Science - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Science "Matter and Energy" is a rich program, which ensures students' success. It investigates fields such as metrology, chemistry, thermodynamics, mechanics, optics, and electromagnetism with the goal of discovering the thoughts of the Creator through the ingenious structure and orderly function of His creation. It also recognizes God's command for man to have dominion over creation. It rejects the unproven hypothesis of evolution, recognizing special creation as the only reasonable explanation for the origin of the universe.

Instructional Philosophy: Students conduct an investigation and work on a science assignment, and discuss their work in small group and with the class. The lab program provides students with numerous opportunities to engage in the content. Formative and summative assessment is given regularly to help student understand the concepts.

Course Goals:

- Students learn how to extend their dominion and make better use of creation and to be a good steward by tending, managing, and conserving resources.
- Students develop higher thinking skills, psychomotor and organizational skills.
- Students learn to use technology for science projects and labs.
- Students get experience with and gain an understanding of what it takes to carry through on a research project from beginning to end.
- Students understand the role of inquiry in science by asking questions, make predictions, present evidence, collaborate with peers, and

come up with explanations—all important science skills.

Biology - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is a general college prep course, which covers basic botany including photosynthesis and respiration, human anatomy and physiology including all 12 systems, pathology, genetics, basic molecular biology, ecology and zoology. It is designed to be a survey course with a minimum of 25 labs that encompass microscopy, dissection, assays and tests, food chemistry, and model making. It is designed to have the students read and summarize material at home and use the classroom for hands on work as much as possible. A project is required each quarter. Tests, quizzes, reading assignments, labs, and an in depth project is used for assessment.

Instructional Philosophy: A growing knowledge of the intricate design and function of living organisms gives students a deep appreciation for the value of life and gives them a foundation for making life choices that affect society. It also gives incentive to study more deeply and use their skills to protect the environment and benefit mankind.

Course Goals:

- Students will have the opportunity to read a text and learn from it with hands on activities.
- Students will delve into the logic and thinking behind driving current theories in the field of biology.
- Students will learn how to use their knowledge to better themselves and others.

Chemistry - full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is a general college prep course which covers basic atomic history and theory, study of the periodic table and groups of elements, periodic trends, phases, basics of matter, atomic structure, balancing equations, stoichiometry, gas laws, chemical kinetics, thermodynamics, acids and bases (pH), and basic nuclear chemistry. Practical application is done through examples, demonstrations, lab experimentation (24 labs) and a detailed science project which encompasses three quarters.

Instructional Philosophy: Understanding the basics of matter through chemistry enhances a student's ability to appreciate modern medicine, technology, and general health and the betterment of society. Grasping the significance of this knowledge will motivate students for future accomplishments.

Course Goals:

- Students will understand the various fields of chemistry.
- Students will have a foundation for future work in the field as well as for everyday life.

Physics- full year, 1 credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: Physical Science, Biology, and Chemistry

Course Description: This course addresses basic Newtonian physics. It covers Newton's three laws of motion and his law of gravitation in linear, circular and some astronomical situations. Detailed labs with graphs showing the need for integral and

differential calculus are used at the course beginning to show the need for calculus for further refining of calculations. The base of the course is non-calculus physics using ideal situations. Daily assignments, quizzes, tests, labs, and projects are used for evaluation. Students design some of their own labs given parameters. A roller coaster lab is used to encourage students to think for themselves and learn to calculate quantities they have studied. Wave mechanics and sound is also covered in this class.

Instructional Philosophy: Students learn physics best when they work concepts in real world situations and challenges given in the classroom. Laws are studied and then tested. Repeated use of lab skills and calculation of accuracy and precision encourages students as they become more adept at arriving at real world, usable data to benefit society.

Course Goals:

- Students are given a basic foundation and familiarity with Newtonian physics.
- Students will build understanding of how they can be used to benefit mankind and improve current technology.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

Spanish 1 - full year, 1 credit

**Two full years of a Foreign Language are required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

Course description: In this course students are introduced to basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar as well as Spanish and Latin American culture. The class provides a base level of core everyday vocabulary and the present tense that will serve as the foundation for all future studies in this language.

Instructional Philosophy: The focus is on developing language learning comprehension and production skills in the four key areas: reading, writing, listening and speaking. Time is dedicated towards practicing all of these through class activities and projects. The course is taught using a task-based approach where students build their language skills towards a particular communication goal.

Course Goals :

- Students will be able to introduce themselves and name basic everyday items around them.
- Students will compare cultural practices (including holidays, foods, lifestyles, etc) to their own.
- Students will gain knowledge of how to learn a foreign language.

