GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

High School Academic Overview
Grades 9-12

2026 – 2027 School Year

Students at GRACE Christian High School have a rigorous college-preparatory academic program taught from a biblical worldview. The curriculum provides the challenge of both honors and Advanced Placement® classes. We desire for students to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ and the character to challenge the world's culture.

Expected Student Outcomes
We expect GRACE Christian students to grow to:

- Be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
- Be academically prepared for the college or career of their choice
- Be engaged in impacting their world positively through their unique talents and abilities
- Develop a Christian worldview and thorough knowledge of Scripture to share and defend their faith
- Possess the critical thinking skills, creativity, and confidence to handle opportunities and adversities
- Demonstrate the character of Christ in all areas of everyday life
- Love and serve others consistently

Graduation Requirements:

Biblical Studies	4 credits *(1 credit/year enrolled)*	Computer Science*	1 credit
English	4 credits	Fine Arts	1 credit
Foreign Language	2 credits *(in HS same language)*	PE/ Health	1 credit
History	4 credits	Senior Seminar/Personal Finance	1 credit
Mathematics	4 credits	Electives	4 credits
Science	3 credits	*(1 in Fine Arts, 1 in Computer*	
(at least 1 Life Science (LS) and 1 Physical Science (PS)		*Science for 2028 and beyond)*	

Beginning with the class of 2028, there will be a 1-credit requirement for Computer Science instruction in keeping with recent legislation in North Carolina.

Advanced Placement® Courses Offered: AP English Language & Composition, AP English Literature & Composition, AP Human Geography, AP ModernWorld History, AP United States History, AP US Government & Politics, AP Macroeconomics, AP Pre-Calculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics 1, AP Physics C Mechanics, AP Spanish Language & Culture, AP Computer Science A-Java, AP Computer Science Principles, AP Psychology, AP Art and Design.

Honors Courses Offered: Bible I (H), Bible II (H), Bible 11-12 Topics (H), English 9 World Literature I (H), English 10 World Literature II (H), American Literature (H), British Literature (H), Spanish II (H), *Spanish III (H), *Spanish IV (H), and *Spanish V (H), Human Geography (H), Modern World History (H), US History (H), US Government (H), Economics (H), Algebra I (H), Geometry (H), Algebra II (H), *Pre-Calculus (H), *Calculus-Statistics (H), Biology (H), Chemistry (H), Physics (H), Anatomy/Physiology (H), Art Appreciation (H), Advanced Theatre (H), Advanced Art (H)

Note: *Due to the inherently advanced nature of the subjects, Spanish III, IV, and V, Precalculus, and Calculus/Statistics are offered only as honors classes.*

Grade Scale: Grade point averages are determined on a four-point scale, with grades for Advanced Placement® courses weighted one full point and honors courses weighted one-half point.

A+ 100	B+ 87-89	C+ 77-79	D+ 67-69	F 0-59
A 94-99	B 83-86	C 73-76	D 63-66	
A- 90-93	B- 80-82	C- 70-72	D- 60-62	

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Bible

Bible I: Whole Bible Gospel Survey
This course aims to explore God's Word and gain greater knowledge of the full scope of Scripture. The lessons are written to impart knowledge and challenge the students to the right action through understanding God's great love for them. This survey course on the Old Testament and New Testament briefly studies every book in the Bible. The goal is to study the Bible and examine how the whole collection carries one message— God's redemptive plan through the person and work of Jesus Christ. We will see the gospel threads woven through the entire narrative of Scripture. Honors version available.

Bible II: Christology
This course will study biblical materials related to God the Son. It will cover subjects related to Jesus Christ, from the nature of God to the future. It will focus on who God is, why He came to earth, what He accomplished, and what He has called us to do with those subjects. Honors version available.

