



# **GRACE INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL**

## **High School Academic Program Handbook Chiang Mai, Thailand 2025-26**

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**MISSION STATEMENT**

*Grace International School is a quality, affordable Christian school in Chiang Mai, Thailand. GIS exists so that international Christian workers are enabled to remain abroad due to the educational and spiritual needs of their children being met. These needs include access to distance education support, adaptive instruction, and tools that enable students to grow in their personal faith journey with the Lord.*

### **VISION STATEMENT**

*The Vision of Grace International School is that every student will know who they are in Christ, that they will experience a quality education in an inspiring learning environment, and that they will be equipped with a Biblical worldview to impact the world for Christ.*

### **CORE VALUES**

*To Follow Jesus  
To Pursue Excellence  
To Cultivate Community  
To Partner with Parents  
To Enable International Christian Workers*

### **ACCREDITATION**

Western Association of Schools and Colleges  
Member since 2005



Association of Christian Schools International  
Member since 2005 Accreditation #20935



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# High School Academic Program

Grace International School (GIS) prepares students for post-secondary education in their passport countries or internationally. Although our curriculum has a foundation in the United States' educational system, we are a Christian international school and seek to meet the academic, emotional, and spiritual needs of our diverse student body regardless of their post-high school plans.

Knowing that our students need to meet a variety of college admissions requirements based upon the countries of their chosen undergraduate institutions, we have established minimum graduation requirements for a GIS diploma, providing students room in their schedules to specialize and take courses that will meet the specific requirements of the various institutions to which they will apply. *See below for a detailed chart of GIS graduation requirements, suggested college-preparatory recommendations, and a listing of course options.*

Graduation Requirements Overview	Grading Criteria	GPA Criteria
<b>4 years: English</b> <b>3 years: Social Studies</b> + U.S. Government for U.S. Citizens <b>2 years: Mathematics</b> <b>2 years: Science</b> <b>1 year: World Language</b> <b>1 year: Visual/Performing Art</b> <b>1/.5 years: PE/Health</b> <b>1 semester per year enrolled:</b> <b>Religious Studies</b> <b>4.5-6 years: Electives</b>	<b>A+ 99-100</b> <b>C+ 78-79</b> <b>A 92-97</b> <b>C 72-77</b> <b>A- 90-91</b> <b>C- 70-71</b> <b>B+ 88-89</b> <b>D+ 68-69</b> <b>B 82-87</b> <b>D 62-67</b> <b>B- 80-81</b> <b>D- 60-61</b> <b>F (no credit)</b>  Study Hall does not receive a grade or credit. Student Aide/Teacher's Assistant receives a pass/fail grade and .5 credit/semester.	<b>GPA Criteria</b>  <b>Unweighted GPA:</b> Grades are calculated on a <b>4.0 scale</b> based upon the percentage grade earned in each class.  <b>Weighted GPA:</b> <b>AP courses</b> are weighted by multiplying the earned unweighted grade by 1.25.  <b>Honors courses</b> are weighted by multiplying the earned unweighted grade by 1.2.  GPA is based upon all academic courses.

One credit is equivalent to one school year; a semester-long course earns .5 credits. This system grants credits earned for courses successfully passed according to the Carnegie credit allocation system. Students need to **complete 24 credits in order to earn a GIS diploma.**

Full-time enrollment requires a minimum of **five instructional classes** and no more than two non-instructional courses per semester. (Study Hall and Student Aide/Teacher's Assistant are non-instructional courses.) Additionally, students may not enroll in more than 7.5 credits total at GIS in one school year.

Grade 9 students are not assigned a study hall (unless a Guided Study Hall is needed) in order to ensure they meet basic graduation credit requirements and complete the prerequisite courses for upper-level classes. Grade 10 students are allowed one study hall. Additionally, students may not take more than 4 AP classes in one school year in grades 11 and 12, or more than two AP classes per school year in grade 10. Grade 9 students are not permitted to enroll in AP courses.

## Four-year Academic Plans

Each spring, an academic counselor meets with each student prior to course selection in order to discuss the student's on-going Academic Plan and to propose courses for the next school year. The academic counselor inquires about the student's academic interests and post-high school plans to help inform course options. The Academic Plan is a live document that belongs to the student, enabling the student and parents to review, ask questions, make comments, and make final decisions prior to submitting the student's course requests in Facts Family Portal.

## Course Terminology

**On-Level** (college-prep) - These courses are aligned with our subject standards and taught at the high-school course level. The ability levels of the students who take the course are broadly distributed and their needs diverse. Complex ideas are taught so that all students should be able to understand the foundational principles. The mastery of skills needed for students to pursue further studies in the topic in preparation for college is emphasized.

### Honors and Advanced Placement Courses

For students applying to more selective universities, Honors and AP course designations on transcripts indicate to universities that the students have taken a rigorous selection of courses. These courses demand more self-motivation, engagement in abstract thinking, and synthesis and application of concepts. *Entrance into an Honors or AP course is based on relevant teacher approval, previous grades and/or test scores, and completion of prerequisite courses listed in the course descriptions below. AP courses may require submission of an application and/or work that must be completed over the summer to gain a seat in the course. Students must sign a [GIS AP contract](#) at the beginning of the school year for each AP course taken.*

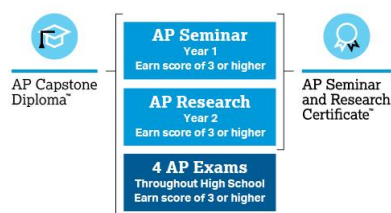
**Honors** - Honors courses at GIS are aligned to our subject standards and may include some additional standards. They cover the on-level course material, may go into greater depth, and are accelerated in pace. The focus of an honors course is to better prepare students for the level of difficulty in AP courses or college-level courses. *Honors points for only two courses may be earned prior to 11th grade.*

**Advanced Placement (AP) Courses** - Advanced Placement is a College Board program, offering high school students the opportunity to take college-level courses during high school that culminate in a rigorous exam that may earn the student college credit at universities in the U.S. Universities in countries outside the U.S. use AP course enrollment and exam scores as criteria for admissions. Since policies vary by institution, it is necessary to research the country and university to determine their policies.

GIS offers AP courses each year depending upon qualified staffing. Due to the demanding nature of AP courses, they are not intended for everyone. Students must have approval to enroll in an AP class, and enrollment is limited to four AP classes per school year in grades 11 and 12 and two AP classes per school year in grade 10. This approval will include a combination of teacher, academic counselor, and/or the high school principal. Students taking AP courses are not obligated to take the exams but are encouraged to do so. AP exam scores are based on a five-point scale with scores of 3-5 often qualifying for college credit in the U.S. AP exams are proctored the first two weeks in May and scores are reported to students, high schools, colleges, and universities in July.

AP courses are aligned to the standards for that specific course outlined by the College Board. AP courses cover introductory 100-level college course material. Because high school students are still developing intellectually and emotionally, they are given more guidance and structure with AP courses than they would receive in an actual college course. AP prerequisites listed in the course descriptions below are established by GIS and are not the requirements of College Board/AP program but are established due to the demanding nature of the AP coursework.

**AP Capstone Diploma™** - [AP Capstone™](#) is a diploma program from the College Board. It's based on two year-long AP courses: AP Seminar and AP Research. Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program and four additional AP courses can earn the AP Capstone Diploma™, which is valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.



**Advisory** - Advisory is a once-a-week small group meeting led by a faculty/staff advisor. The purpose of High

School Advisory is to cultivate a Christ-centered community where every student is known, valued, and supported. Caring staff mentors encourage relationships and foster a sense of belonging at GIS through small-group connections.

**Study Hall, Concert Band, or Concert Choir** - On Tuesdays and Thursdays, class time is reserved for Concert Band and Concert Choir. During this time, all students not enrolled in Concert Band or Concert Choir are enrolled in a Study Hall. At times, study hall groups offering other learning opportunities may be available.