Spanish 2 - full year, 1 credit

**Two full years of a Foreign Language are required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10, 11

Prerequisite: Spanish I

Course description: In this course students build upon their knowledge from Spanish one to continue their knowledge of the Spanish language and Hispanic culture. The first part of the course focuses on mastering the present tense and the second half centers on beginning to learn the past tense through the

telling of stories.

Instructional philosophy: The focus is on strengthening the four main skill areas of reading, writing, listening and speaking through various in class and homework assignments. Dialog in class is progressively more in Spanish. The class is taught with a task-based approach where students build their language skills towards a particular communication goal.

Course Goals:

- Students will master the present tense and begin to enhance their ability to comment on events that have happened in the past.
- Students will compare cultural practices (including holidays, foods, lifestyles, etc) to their own.
- Students will gain knowledge of how to learn a foreign language.

Spanish 3- full year, 1 credit

**Two full years of a Foreign Language are required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 and Spanish 2

Course description: This course is designed for students who desire to continue with their Spanish studies and move towards becoming a more advanced speaker. Attention is given to developing stronger communication skills and for this reason this class is taught primarily in Spanish. Students learn all of the grammatical forms in Spanish as well as read short stories featuring Latin American and Spanish culture.

Instructional philosophy: The focus is on refining the four key skills: reading, writing, listening and speaking and moving towards greater communication and fluency. Students are taught using a task-based approach where students build their language skills towards a particular communication goal. These final projects are realistic and engage students in opportunities to use the language.

Course Goals :

- Students will make gains in communicate and strategic competence in writing and speaking.
- Students will increase their ability to interpret written and spoken Spanish.
- Students will compare cultural practices (including holidays, foods, lifestyles, etc) to their own.
- Students will gain knowledge of how to learn a foreign language.

French 1 – full year, 1 credit

**Two full years of a Foreign Language are required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The beginning course in learning to communicate in Parisian French. There is no prerequisite for this course. Students will be taught the foundations of learning French as a second language. Students will gain skills in listening, understanding, writing and speaking the target language. Students will practice spoken as well as written French through various projects and activities such as skits and presentations. Students will gain an understanding of French culture through readings, projects and activities.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be given challenging real world projects and assignments. High quality work is expected. Students will be given a written rubric outlining requirements and expectations for projects. Long-term projects will have a rough draft component so that students can improve their work to meet requirements. Students will often work in teams, but will be expected to complete individual assignments in relation to the team's work.

Course Goals:

- Students will become familiar with spoken and written French.
- Students will become familiar with the culture and customs of France and various French speaking countries.

- Students will be able to hold basic conversations in the present tense in the target language.
- Students will write and perform skits/presentations dealing with topics such as ordering and purchasing food/restaurant etiquette, the weather, and the family.

French 2 – full year, 1 credit

**Two full years of a Foreign Language are required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: French 1

Course Description: This is the 2nd year course of French language study. Students enrolled in this course need to have successfully completed French 1 or the equivalent with a C or better average. Students will continue to gain skills in listening, understanding, writing and speaking the target language. In addition to continue practicing the present tense of the language, students will be instructed in the formation and usage of two past tenses (passé composé and the imperfect past). Students will practice spoken as well as written French through various projects and activities such as skits and presentations. Students will gain an understanding of French culture through readings, projects and activities.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be given challenging real world projects and assignments. High quality work is expected. Students will be given a written rubric outlining requirements and expectations for projects. Long-term projects will have a rough draft component so that students can improve their work to meet requirements. Students will often work in teams, but will be expected to complete individual assignments in relation to the team's work.

Course Goals:

- Students will become more comfortable with spoken and written French.
- Students will continue to learn about the culture and customs of France and various French speaking countries.

- Students will be able to hold conversations in the present and past tense in the target language.
- Instruction covers topics such as schooling, housing, professions, sports and leisurely activities.
- Projects include but are not limited to writing and performing a short skit dealing with Salvation, writing a job ad and a classified ad for housing in the target language.

French 3 – full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11, 12

Prerequisite: French 1 and French 2

Course Description: This is the 3rd year course of French language study. Students enrolled in this course need to have successfully completed French 2 or the equivalent with a C or better average. Students will continue to gain skills in listening, understanding, writing and speaking the target language. In addition to continue practicing the present and past tenses of the language, students will be instructed in the formation and usage of the future and conditional tenses as well as the subjunctive mood. Students will practice spoken as well as written French through various projects and activities such as short essays, skits and presentations. Students will continue to gain an understanding of French culture through literature, movies, readings, projects and activities.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be given challenging real world projects and assignments. High quality work is expected. Long-term projects will have a rough draft component so that students can improve their work to meet requirements. Students will often work in pairs or teams, but will be expected to complete individual assignments in relation to the team's work.