Bible III and Bible IV: In-Depth Study of Scripture
Eleventh- and twelfth-grade students will be challenged to gain an in-depth understanding of different portions of the Old and New Testament Scripture. In each class (2 semester-long classes each year), students will develop a bigger view of Christ's redemptive work in the Gospel and how it is rooted throughout Scripture. Students will see areas for personal application in life and opportunities for deeper understanding by examining specific books in context. Honors versions available. Course studies include:

- Wisdom in the Old Testament (Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon)
- History of Church and Faith (Book of Acts, with connections to Church today)
- Understanding Grace (Romans and Galatians)
- Old Testament Life in the Promised Land (Joshua, Judges, Ruth)
- Early Old Testament (Genesis)
- Paul from Prison (Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Philemon)
- History of Judeo-Christian Exile (Ezra, Nehemiah, Esther, Lamentations, Daniel, Haggai, Zechariah, Malachi)
- Christian Foundations (Hebrews, James)
- Minor Prophets (Hosea-Malachi)
- Major Prophets (Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel)

English

English 9: World Literature I
This course builds on the foundational skills students developed in middle school and introduces them to the rigor of upper-level English studies. Students explore a diverse selection of both classic and contemporary literature—including novels, short stories, plays, poetry, and nonfiction—analyzing themes, cultures, and ideas through close reading and thoughtful discussion, all rooted in a Christ-centered worldview. Students will increase proficiency in writing across narrative, argumentative, and informative genres. Oral communication and presentation skills will be further refined in this course. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

English 10: World Literature II
Tenth-grade World Literature students can explore authors, cultures, and ideas from around the world while keeping a Christ-centered worldview. Students refine close reading, research, discussion, literary analysis, written expression, and editing skills through reading and study. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

English 11: American Literature
Eleventh-grade American Literature students maintain a Christ-centered focus as they explore the ideas of the American Dream and Identity through the words of American authors, historical figures, and their classmates. Students refine literary and rhetorical analysis skills, writing with clear focus and intent, and editing through reading and study. Students use technology to cultivate skills such as developing a presentation that is verbally and visually appealing, collaborating productively with team members, and compiling work into a portfolio.
Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

English 12: British Literature
This course focuses on a thematic study of Great Britain's literature, linking texts of historical and literary importance spanning the Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods to the postmodern era. Students will hone critical analysis and literary interpretation skills while developing an appreciation for classic works by studying novels, epic poetry, poetry forms, and dramatic works. Each work is studied for literary merit and a focused consideration of biblical interpretations. Students will hone their writing skills, both formally and informally, through expository, argumentative, narrative, and analytical writing, preparing them for all post-secondary opportunities.
Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Language and Composition
AP® English Language and Composition engages students in becoming skilled readers of prose written in various rhetorical contexts and in becoming skilled writers who compose for various purposes. Both their writing and their reading should make students aware of the interactions among a writer's purposes, audience expectations, and subjects, as well as how generic conventions and the resources of language contribute to effective writing. Within the framework of AP® guidelines, primarily focused on American rhetoric and literature, students are challenged to consider all ideas for cultural relevance and thematic focus, always balanced with a Christ-centered perspective.
Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Literature and Composition
AP® English Literature and Composition engages students in carefully reading and critically analyzing fictional prose and poetry. Through close reading of selected texts, students deepen their understanding of how writers use language to convey both meaning and pleasure to their readers. As they read, students consider a work's structure and themes, as well as smaller-scale elements such as figurative language, imagery, symbolism, and tone. In responding to literature, students develop analytical skills and effective written communication. Students prepare adequately for both success on the AP® exam and for future college literature and writing courses while seeing the beauty of literature examined through a Christ-centered lens.
Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

Foreign Language

Spanish

Spanish I
The course integrates communication, culture, cross-curricular connections, language comparisons, and a multilingual community approach to motivate and encourage students to explore the Spanish language and culture.

Spanish II
This second-level Spanish course is designed to prepare students to communicate with Spanish-speaking people and understand their culture. Spanish II uses a recursive approach to recycle the themes taught in Spanish I. Students expand their vocabulary, grammar, and cultural understanding as they revisit each theme in greater depth.
Prerequisite: Spanish I. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Spanish I and Teacher Recommendation.

Spanish III (Honors only)
This third-level Spanish course continues to build a solid foundation for advanced Spanish study. Students will be immersed in Spanish at the intermediate-low proficiency level and learn more about Hispanic cultures. They will interact with their peers in Spanish, reviewing different already-known tenses and learning additional ones.
Prerequisites: Spanish II and Teacher Recommendation.