**Online NSA (NorthStar Academy) Classes** - Students may take an online course while enrolled at GIS if they would like to take a special-interest course or a course that is not offered at GIS for that academic year. Students are limited to taking no more than two online classes within each school year. An Online NSA Class is provided in the student's schedule and is dedicated to online course work taken through NorthStar Academy. If a course is currently offered in person on campus, it will not normally be possible to take an online version. Exceptions may be granted by the Administration, but they will be rare and are typically granted for students with scheduling conflicts. For more information about the potential for online courses and the Online NSA Class Request Form, please read the [GIS Policies & Procedures for Online NSA Classes](#) document.

**Dual Enrollment Courses** - Dual enrollment courses are not currently offered. If a student transfers in with dual enrollment course credits, the transfer grade will be weighted with a multiplier of 1.25, the same weight as an AP course. *Only two dual enrollment courses may earn weighting prior to 11th grade.*

**Transcripts** - While enrolled as a full-time GIS student, GIS transcripts include only courses listed in the GIS Academic Program Handbook. Only classes supervised by GIS staff within the school year are awarded credit and added to the student's GIS transcript. This includes both in-person GIS classes and Online NSA Classes.

**Grade Replacement** - Students may retake a course they failed or withdrew from for the purpose of obtaining credit. This is mandatory for graduation required courses, but optional for other courses. The student may retake the course at GIS during a subsequent school year or online during the summer break depending on the circumstances. The retake must be approved in advance. The new grade will replace the previous grade for the student's GPA calculation, but the original course will remain on the transcript with a "NC" (No Credit) in place of the "F". Students who are required to retake classes are not eligible for class valedictorian or salutatorian the year they graduate.

## Graduation Requirements

Department	Minimum Graduation Requirements	College Preparatory Recommendations	Course Options * one semester courses <b>Bolded courses: required</b> <i>Italicized courses: Advanced Placement</i>
English	4 years	4 years	<b>English 9, English 10: World Literature</b> , U.S. Literature or Honors U.S. Literature, British Literature or <i>AP English Literature and Composition</i>
Mathematics	2 years	3-4 years	<b>Algebra 1, Geometry</b> , Algebra 2, Honors Algebra 2, Pre-Calculus, <i>AP Calculus, AP Statistics</i>
Science	2 years	3-4 years	<b>Biology, Chemistry or Physics</b> , Environmental Science, <i>AP Environmental Science, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics 1</i>
Social Studies	3 years 3.5 years (required for U.S. citizens <sup>^</sup> )	3-4 years	Ancient World History, Modern World History, History of Christianity, <i>AP European History</i> , U.S. History <sup>^</sup> or <i>AP U.S. History<sup>^</sup></i> , U.S. Government <sup>^</sup> , Comparative Politics and Government*, Economics*, <i>AP Seminar, AP Research</i> , Psychology or <i>AP Psychology</i>
World Language	1 year 4 years (required for Thai citizens <sup>^</sup> )	2-4 years	Thai 1,2,3, National Thai 9-12 <sup>^</sup> ; Spanish 1,2,3,4; Mandarin 1,2,3, <i>AP Chinese</i>
Religious Studies	2 years (one semester per year at GIS)	2 years	Bible Study Methods*, Theology*, Ethics*, Comparative Religions*, Spiritual Formation*
Visual & Performing Arts	1 year	1 year	Drawing, Painting, Honors Studio Art, <i>AP Drawing, AP 2D Art</i> , Adobe Photoshop/Adobe Illustrator; Concert Choir (2 years = 1 credit), Honors Chanson, Beginner & Intermediate Band, Concert Band (2 years = 1 credit), Honors Jazz Band, Honors String Ensemble
Technology & Computer Science	1 year	1 year	<b>Technology and Digital Skills 1*/2*</b> , <i>AP Computer Science Principles, AP Computer Science A</i>
PE/Health	1 year/.5 year	1 year/.5 year	<b>PE1* or PE2*, Health*</b> , Strength and Conditioning, Advanced Strength and Conditioning*, Sports Leadership 1, Sports Leadership 2, Sports Medicine*
Additional Electives	4.5-6 years/credits (a course taken after the minimum graduation requirement is met = an elective)	4.5-6 years/credits (a course taken after the minimum graduation requirement is met = an elective)	Yearbook, Teacher's Assistant*
Total Minimum Credits	24	24	

**Recommendations for students who will apply to universities outside of the United States:**

Research the policies of the country and the specific university's admissions requirements in order to find out the courses required and number of AP exams necessary, if any, for admission. In general, follow the college-preparatory recommendations above.

## Schedule Corrections and Changes

Students and parents should consider course selections carefully before entering schedule requests into FamilyWeb. Please refer to the student's Academic Plan as you make selections to avoid having to request schedule corrections. *Schedule corrections are not intended for these reasons: changing your mind, wanting the class during a different period, wanting a different teacher, wanting to take a class with your friends.*

Schedule corrections are for these reasons only:

- Incomplete schedule, without seven (7) courses.
- Failure to meet a class prerequisite.
- Incorrect placement or missing a required course.
- Teacher recommendation for class-level change.
- Course needed for graduation (grade 12 only).

The courses offered at GIS and the number of course sections are based on initial student course requests in Facts Family Portal. Courses chosen determine staffing, number of textbooks required, and other factors vital to the school's functioning. Once the courses, class sizes, and the number of sections are determined, changes in student course selections are limited. The school administration will attempt to accommodate schedule correction requests; however, we reserve the right to deny any request based on school-wide needs.

### Up to two days prior to the first day of the school year:

Students may request a schedule correction for the first and/or second semester classes up to two days prior to the first day of the first semester of the school year for any one of the reasons listed above. Use this online form, [Schedule Correction Form: Up to two days prior to the first day of semester](#), to make a request.

Schedule correction requests may be sent to parents for approval. If the schedule correction is approved, students will be notified when the process is complete.

### During the first eight school days of the school year:

Students may request a schedule correction for first and/or second semester classes during the first eight days of the semester only for any one of the reasons listed above. After the eighth day, schedule corrections are rarely granted and result in a Withdraw grade on the transcript.

Year-long courses may not be dropped at the start of the second semester. Exceptions may be granted by administration for extenuating circumstances.

Schedule Correction Forms are available in the High School office or may be printed: [Schedule Correction Form: First Eight Days](#). Students must obtain all of the signatures required on the form before it is submitted. Students should not attend the requested class until notification is received that the request has been approved.

### Withdrawal: After the eighth day of the school year, schedule corrections are closed:

No schedule changes will be made after the eighth day of school unless approved by the principal. A student considering making a request for a schedule change should make an appointment to meet with his/her academic counselor to discuss the need for this change. If the withdrawal request is approved, the class that is dropped will receive a Withdraw Pass (WP) or Withdraw Fail (WF) on the transcript depending upon the length of time in the class and the current grade. This may negatively affect college applications.

## Academic Testing

**Advanced Placement Examinations** - Students who complete AP courses are encouraged, upon completion of the course, to take the advanced placement examination overseen by the College Board. These exams provide students with the opportunity to potentially gain college credit.

**SAT/ACT** - Students in grades 11 and 12 are encouraged to take the SAT and/or ACT. The GIS School code is:  
Grace International School



695409

**PSAT10** - All 10th grade students are required to take the PSAT10 test in the spring. This academic test is administered by GIS staff during a school day.

# Language Arts

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

## **R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement**

### **English 9 LA100**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 9

English 9 is a multi-genre, literature-based course providing instruction in the following areas: reading comprehension, vocabulary, mechanics and usage, and essay writing. This course exposes students to short stories, drama, poetry, and novels studying the unique characteristics and literary terms associated with each. Coursework focuses on speaking and listening skills, reading comprehension and analysis, and writing in various modes in order to prepare students for higher level English classes.