Course Goals:

- Students will become more comfortable with spoken and written French and will be able to differentiate between tenses when listening, writing and speaking.
- Students will be able to converse in the present, past and future tenses in the target language. They will discuss what is happening, what happened, what will happen and also what could happen.
- Instruction covers topics such as long-term plans, proposing activities, stating beliefs, opinions and doubts, and traveling- making hotel, plane and train reservations.
- Projects include, but are not limited to, creating a travel brochure for a region in France, using the internet to research and create a travel itinerary including hotel reservations and transportation schedules, and writing alternate endings to stories read and discussed in class.

BIBLE

Bible 9- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will investigate various portions of the Old Testament and study them from the perspective of the story of the Jews and Hebrew History. The lectures will have a special focus on helping the student understand the importance of the progression of these events and their relation to the larger story of God's dealings with mankind.

Instructional Philosophy: The class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format with occasional opportunities for individual and group interaction. Students will be required to read large portions of scripture, memorize several 2-5 verse passages, discuss specific questions, about the passages, and take careful notes of the instructor's lectures. The instructor will use periodic quizzes and tests to assess the student's apprehension of the subject matter.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a solid, general understanding of Hebrew History
- Students will memorize a total of approximately 30 verses over the course of the year.
- Students will be able to see a clear connection/relevance between the stories of the Old Testament and the world around them in their daily life.

Bible 10- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will learn the key ideas associated with 5 major areas of Bible doctrine—Bibliology, Theology, Anthropology, Christology, and Soteriology. The lectures will focus especially on presenting these ideas from the

perspective of a Christian, Biblical worldview and urging the students to decide for themselves whether or not they accept these doctrines as truth.

Instructional Philosophy: The class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format with occasional opportunities for individual and group interaction. Students will be required to read large portions of scripture, memorize several 2-5 verse passages, discuss specific questions about the passages, and take careful notes of the instructor's lectures. The instructor will use periodic quizzes and tests to assess the student's apprehension of the subject matter.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a solid, general understanding of the 5 doctrinal areas
- Students will memorize a total of approximately 30 verses over the course of the year.
- Students will be able to see a clear connection/relevance between the principles of these doctrines and the world around them in their daily life.

Bible 11- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will conduct a survey of the New Testament Epistles (Romans-Revelation). The lectures will focus on explaining the background, purpose, major ideas, and application of each book under consideration.

Instructional Philosophy: The class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format with occasional opportunities for individual and group interaction. Students will be required to read large portions of scripture, memorize several 2-5 verse passages, discuss specific questions about the passages, and take careful notes of the instructor's lectures. The

instructor will use periodic quizzes and tests to assess the student's apprehension of the subject matter.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a solid, general understanding of the New Testament Epistles
- Students will memorize a total of approximately 30 verses over the course of the year.
- Students will be able to see a clear connection/relevance between the ideas of the Epistles and the world around them in their daily life.

Bible 12- full year, 1 credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will conduct a detailed study of Jesus' Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7). The lectures will focus on contextually interpreting each verse of the sermon and applying Jesus' teachings to 21st Century disciples.

Instructional Philosophy: The class will be conducted primarily in a lecture format with occasional opportunities for individual and group interaction. Students will be required to read large portions of scripture, memorize several 2-5 verse passages, discuss specific questions about the passages, and take careful notes of the instructor's lectures. The instructor will use periodic quizzes and tests to assess the student's apprehension of the subject matter.

Course Goals:

- Students will gain a solid, general understanding of the Sermon on the Mount
- Students will memorize a total of approximately 30 verses over the course of the year.
- Students will be able to see a clear connection/relevance between the principles of Jesus' teaching and the world around them in their daily life.

ELECTIVES

Art - full year, ½ credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: Students are offered the opportunity to explore various visual art forms and techniques in an introductory level course through the elements and principles of art and design.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be introduced to a variety of media through two-dimensional and three-dimensional approaches to creating and responding to visual arts. Students meet two times per week.

Course Goals:

- Students will become familiar with web design.
- Students will work with various types of technique.
- Students will gain helpful tools to create.
- Artists of old will be studied- emphasis on patience and initiative.
- Students will understand that learning art and different techniques opens their world to so many different aspects.

Choir - full year, ½ credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisite: Audition and consent of instructor only

Course Description: This is a year-long, upper-level performance opportunity offered to experienced music students who are accomplished in vocal performance.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will continue to develop vocal technique and musicianship as well as develop critical

thinking skills through the analysis of musical elements, including form and text. Students are expected to participate in a Christmas concert and a spring concert as a major part of their grade as well as a few other performance opportunities that arise throughout the year.

Office Assistant - full year, ½ credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The SMCA Office Assistant program offers high school students the opportunity to assist our school office. An office assistant assists the SMCA school office, by filing and organizing information, running errands, operating office equipment like copiers and fax machines, and assisting our administration. Each student is assigned to assist an office personnel two times a week and is graded based on their punctuality, reliability, and initiative.

Course Goals:

- Students will be exposed to the field of office administration.
- Students learn the challenges of working in an office workspace.
- Students will have the unique opportunity to learn organization skills and people skills.

Personal Finance - full year, ½ credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The purpose of Foundations in Personal Finance is to empower students with knowledge and application of basic financial principals so that they can make sound financial decisions for life.

Instructional Philosophy: There is a variety

of classroom and online activities with each chapter that provide differentiated instruction opportunities. Students will work individually and with teams to identify, plan, and communicate their knowledge of financial literacy skills. Journal and discussion questions occur throughout the curriculum. These questions are intended to inspire both self-reflection and interactive group discussion.

Course Goals:

- Enhance students' financial literacy skills.
- Help students develop flexible knowledge, effective problem-solving skills, effective collaboration skills, and intrinsic motivation through the use of a variety of individual and group activities.
- Enable students to develop informed money management strategies.
- Stimulate interest in financial management.
- Inspire students from all backgrounds to achieve financial well-being.
- Foster an understanding and appreciation of ethical money management.

Physical Education - full year, ½ credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10, and 11

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn fitness concepts and conditioning techniques used for obtaining optimal physical fitness.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will benefit from endurance activities and will learn the importance of teamwork. Students will learn the basic fundamentals of strength training, aerobic training, and overall fitness training and conditioning. This course includes activity sessions that meet two times per week. Students will be empowered to make wise choices, meet challenges, and develop positive behaviors in fitness, wellness, and movement activity for a lifetime.

Course Goals:

- Students will learn responsibility and come to class dressed in PE uniform.
- Students grade will be determined by preparedness and participation.
- Students will develop endurance and obtain optimal fitness.

Speech - full year, ½ credit

**Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: This course is designed to introduce students to public speaking in order to develop and sharpen the numerous skills and qualities required of those who regularly engage in some form of public speaking. This is done with the understanding that, although not every student will become a public speaker or performer, every student should feel sufficiently equipped to speak in public as the need or opportunity arises and every student will benefit from the process of developing these skills regardless of the path they take in life.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be given numerous speaking assignments that vary in length from less than a minute to five minutes or more. All speeches will fall into one of two major categories—public speaking (oratory) and dramatic performance. Each speech will be evaluated and graded according to a pre-determined rubric which will include categories such as poise, preparedness, use of the voice, use of the body, and communication. The speech assignments and grading of those assignments will increase in difficulty as the year progresses. The student's final grade will be determined almost exclusively by their performances on their speeches.

Course Goals:

- Students will understand and engage in numerous types of public speaking.
- Students will learn the basic skills required to prepare a speech.
- Students will understand and practice several foundational practices and skills that will serve to make them better public speakers.

- Students will learn how to analyze the public speaking of themselves and others and how to tactfully and constructively share their observations.
- Students will gain confidence in their personal public speaking ability so that they feel equipped to meet any public speaking requirements or abilities that may come their way in the future.

Teacher Assistant - full year, ½ credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: The SMCA Teacher Assistant program is designed to allow students an opportunity to get first hand experience in classroom management, one-on-one tutoring, grading, and other teacher responsibilities. Each student is assigned to assist a teacher two times a week and is graded based on their punctuality, reliability, and initiative.

Course Goals:

- Students will be exposed to the field of education.
- Students will gain valuable knowledge on how to work with teachers, and understand the different aspects of a curriculum.
- Students that have the ability to tutor, gain valuable exposure to the world of tutoring. This allows the student to gain more skill, knowledge, and confidence in the area of teaching, as they assist another student and help them understand a subject.

Yearbook - full year, ½ credit

**Not Required for Graduation*

Intended Audience: Grade 10, 11, and 12

Prerequisite: None

Course Description: In this course, students will gain skills in one or more of the following areas: page design, advanced publishing techniques, copywriting, editing and photography while producing a creative,

innovative yearbook which records school memories and events. Journalism skills are welcomed in this class. Participants gain useful, real world skills in time management, marketing, teamwork, and design principles.

Instructional Philosophy: Students will be given challenging real world projects and assignments typical of the graphic design and publishing industries. High quality work is expected and students will be given opportunities to redo work until it meets standards specified during instruction. Students will often work in teams, but will be expected to complete individual assignments in relation to the team's work.

Course Goals:

- Students will become familiar with design software.
- Students will work with various types of technology to produce a “book of memories” such as digital camera, computer, and scanner.
- Students will apply computer skills and design principles to the production of yearbook pages.
- Students will learn copywriting techniques.
- Students will complete the school yearbook.