### **English 10: World Literature LA200**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: English 9

Grade: 10

English 10 is a study of world literature, which compares and contrasts ideas found within different cultures. This course builds upon the short story, drama, novel, and poetry genres discussed in English 9 with a special emphasis on literary analysis, both through discussion and writing. Coursework focuses on reading, examining literary craft, identifying the rhetoric and structure of strong arguments, and building effective thesis statements. Students regularly analyze novels and drama through essays and class discussion. Vocabulary building is a yearlong activity. One research paper is required.

### **U.S. (American) Literature LA300**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: English 10

Grades: 11

U.S. Literature is a study of literature from the United States, ranging from the colonial period to the twentieth century with an inclusion of Native American stories and perspectives. The course moves chronologically through the American historical periods to study various types of literature from each time period including the following: novels, poetry, short stories, plays, film, and nonfiction texts. Coursework focuses on reading and analyzing literature; writing in various modes including argumentative, expository, and analytical essays; increasing vocabulary comprehension and utilization; and improving grammar and mechanics in order to prepare students for college level reading and writing. In Semester 1, a choice book project and argumentative essay are required. In Semester 2, a research paper and presentation are required.

### **Honors U.S. (American) Literature LA320 \*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: English 10 (overall B average or above in English courses). Approval required. Summer work mandatory.

Grades: 11

Honors U.S. Literature is a study of literature from the United States, ranging from the colonial period to the twentieth century with an inclusion of Native American stories and perspectives. The course moves somewhat chronologically through the American historical periods to study various types of literature from each time period including the following: novels, poetry, short stories, plays, film, and nonfiction texts. Coursework focuses on reading and analyzing literature; writing in various modes including argumentative,

expository, and analytical essays; increasing vocabulary comprehension and utilization; and improving grammar and mechanics in order to prepare students for college level reading and writing. This class will be similar to On-level U.S. Literature, but the pacing will be quickened to allow for the additional study of one play and one novel. Additionally, the course will provide additional emphasis on skills that will prepare students for A.P. English, such as timed literary analysis writing.

### **British Literature LA400**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: English 11

Grades: 11-12 (Approval required for grade 11 enrollment.)

British Literature is a study of literature from England, ranging from Anglo-Saxon *Beowulf* to nineteenth-century *Jane Eyre*. The course moves chronologically through the British historical periods to study various types of literature from each time period including epic poetry, satire, novels, drama, poetry, and nonfiction. Coursework focuses on reading and analyzing literature with a focus on theme; writing in various modes including argumentative, analytical, college, and creative essays; creating resumes; increasing vocabulary comprehension and utilization; and improving grammar and mechanics. A college essay, resume, and research paper are required.

### **AP English Literature and Composition LA500**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Three previous English courses (overall B average or above). Application essay required.

Grades: 12

Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition offers a curriculum in literature and writing for grade 12 students who wish to experience a college-level course. The course provides experience with the technical vocabulary and critical skills needed to analyze classic works of fiction, poetry, and drama. Coursework focuses on reading a variety of texts, writing critical essays, making oral presentations, and taking practice AP exams. The course requires students to complete summer reading and writing assignments and requires daily reading assignments throughout the year.

# Mathematics

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

## R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement

### Math Sequence Options:

<b>On-Level Sequence</b> 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Algebra 1 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Geometry 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics	<b>Accelerated Sequence</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Algebra 1 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Geometry 10 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 11 <sup>th</sup> Grade – Pre-Calculus or AP Statistics 12 <sup>th</sup> Grade – AP Calculus or AP Statistics
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### Algebra 1 MA100

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: none

Grades: 9-11

In this course, students will build a strong foundation in math by learning how to solve equations, graph lines, and work with functions. Key topics include solving multi-step equations, understanding inequalities, graphing linear equations, writing equations for real-world problems, and working with systems of equations and arithmetic sequences. Through practical examples like budgeting, planning events, and solving everyday problems, this course will demonstrate how math is useful in daily life while preparing students for future math classes. Students are required to have a scientific calculator.

### Geometry MA200

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Grades: 9-12

This course applies the logical principles of inductive and deductive reasoning to various areas of both two and three-dimensional geometry. The course includes a wide range of definitions, symbols, theorems, constructions, and simple proofs. The topics of area, volume, symmetry, and some trigonometry are also included. Students are required to have a scientific calculator.

### Algebra 2 MA300

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry (may be taken concurrently with Geometry, approval for concurrent enrollment required).

Grades: 9-12

This course is a continuation of Algebra 1. The course covers various types of functions, including quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic. The course also includes probability and statistics. Applying different methods of factoring is an integral part of the course. Students are required to have a scientific calculator.

### Honors Algebra 2 MA 350

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Approval required. Algebra 1 (B average or above), Geometry (may be taken concurrently with Geometry, additional approval for concurrent enrollment required).

Grades: 9-12

This is a fast-paced accelerated course that best prepares students for Pre-Calculus. Quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical, exponential, and logarithmic functions are covered in this course. Probability and statistics

are also covered. Various methods of factoring are an integral part of the course. Although the topics are similar to the Algebra 2 course, a more in-depth approach to the topics is considered throughout the course. Students are required to have a scientific calculator.

### **Pre-Calculus MA400**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Geometry, Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 (preferred), (B average or above in both recommended)

Grades: 10-12

This challenging course is designed to prepare students for AP calculus but also may serve as a fitting end for those who do not plan to pursue mathematics beyond high school. The topics include quadratic functions, trigonometry, exponential and logarithmic functions, polar coordinates, parametric equations, conic sections, logarithms, and introductory limits. Students are loaned a Casio graphing calculator for the course.

### **AP Calculus MA500**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Pre-calculus (B average or above recommended).

Grades: 11-12

This challenging course is designed for mathematically-advanced students who will pursue mathematics beyond high school. The topics covered are those set by the College Board for the AP Calculus AB exam. Applying derivatives to solve max/min or related rates problems and various methods of integration are some of the topics covered in the course. Students may register to take the AP Calculus AB or BC exam in May. Students will be loaned a Casio graphing calculator for the course.

### **AP Statistics MA510**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 (B average or above recommended), (B average or above in English courses recommended).

Grades: 11-12

The purpose of AP Statistics is to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students are exposed to the broad conceptual schemes: exploring data, describing patterns and departures, sampling and experimentation, planning and exploring random phenomena using probability and simulation, anticipating patterns, statistical inference, and estimating population parameters, and testing hypotheses.

# Visual and Performing Arts

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

## **R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement**

### **Drawing FA115**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

This course is an introduction to visual communication and the language of art through 2D media such as pencil, pen, colored pencil, and charcoal. Students are exposed to the elements of art as well as various artistic styles. Students learn the five perceptions of art, which is a sequential learning process that teaches them how to “see” in order to draw. Art projects include portraiture, still life, and landscape among others. Drawing students create artworks based around a biblical theme for Art Chapel and have the option to present them in chapel as a way to lead their peers in worship. They also participate in class critiques of their work and display their choice of personal artwork in the annual student Art Show in May.

### **Painting FA220**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Drawing

Grades: 10-12

The student will explore various paint mediums including watercolor, acrylic, pastel, and mixed media. They will move through a variety of styles and subject matter such as chiaroscuro, juxtaposition, metaphor, and appropriation. Critiques involve students presenting their own works and responding to the works of their peers. Painting students participate in the annual Art Chapel where they create artworks based around a biblical theme and they have the option to present them in Chapel as a way to lead their peers in worship. Painting students will display their choice of personal artwork in the annual student Art Show in May. All 12th grade students who complete Painting are eligible to have an individual display at the Art Show.

### **Graphic Design: Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator FA240**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Experience with graphics applications is preferred.

Grades: 11-12

Adobe Photoshop is designed to introduce the basics of graphic design and digital image editing. Students will learn how to use Adobe Photoshop tools to create and manipulate images, apply color and effects, and produce final projects that showcase their skills. Through hands-on projects and instructor-led lessons, students will develop a strong foundation in graphic design and digital image editing, as well as a deeper understanding of Adobe Photoshop. Adobe Illustrator is a powerful vector graphics software used by designers, artists, and illustrators. In this course, students will learn how to use the software to create digital graphics, logos, and illustrations. Students will also develop skills in color theory, composition, and design principles, as they create their own unique projects using Adobe Illustrator. Students will display artwork in the annual student Art Show in May.

### **Honors Studio Art FA300**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Drawing, Painting, Approval required.

Grades: 11-12

The Honors Studio Art course is for students interested in learning advanced concepts in drawing, painting, and 2-D design. Honors students will be able to choose between developing and exploring drawing and painting skills such as rendering and surface manipulation or 2-D design skills which focus on the Elements of

Art and the Principles of Design. Students are able to choose their own mediums for their projects but will be exposed to other mediums including oil paint, printmaking, and scratchboard. This course is intended to be a stepping stone towards the rigorous level of AP Studio Art. Honors Studio Art students participate in peer critiques and create a portfolio of work similar to that of AP with around half as much work. Students will display artwork in the annual student Art Show in May. All 12th grade students who complete Honors Studio Art are eligible to have an individual display at the annual Art Show.

### **AP Drawing FA400**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Drawing, Painting, and Honors Studio Art. Approval required.

Grades: 11-12

Corresponding to one-semester college and university foundation courses, AP Drawing focuses on drawing skills, technique, mark-making, and surface manipulation. Students will create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. Portfolios include works of art and design, process documentation, and written information about the work presented. In May, students submit portfolios for evaluation based on specific criteria, which include skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas and sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions. Students will display artwork in the annual student Art Show in May. All AP Art students are eligible to have an individual display at the annual student Art Show during their senior year.

### **AP 2-D Art FA410**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Drawing, Painting, and Honors Studio Art. Approval required.

Grades: 11-12

Corresponding to one-semester college and university foundation courses, AP 2-D Art and Design focuses mainly on the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Students will create a portfolio of work to demonstrate inquiry through art and design and development of materials, processes, and ideas over the course of a year. Portfolios include works of art and design, process documentation, and written information about the work presented. In May, students submit portfolios for evaluation based on specific criteria, which include skillful synthesis of materials, processes, and ideas and sustained investigation through practice, experimentation, and revision, guided by questions. Students will display artwork in the annual student Art Show in May. All AP Art students are eligible to have an individual display at the annual art show their senior year.

### **Beginner & Intermediate Band MU100 \*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-10

Beginner & Intermediate Band prepares students for successful involvement in Concert Band. Students will learn proper instrument assembly and maintenance, music theory fundamentals, instrument-specific techniques, and ensemble performance skills. These skills will be developed through subsequent semesters of enrollment in the band program. Individual weekly practice is required. Students are expected to perform the concert band pieces in grade 1-3 level. Performance experience and etiquette are emphasized at one or more concerts each semester. This class includes students from both the middle school and the high school (grades 6-10).

### **Concert Band MU205**

Credit: Full-year, 0.5 credit, *scheduled during the Tuesday/Thursday Study Hall*, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Previous band experience or instructor approval.

Grades: 9-12

Concert Band presents classic band literature as well as popular music on a more difficult level.

Music fundamentals and instrument-specific performance technique skills along with sight-reading is developed through subsequent semesters of enrollment in the band program. Individual weekly practice and playing tests are required. Students are expected to play concert band pieces at grade 2 - 3.5 levels. Performance experience and demonstrating proper deportment and etiquette are emphasized at one or more concerts each semester.

### **Honors Jazz Band MU211**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in a Performing Arts course, audition or instructor's approval only.

Grades: 9-12

Honors Jazz Band is a course in the study and performance of a variety of jazz styles. Students enrich their musical experience and growth with projects of individual interest in areas such as conducting, improvisation, musical composition, concert planning, and music leadership. Individual weekly practice, listening tests, and playing tests are required. Students are expected to perform the jazz ensemble pieces in grades 2-4 level. Performance experience and demonstrating proper deportment and etiquette are emphasized at a concert at the end of the semester. To be a part of the Honors Jazz Band, students must play one of the following instruments: alto saxophone, tenor saxophone, baritone saxophone, trumpet, trombone, piano, bass, drums, or guitar.

### **Concert Choir MU220**

Credit: Full-year, 0.5 credit, *scheduled during the Tuesday/Thursday Study Hall*, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Previous choir experience or instructor approval.

Grades: 9-12

Students are introduced to proper vocal techniques and given the opportunity to learn and perform music from different styles and periods. The choir student gains an appreciation for the use of the human voice as an instrument of expression and communication. Basic music theory skills are incorporated to enhance each student's music reading capabilities. Concerts may be performed once or twice a semester. Choir is open to any student who can demonstrate some aptitude in music.

### **Honors Chanson Ensemble MU231**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Enrollment in a Performing Arts course, audition or instructor's approval only.

Grades: 9-12

Honors Chanson Ensemble is for advanced choral music students with experience in high school choir. Students build and advance their skills and confidence in vocal technique, sight reading, solo performance, competition, and peer evaluation. Students enrich their musical experience and growth with projects of individual interest in areas such as conducting, concert planning, and music leadership.

### **Honors String Ensemble MU215 \*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Audition or instructor's approval only.

Grades: 9-12

Honors String Ensemble is for the intermediate to advanced student who has experience with a stringed instrument. String Ensemble members will learn ensemble skills, such as synchronizing timing, understanding musical cues, and mutual communication, as well as further develop instrument-specific techniques, including rhythmic accuracy, technical facility, and basic music theory. Performance experience and demonstrating proper stage deportment and etiquette are emphasized at a concert at the end of the semester.



# Physical Education

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

## **R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement**

### **Physical Education 1: Recreational Sports (PE 1) PE100**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

In this course, students will be exposed to a wide variety of games and physical activities. This class focuses on traditional games and sports such as basketball, football, soccer, and volleyball. Students will be graded on their skills, meeting class requirements for participation, and attitude. Skills taught include teamwork, social skills, fitness, and game-specific rules and skills. PE uniform and proper athletic footwear are required.

### **Health PE110**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12 (This course is required for graduation for all students)

The focus of this course will be on learning to make healthy lifestyle choices. Students will study a variety of topics including: personal and community, mental, emotional, and social health, human growth and development, sexual health and reproduction, nutrition and fitness, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs, injury prevention, CPR, and first aid. Students will learn through discussions, research, personal reflections, and group projects. As students learn new ideas they will discern how to apply this knowledge to their life in a way that is honoring God and good for personal health.

### **Physical Education 2: International Sports (PE 2) PE120**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

In this course, students will be exposed to a wide variety of games and physical activities. This class focuses on international games and sports such as cricket, rugby, and hockey. Students will be graded on their skills, meeting class requirements for participation, and attitude. Skills taught include teamwork, social skills, fitness, and game-specific rules and skills. PE uniform and proper athletic footwear are required.

### **Strength and Conditioning PE251**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: PE1 or PE2

Grades: 10-12

Students will alternate lifting weights and cardiovascular fitness. Weightlifting will focus on increasing muscular strength and endurance using free and machine weights. Students will learn proper safety, technique, and spotting for lifting. Fitness will focus on cardiovascular endurance through a variety of activities such as: running, biking, aerobics, jump rope, and HIIT training. Students will keep a log of their progress and achievements in both weight and cardiovascular fitness. PE uniform and proper athletic footwear are required.

### **Advanced Strength and Conditioning PE351**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Strength and Conditioning

Grades: 11-12

This course will build on the foundations learned in Strength & Conditioning (PE251). Students will spend

time on setting personal goals, planning their individual workout programming, leading the class in at least one crossfit workout and monitoring their progress throughout the semester. Students will have multiple opportunities to test their 1RM on three key power lifts and the Tiger Baseline workout. The course is designed to produce tangible results and help students develop habits that lead to a lifelong pursuit of fitness and personal development.

### **Sports Leadership 1--Teaching PE200**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisites: PE1 or PE2, Application and GIS staff recommendation required.

Grades: 11-12

This course will introduce students to the concepts of teaching physical education and developing their God-given leadership potential. This includes classroom management, child safety, early childhood development, and leadership development along with planning and executing PE lessons for all elementary school grades. The course is hands-on and students will be required to not only teach PE classes but also assist with other athletic programs, including but not limited to two seasons of Rec League. Sports Leadership students are held to a high standard of excellence as role models for others in the community. Once enrolled in the class, an SL1 jersey purchase is required.

### **Sports Leadership 2--Officiating and Ministry PE210**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#) (if the prerequisite of one PE course, not Conditioning, has been completed)

Prerequisite: Sports Leadership 1, Approval required.

Grades: 12

This course trains students to use their God-given leadership ability and passion to impact their community for Christ. Students are given the opportunity to serve others by teaching English in Thai schools, being involved in school activities as leaders and organizers, and traveling to remote places to conduct ministry using sports as a platform. Skills developed are discipleship, mentorship, organization, and community development. This course is hands-on and students are expected to maintain and model excellence in and outside of the class at all times. (Note: At least a few hours outside of school time is required every week in addition to a few weekend trips during the academic year. Also, a student contract is required to be signed as part of the course.)

### **Sports Medicine PE420 \*Not offered 2025-2026\***

Credit: One Semester, 0.5 credit, [E](#)

Prerequisite: Biology, Health, PE1 or PE2.

Grades: 11-12

The purpose of this program is to prepare students in skills used in the fields of Sports Medicine/Athletic Training. The content includes, but is not limited to, roles and responsibilities of team members, emergency and non-emergency procedures, anatomy and physiology, injury evaluation, equipment and modalities of rehabilitation, injury and disease prevention, and protective equipment. The program will provide excellent background for continuation in post-secondary level health occupation programs and athletic training programs.

## **Religious Studies**

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

### **R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement**

*GIS students are required to complete one Religious Studies course for each year of enrollment at GIS. All four course offerings are 1-semester courses. The first two courses are generally taken in grades 9-10; the last two courses are generally taken in grades 11-12.*

### **Bible Study Methods RS110**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Bible Study Methods is a single-semester course that prepares and engages students in the discipline of interpreting and applying the Bible. Throughout the course, students will be introduced to various interpretive tools that will enable them to “rightly handle the word of truth” (2 Tim 2:15). Students will gain first-hand experience reading the Bible and using various interpretive tools to arrive at Scripture’s meaning (the ‘what’ of the text) and significance (the ‘so what’ of the text). This course also enables students to discover Jesus Christ through Christianity Explored - an evangelistic DVD series that is based on Mark’s Gospel. Each student will read the Gospel of Mark over the course of seven weeks and spend class time discussing and exploring the biblical text together. Finally, as a part of the course, students will learn about the history of how we got the Bible and why it is important to study the Bible in its historical context.

### **Theology RS310**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Theology is the vocation of every Christian because we are all called to “grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ” (2 Pet. 3:18). In this course, students will first explore theology in general, by defining its nature and purpose as well as its importance, benefits, and broader significance. The second section of the course focuses on biblical theology where we will discuss in depth the four main stages of the story of the Bible: creation, fall, redemption, and new creation. In the third section of the course, we will discuss systematic theology or Christian doctrine. Here we will use the Nicene Creed as our guide in investigating some of the core teachings of the Christian faith and their significance in the Christian life. In the final part of the course, we will investigate various “everyday” aspects of life such as (sports, music, technology, sleep, leisure, etc.) and attempt to think theologically about how we as Christians should engage in these activities. In summary, this course seeks to introduce students to the basics of biblical theology and Christian doctrine while also encouraging students to begin to think theologically about all aspects of life and reality.

### **Ethics RS420**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5, [R](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grade: 11-12

This course explores biblical and classical ethics theories and systems. It provides students with critical thinking tools necessary to form their own opinions on ethical dilemmas. Once these skills are used and learned together students can offer their opinions in a godly manner, rooted in biblical truths, even when in discussions with those who hold differing, sometimes worldly opinions. Rather than using ethics as a means of pointing out shortcomings in others, we will consistently be involved in self-examination. Students in this course will be able to demonstrate that biblical truths have concrete answers and solutions to modern ethical dilemmas.

### **Comparative Religions RS 400**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12

Students will be provided with the essential tenets and beliefs of various religions and worldviews currently found around the globe. From these, students will learn skills that will help them relate their faith to the faiths, worldviews, and philosophies around them. In addition, students will be able to persuasively, articulately, biblically, and winsomely draw contrasts and similarities between these faiths and the Christian faith. In this way, we equip students to influence the world for Christ. The worldviews we will cover in class

will include a study of Buddhism, Islam, Hinduism, and philosophies such as Secularism, New Spiritualism, and Postmodernism. The focus of the class will be to contextualize these beliefs and ideas and equip them to interact with individuals who profess these beliefs. The end goal is for our students to live as a follower of Jesus with confidence in a world that does not share their same worldview.

### **Spiritual Formation RS 430**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E](#)

Prerequisite: Bible Study Methods and Theology.

Grades: 11-12

This course is intended to equip students in the discovery and use of Christian spiritual practices to grow and transform their walk with Jesus. Practices including, but not limited to, meditating on Scripture, sabbath, solitude, prayer, and fasting will be explored as students apply the knowledge they have gained from previous Religious Studies courses. Students will craft a personal rule of life, a customized set of habits students choose for themselves, which will continue to orient their life toward God.

# Science

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

## R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement

### Science Sequence Options

The following chart is designed to show the availability of science courses at each grade level.

Course Options	Grade Levels			
	9	10	11	12
Biology	X	X	X	X
Chemistry		X	X	X
Physics		X	X	X
Environmental Science		X	X	X
AP Biology <sup>‡</sup>			X	X
AP Chemistry <sup>‡</sup> (online NSA course available)			X	X
AP Environmental Science <sup>‡</sup>			X	X
AP Physics 1 <sup>‡</sup> (online NSA course available)		X*	X	X

<sup>‡</sup> AP courses require an application **and** teacher approval.

\*accelerated choice requires additional teacher approval.

### Biology SC200

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R, M](#), (R for grade 9 students)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Biology is an introductory laboratory course designed to develop an understanding and appreciation of the nature of scientific inquiry and the complexity of living things. Students will study major units in ecology, cell biology, genetics and evolution. These units are interrelated to develop a comprehensive understanding of the living world.

### Chemistry SC300

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 recommended.

Grades: 10-12

This course creates a foundation of understanding of the major concept areas in chemistry. Chemistry is a laboratory oriented course and will require students to think through the uses of chemistry in the real world. Major topics include atomic structure, periodicity, bonding, nomenclature, chemical reactions, stoichiometry, gasses, solution chemistry, and thermodynamics. In addition, it will look at the applications of chemistry in society.

### Physics SC400

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry. Geometry enrollment may be concurrent.

Grades: 10-12

This course will consider the topics of force and motion, work and energy, electricity and magnetism, waves/optics, thermal energy, radioactivity, and quantum and relativistic effects. This course is for students who are keen to understand how and why things work the way they do in the physical world. The course is designed to emphasize concepts of physics, along with the mathematical equations that demonstrate

practical solutions to real world problems. A strong proficiency in solving algebraic equations will be necessary to succeed in this course.

### **Environmental Science SC220                      \*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Biology, Algebra 1

Grades: 10-12

Environmental Science incorporates biology, chemistry, physics, physical geology and introduces students to key concepts, principles, and theories within environmental science. Investigations are used in this course to explain and understand the behavior of nature in a variety of inquiry and design scenarios that incorporate scientific reasoning, analysis, communication skills, and real-world applications. This course includes inquiry-based laboratory experiences that engage students in asking valid scientific questions and gathering and analyzing information.

### **AP Biology SC510**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Biology, Chemistry

Grades: 11-12

AP Biology students must have an understanding of the basics of both biology and chemistry to be successful. AP Biology is the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year of university. It will include topics regularly contained in a high quality college program in introductory biology, such as biochemistry, cells, metabolism, enzymes, photosynthesis, respiration, molecular genetics, protein production, heredity, evolution and ecology. The aim of this course is to provide students with the conceptual framework, factual knowledge, and analytic skills necessary to deal critically with the rapidly changing science of biology.

### **AP Chemistry SC520                      \*Online NSA course in 2025-2026\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisites: Biology, Chemistry, Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 (B or above).

Grades: 11-12

AP Chemistry is the equivalent of a college introductory chemistry course usually taken by chemistry majors during their first year. Students will be required to keep a rigorous pace; self-study and an initiative to utilize resources to understand concepts are vital to success. AP chemistry emphasizes the ability to apply chemical understanding to new situations and expects a broad understanding of the interconnections present throughout chemistry. Main topics include atomic structure, bonding, gasses, solutions chemistry, states of matter, kinetics, equilibrium and acids/bases, thermodynamics as well as organic chemistry. Students will need to have an interest in the material and strong background in both mathematics and chemistry. Laboratory skills are emphasized, but due to time constraints, will require lab time outside normal school hours.

### **AP Physics 1 SC530                      \*Online NSA course in 2025-2026\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2 or Honors Algebra 2 (completion recommended; may be taken concurrently with approval), PreCalculus (recommended concurrent enrollment).

Grades: 11-12 (grade 10 with approval, if enrolled in PreCalculus)

This course is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics, designed to develop deep understanding of the content and to apply that knowledge through inquiry-based labs. The course covers Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum); work, energy, and power; and mechanical waves and sound. It will also introduce electrical circuits. It may be taken as a stand-alone course without Physics 2. Students prepare for the AP Exam at the end of the year.

### **AP Environmental Science SC560**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Two years of lab science (one life science and one physical science), Algebra 1

Grades: 11-12

Students cultivate their understanding of the interrelationships of the natural world through inquiry-based labs, simulations and field work as they explore concepts of energy transfer, interactions between earth systems, interactions between species and their environment, and sustainability. AP Environmental Science is equivalent to a one-semester college introductory course in environmental sciences. The course requires that students identify and analyze human-made environmental issues, evaluate the risks involved with these issues, and examine alternative solutions for resolving or preventing these issues. This interdisciplinary course includes topics from geology, biology, environmental studies, environmental science, chemistry and geography.

# Social Studies

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

**R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement, RUS-Required for U.S.**

## **Ancient World History SS101**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [R](#), [M](#) (R for grade 9 students)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-10

In Ancient World History, students investigate and develop a conceptual understanding of significant events, individuals, developments, and processes before 1400 AD. This occurs through enhancing students' ability to think historically by developing proficiency with history, disciplinary, and reasoning skills. The course provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interactions between humans and the environment, development and interaction of cultures, state building, expansion, and conflict, creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems, development and transformation of social structures. By the end of this course, students should be able to develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians to analyze historical evidence and generate subsequent conclusions. Students will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources, develop historical arguments, make historical comparisons, and utilize reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. This course focuses its attention on the history and development of the world from the history of the Early River System Civilizations to the Renaissance. Major historical developments include Classical Greece, the Muslim World, the development of the empires in the Americas, and the rise of Civilizations throughout East Asia.

## **Modern World History SS201**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#),

Prerequisite: Ancient World History or one earned credit in social studies with instructor approval.

Grades: 10-12

In Modern World History, students investigate and develop a conceptual understanding of significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from 1200 AD to the present day. This occurs through enhancing students' ability to think historically by developing proficiency with history, disciplinary, and reasoning skills. The course provides five themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interactions between humans and the environment, development and interaction of cultures, state building, expansion, and conflict, creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems, development and transformation of social structures. By the end of this course, students should be able to develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians to analyze historical evidence and generate subsequent conclusions. Students will be able to analyze primary and secondary sources, develop historical arguments, make historical comparisons, and utilize reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. Significant historical events covered in depth include: Absolute Monarchs in Europe, the Industrial Revolution, the World Wars, and the post WWII era.

## **United States History SS300**

*\*Note: U.S. History (or AP US History) is a requirement for U.S. citizens.*

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#), [RUS](#)

Prerequisite: Social studies credit covering Modern World History.

Grades: 11-12

This course is a chronological survey of events and people that characterize each of the major eras in U.S. history. The eras include: the colonial era, the revolutionary era, nation building, the expanding nation, civil war and reconstruction, westward expansion, the turn of the century, the 1920s, the Depression and the New Deal, World War II and postwar United States, and contemporary U.S. history. The course is designed to



be an introduction to U.S. History and provide exposure to the establishment and flow of U.S. history. The course analyzes political, social, economic, religious, and military issues.

**Economics SS320**  
**(Offered 1st Semester Only)**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12 (recommended for 12)

This is an introductory course in economics designed to enable students to achieve a basic understanding of fundamental economic concepts and how these concepts relate to their personal goals, and to the world in which they live. The course will focus on microeconomics, macroeconomics, the global economy, and personal finance.

**Comparative Politics and Government SS410**      **\*New Class\***  
**(Offered 2nd Semester Only)**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12

This course introduces students to basic political concepts and different government structures through the political analysis of systems in the following countries: the UK, the United States, South Korea, China, and Russia. Students will be exploring briefly the historical events that led to the establishment of contemporary government systems in the aforementioned countries and learn to distinguish between different branches of government. Students will be comparing and contrasting the different systems. Students will be encouraged to reflect critically on contemporary issues such as culturally sensitive approaches to the protection of human rights; the difference between citizenship and nationalism; and the role played by civil society. This course will also refer to the Christian influences on modern political ideas such as the “City of God” by St Augustine and contrast it to the idea of Shalom.

**History of Christianity SS315**      **\*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Minimum of 1 earned credit hour in Social Studies.

Grades: 11-12

This introductory course provides a survey of key turning points in Christian history, exploring the development of the Church from its origins in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ to the present day. Students will examine critical moments and movements that have shaped Christian doctrine, practice, and global influence. Topics include the early church, the conversion of Constantine, the fall of Rome, and the rise of monasticism, mysticism, and Christian spirituality. Further study will cover the development of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the emergence of Islam, and the complex dynamics of the Crusades and the Renaissance. The course also investigates the transformative impact of the Reformation, the Age of Reason, and the waves of revival that reshaped the Church. The expansion of Christianity through world missions, the rise of Pentecostal and Charismatic movements, and the development of the global Church will also be explored. Finally, students will reflect on the state of the Church today and its future trajectory in a rapidly changing world. This course offers a foundational understanding of Christian history, providing a basis for further study in theology, historical analysis, and the global role of Christianity in the modern era.

**Psychology SS330**      **\*New Class\***

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 11-12

Psychology will focus on the five themes from the American Psychological Association’s National Standards for High School Curriculum: biological basis of behavior, cognition, development and learning, social psychology and personality, and mental and physical health. Within these themes, the course will cover

scientific inquiry and research methods, sensation and perception, memory, intelligence, development across the lifespan, learning, language, motivation, emotion, and mental health, disorders, and therapies. Students who enroll in this class will not be eligible to take AP Psychology.

### **U.S. Government SS400** **(Offered 2nd Semester Only)**

*\*Note: U.S. Government is a requirement for U.S. citizens.*

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [E, M, RUS](#)

Prerequisite: U.S. History or AP U.S. History (may be taken concurrently with U.S. History or AP U.S. History).

Grades: 11-12 (recommended for 12)

This course focuses on the legal and historical foundations and major institutions of the United States government, contrasted with other forms of government. Students are acquainted with the function of democracy by an in-depth study of the three branches of the government, political activity, political parties, and political events. This course enables the student to understand major policy issues of the U.S. national government and how citizens can affect the decision-making process.

### **AP European History SS460**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Minimum of one earned credit hour in social studies. Approval required.

Grades: 10-12

AP European History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university European history course. In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in four historical periods from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical comparisons; and utilizing reasoning about contextualization, causation, and continuity and change over time. The course also provides six themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world; national and European identity; political systems and governance; economic systems; cultural developments and interactions; and technology and innovation.

### **AP U.S. History SS500**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Social studies credit covering Modern World History. Approval required.

Grades: 11-12

The AP U.S. History course focuses on developing students' understanding of American history from approximately 1491 to the present. The course has students investigate the content of U.S. history for significant events, individuals, developments, and processes in nine historical periods, and develop and use the same thinking skills and methods (analyzing primary and secondary sources, making historical comparisons, chronological reasoning, and argumentation) employed by historians when they study the past. The course also provides seven themes (American and national identity; migration and settlement; politics and power; work, exchange, and technology; America in the world; geography and the environment; and culture and society) that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places. AP U.S. History is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester introductory college or university U.S. History course.

### **AP Psychology SS550**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: B or above in previous English classes. Approval required.

Grades: 12

AP Psychology focuses on the student's ability to actively explore and research major theories, concepts, and themes relevant to the field. The course will focus on the seven themes from the American Psychological

Association's National Standards for High School Curriculum. Content emphasis will be aligned with the expectations set by the College Board. Major areas of study will include the scientific foundations of psychology, the biological basis of behavior, sensation and perception, learning, cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, motivation, emotion, personality, clinical psychology, and social psychology.

### **AP Seminar SS560**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Minimum of one earned credit hour in social studies. Approval required.

Grades: 11-12

AP Seminar is a foundational course that engages students in cross-curricular conversations that explore the complexities of academic and real-world topics and issues by analyzing divergent perspectives. Using an inquiry framework, students practice reading and analyzing articles, research studies, and foundational literary and philosophical texts; listening to and viewing speeches, broadcasts, and personal accounts; and experiencing artistic works and performances. Students learn to synthesize information from multiple sources, develop their own perspectives in research-based written essays, and design and deliver oral and visual presentations, both individually and as part of a team. Ultimately, the course aims to equip students with the power to analyze and evaluate information with accuracy and precision in order to craft and communicate evidence-based arguments.

### **AP Research SS570**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisites: Grade B or above in AP Seminar

Grades: 12

AP Research, the second course in the AP Capstone experience, allows students to deeply explore an academic topic, problem, issue, or idea of individual interest. Students design, plan, and implement a yearlong investigation to address a research question. Through this inquiry, they further the skills they acquired in the AP Seminar course by learning research methodology, employing ethical research practices, and accessing, analyzing, and synthesizing information. Students reflect on their skill development, document their processes, and curate the artifacts of their scholarly work through a process and reflection portfolio. The course culminates in an academic paper of 4,000-5,000 words (accompanied by a performance, exhibit, or product where applicable) and a presentation with an oral defense.

## **Technology & Computer Science**

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

**R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement, RUS-Required for U.S.**

### **Technology and Digital Skills 1 CS100**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R, E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

This course provides a working knowledge and ability to utilize Google Apps, an intermediate approach to computer science and programming skills, and an understanding of what it means to be a modern Digital Citizen by empowering the students to think critically, behave safely, and participate responsibly in the digital world. These skills are essential for students to harness the full potential of technology for learning. Students will learn fundamental concepts of technology and software by focusing on a variety of applications, such as word-processing, spreadsheets, multimedia presentations, coding, and web/cloud technologies

### **Technology and Digital Skills 2 CS200**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit, [R, E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Technology and Digital Skills 1

Grades: 9-12

This course will emphasize collaboration, communication, critical thinking, and creativity through the use of applied digital skills, computational thinking, and Digital Citizenship. These principles and thought processes will be useful throughout a student's high school, college, university, and future careers. Students will learn fundamental concepts of technology and software by focusing on a variety of applications, web design, coding, problem solving, app development, and web/cloud technologies.

### **AP Computer Science Principles CS500**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Technology and Digital Skills 2, Algebra 1. Approval required.

Grades: 10-12

The AP Computer Science Principles course is designed to be equivalent to a first-semester introductory college computing course. In this course, students will develop computational thinking skills vital for success across all disciplines, such as using computational tools to analyze and study data and working with large data sets to analyze, visualize, and draw conclusions from trends. The course engages students in the creative aspects of the field by allowing them to develop computational artifacts based on their interests. Students will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills by working individually and collaboratively to solve problems, and will discuss and write about the impacts these solutions could have on their community, society, and the world. An application will be required for admittance into the course. Summer work may also be required.

### **AP Computer Science A CS510**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Technology and Digital Skills 2, Algebra 1. Approval required.

Grades: 10-12

AP Computer Science A introduces students to computer science through programming. Fundamental topics in this course include the design of solutions to problems, the use of data structures to organize large sets of data, the development and implementation of algorithms to process data and discover new information, the analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing systems. The course emphasizes object-oriented programming and design using the Java programming language. An application will be required for admittance into the course. Summer work may also be required.

### **Yearbook CS350**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), *Can be taken multiple times*

Prerequisite: Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator, photography, writing and/or design skills preferred.

Grades: 10-12

Yearbook is a year-long, skills-based course that designs, produces, and publishes the high school yearbook for Grace International School. Students will be responsible for interviewing sources, writing articles, taking photos, designing spreads, and editing both their own and others' work. Students will be trained in professional desktop publishing software (Adobe InDesign) as well as the journalistic process. Yearbook staff may be required to photograph events that are outside of the normal school day. An application and summer work will be required for admittance into the course.

*\*See Visual and Performing Arts for Graphic Design: Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator\**

# World Languages

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

**R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement, RUS-Required for U.S.**

## Thai

### **National Thai Grades 9-12**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [M](#)

Prerequisite: Thai national

Grades: 9-12

Students in National Thai experience a four-year cycle of curriculum topics that develop communication skills in reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Topics offered throughout the course are varied which include Thai literature, basic Thai laws, news and current events, non-fiction, Thai history in depth, Thailand geography, natural resources and conservation, research, and independent study. Students will write stories, essays, journals, simple poems, news, and reports and present their work in a variety of ways. Cultural activities are included and a field trip is offered every other year.

**9th Grade LS100**

**10th Grade LS200**

**11th Grade LS300**

**12th Grade LS400**

### **Thai 1 LS110**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#), R (*Required if new to Thailand*)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Thai 1 is designed for non-Thai students with little to no prior exposure to the Thai language. This introductory course prioritizes developing listening and speaking skills for basic Thai conversation. Students will also be introduced to the fundamentals of reading and writing Thai. Additionally, the course integrates cultural exploration to enrich the language learning experience.

### **Thai 2 LS210**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Middle School Thai 3, High School Thai 1, or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 9-12

In this course, students continue to develop their skills of listening, reading, writing, and speaking Thai. They learn more in-depth details about the Thai writing system. More vocabulary and sentence structures are added to their speaking and writing skills as they experience opportunities to develop their Thai in all areas. Thai culture is explored and experienced along with language learning.

### **Thai 3 LS310**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Thai 2 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 9-12

This course is a continuation of the basic listening, speaking, writing and speaking skills needed to be fluent in the Thai language. This course includes Thai folktales, short stories, conversations, northern Thai music and dialect, health and sickness, Thai history and places.

## Spanish

## **Spanish 1 LS120**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

This course introduces students to the basics of the Spanish language: present tense, basic vocabulary, and grammatical structure. Students will be capable of presenting themselves, giving personal information, and requesting it. The students will know how to talk about likes and dislikes and daily routines. The students will be able to express a preference and give reasons "why/because". Spanish 1 covers numbers, dates and hours, family, colors, sports, and descriptive adjectives. Throughout the course, Hispanic culture will be presented and students will learn about Spanish-speaking countries, names, and flags. TPL will be used in the class. Students will learn Spanish using the book and class material but also by listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Special projects and hands-on activities will engage students' multiple intelligences as they work in pairs or groups.

## **Spanish 2 LS220**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Spanish 1 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 10-12 (Grade 9 with permission)

This course focuses on developing the "three strands" of language acquisition (interpersonal/interactive, interpretative/receptive, and presentational/productive). The communicative use of all four language skills (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) is pursued. The focus is on the use of language already acquired as well as the ongoing deepening of language skills. Spanish 2 continues the series of books covered in the previous course. Real-life conversational skills are mastered. Spanish 2 students are able to talk about daily activities, and frequency, give indications, and daily habits. Students also have more vocabulary with which to talk about themselves, family stories, and traditions. They are able to speak about the present and the past as they learn more verb tenses in Spanish. They acquire more vocabulary and analyze and write more complex texts. The oral skills of the students improve as well.

## **Spanish 3 LS330**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Spanish 2 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 10-12

This course builds on Spanish 2 with an emphasis on improving grammatical skills, expanding vocabulary, promoting increased verbal fluency through conversation, and continuing the students' historical and cultural knowledge of the Spanish-speaking world. Students move on to more advanced language skills (which prepare them for university-level placement tests). Students participate in a variety of projects using internet research and multimedia presentations to share their knowledge with classmates. Spanish 3 builds real-life conversational skills. Students learn more verbal tenses and broaden their previous knowledge.

## **Spanish 4 LS420**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E](#), [M](#)

Prerequisite: Spanish 3 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 10-12

This course focuses on developing all the required skills the students need to prepare for their AP tests, yielding mastery levels in all areas, listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students read more complex texts and are able to produce stronger ideas using different tenses of the verbs. Students' knowledge of Hispanic political and social history and events deepen enabling them to better understand the Hispanic culture. They are exposed to additional key elements and factors of society that have impacted and keep impacting Hispanic culture today.

## **Mandarin**

### **Mandarin 1 LS130**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: None

Grades: 9-12

Mandarin 1 is an introduction to Chinese language and culture for students who have little or no experience with the Chinese language. Mandarin 1 covers all 4 facets of the Chinese language: speaking, listening, reading, and writing. The class will use pinyin (phonetics) to study correct pronunciation and Chinese characters to build reading and writing skills. The class will provide an opportunity for students to learn useful vocabulary for daily life. Multimedia and native language guest speakers are also an integral part of the classroom experience.

### **Mandarin 2 LS230**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Mandarin 1 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 9-12

Mandarin 2 will build on vocabulary and writing learned in Mandarin 1. The focus in class will be to increase mastery in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. The course will explore Chinese grammar and add to the character base from Mandarin 1. Mandarin 2 will be predominantly in Hanzi. Students who have had previous Mandarin may ask for a placement test and, if passed, can take Mandarin 2.

### **Mandarin 3 LS320**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Mandarin 2 or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 9-12

Mandarin 3 is for intermediate to advanced Chinese students. Students will engage in interactive learning that will cultivate the foundation that they built in Mandarin 1 and 2. Mandarin 3 will continue to push students to not only use their Mandarin inside the classroom, but also use it with Chinese speakers in the community. The course focuses on learning Chinese through exploring Chinese culture. Students who have had previous Mandarin may ask for a placement test for Mandarin 3.

### **AP Chinese Language and Culture LS500**

Credit: Full-year, 1.0 credit, [E, M](#)

Prerequisite: Mandarin 3 and/or instructor approval with placement test.

Grades: 10-12

The AP Chinese Language and Culture course in Mandarin Chinese emphasizes communication (understanding and being understood by others) by applying interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in real-life situations. This includes vocabulary usage, language control, communication strategies, and cultural awareness. The AP Chinese Language and Culture course strives not to overemphasize grammatical accuracy at the expense of communication. To best facilitate the study of language and culture, the course is taught almost exclusively in Chinese. The AP Chinese Language and Culture course engages students in an exploration of culture in both contemporary and historical contexts. The course develops students' awareness and appreciation of cultural products (e.g., tools, books, music, laws, conventions, institutions); practices (patterns of social interactions within a culture); and perspectives (values, attitudes, and assumptions).



# Non-Departmental

Elective courses are offered based upon need, interest, and staffing. As such, these are subject to cancellation.

**R-Required, E-Elective, M-Meets graduation requirement, RUS-Required for U.S.**

## **Student Aide/Teacher's Assistant ND100**

Credit: One-semester, 0.5 credit as pass/fail (Non-instructional Class), [E](#)

Prerequisite: Teacher and academic counselor approval. It is recommended that the student has already taken the course or a similar course for which he or she is a TA. A student may not take more than one section of this class without prior approval.

Grades: 10-12

TAs assist a cooperating teacher or staff with appropriate work/projects that can be delegated, such as clerical work, tutoring, research, and assisting with teaching. The student is under the supervision of the cooperating teacher. Students will be responsible to document work accomplished and write an evaluation of their experience at the conclusion of the term.

## **Online NSA (NorthStar Academy) Class ND200/ND201**

Credit: Varies - Full-year courses are worth 1.0 credit, semester-long courses are worth 0.5 credit, [E](#)

Prerequisite: An *Online Course Request Form*, academic counselor and principal approval. [Details](#)

Grades: 9-12

Students desiring to enroll in an online class through NorthStar Academy (NSA) must complete the forms linked above. All students enrolled in an NSA class are required to enroll in the designated Online NSA Class provided during the school day and supervised by GIS staff. During this class period, students will work on their online NSA course. Additional time outside of the Online NSA Class may be required to complete the course. For AP courses, it is estimated that an additional four hours per week of work outside of class will be required to complete the course on time.



# Grades 9-12 ESOL Support

Courses listed under this section are available by special arrangement with the Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) Division and the academic counselor. At this time, they will not appear as choices in the online course requests in GIS FamilyWeb. Those needing to enroll in one or more of these courses will be scheduled manually. For students requiring English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) support, tests for incoming and returning students will be used to determine the appropriate level of support, and students will also be scheduled manually.

## **Grades 9-12 ESOL    SN101**

Credit: None

Prerequisite: Recommendation of TESOL Coordinator

Grades: 9-12

A course designed to support students' English language development, specifically in the modality of writing. This class follows the regular high school schedule and is structured to provide direct instruction, opportunities for practice, and direct feedback on students' writing, grammar, and academic vocabulary. Instruction will include: advanced English language grammar, the formation of complex sentences, the incorporation of transition words and phrases, and strategies for composing academic writing in the English language. Class time includes instruction in all four domains of Listening, Speaking, Reading, and Writing.

# Grades 9-12 Educational Support

Courses listed under this section are available by special arrangement with the Educational Support Division and the academic counselor. At this time, they will not appear as choices in the online course requests in GIS FamilyWeb. Those needing to enroll in one or more of these courses will be scheduled manually.

## **Grades 9-12 Guided Study Hall      SN104**

Credit: None

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Educational Support Director

Grades: 9-11

A course designed to support student learning in a variety of ways. Students will receive focused intervention towards individual learning goals, re-teaching of classroom content in cooperation with the classroom teacher, and executive function coaching. Students will also have the opportunity to complete classroom assignments in a structured and monitored environment with the aid of an Education Support Teacher. Students with Grace Accommodation Plans will learn how to advocate for and access the accommodations granted in their GAP.

## **Grade 12 Guided Study Hall      SN204      *\*Not offered 2025-2026\****

Credit: Full-year, 1.0, E

Prerequisite: Recommendation of Educational Support Director

Grades: 12

Grade 12 Guided Study Hall is a course uniquely structured to support seniors in their transition to post-secondary education or vocation. Students will receive coaching to meet their individual learning goals and develop executive functioning, communication, and self-advocacy skills. Students will understand their personal learning styles and the impact on college transition, and they will research the rights and services available to them outside of high school. They will also create a portfolio of their progress from each of their core classes and write quarterly reflections based on their individual goals.