Spanish IV (Honors only)
Spanish IV strengthens students' oral communication skills and allows them to feel comfortable using Spanish in various everyday settings. Students focus on interpreting complex written and oral messages and responding promptly with a higher level of communication. To explore culture and topics, students participate in internet-based research projects, storytelling, role-playing, and debates. Students also take the initiative to expand their personal vocabulary and grammar skills. Prerequisites: Spanish III and Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Spanish Language & Culture
AP® Spanish Language & Culture is a course designed for high school students who seek to develop a high level of proficiency in comprehending and communicating in Spanish. Students gain an appreciation for the diversity and culture of the Spanish people. As stated in the course description by the AP® College Board, this course helps prepare students "to demonstrate their level of Spanish proficiency across three communicative modes: Interpersonal [interactive communication], Interpretive [receptive communication], and Presentational [productive communication], and the five-goal areas outlined in the Standards for Foreign Language Learning in the 21st Century (Communication, Cultures, Connections, Comparisons, and Communities)." The material covered in this course is comparable to a third-year college or university course.
Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP®exam.

Spanish V (Honors only)
In the Spanish V course, an emphasis is placed on understanding Spanish through the study of Film and Literature. The students' vocabulary is expanded as they communicate about a variety of relevant topics and themes presented in the films and books that are studied. In addition to enhanced target language production, students will improve their interpretive listening skills as they are exposed to films and actors from different Spanish-speaking countries. Beyond what is to be gained linguistically, cultural awareness will also be thoroughly examined throughout the films. While grammar is not the main focus of the course, a review of important grammatical structures will be incorporated into context to strengthen both oral and written communication. Alongside the films, students will have authentic reading opportunities to explore a related concept to the film further. Through the use of technology, students will demonstrate their interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational modes of communication to develop an appropriate level of proficiency. In keeping with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages' target language position statement, a minimum of 90% of the class will be conducted in Spanish. The primary goal of this course is for students to solidify their proficiency at the ACTFL Intermediate High level.
Prerequisite: AP® Spanish and Teacher Recommendation.

History

History 9: Human Geography
This course invites students to explore the dynamic relationship between human societies and the geographical landscapes that shape them. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will study how geography influences culture, history, economics, and human development from ancient civilizations to the modern world. By examining key regions, cultures, and historical events, students will analyze how physical and human geography impact migration, trade, conflict, and societal growth. The course emphasizes critical thinking, geographic literacy, and historical analysis through engaging activities, primary source evaluations, and project-based learning. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Human Geography
This course introduces students to systematically studying patterns and processes that have shaped human understanding, use, and alteration of Earth's surface. Content is presented thematically rather than regionally and is organized around the discipline's main subfields: economic geography, cultural geography, political geography, and urban geography in comparison to rural geography. The approach is spatial and problem-oriented. Case studies are drawn from all world regions, emphasizing understanding the world we live in today. Historical information enriches the analysis of the impacts of phenomena such as globalization, colonialism, and human-environmental relationships on places, regions, cultural landscapes, and patterns of interaction. Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP®exam.

History 10: Modern World
This course examines world history from 1452 to the present through a biblical worldview lens. In this course, students will analyze the development of global religions, nations, cultures, and economies; investigate the interconnectedness of different world regions throughout modern history; explore the relationship between these global factors and key elements of diverse religions, nations, cultures, and economies; and develop critical thinking and research skills, including writing historical essays, analyzing primary sources, and evaluating the significance of historical figures, events, and ideas. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

History 11: United States History
United States History challenges students to look at the events, ideas, and individuals that shaped America from the Age of Exploration to the modern era. Students will examine major turning points, including colonization, the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, Reconstruction, westward expansion, the World Wars, Vietnam, and the post-September 11, 2001 world. Through the study of primary sources, historical events, and influential leaders, students will strengthen their critical thinking, research, writing, and analytical skills while gaining a deeper understanding of America's growth and its role in the world today. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

History 12: US Government and Economics (each 1 semester)
US Government and Microeconomics is the study of the economic, legal, and political foundations of the United States of America. The course aims to help students become better global citizens from a Christian worldview. The class focuses on the history and development of the American political system, the United States government and elections in the Modern Era, and the development of the American legal system. Students are introduced to basic micro- and macroeconomic theories and analysis. Honors versions available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

AP® World History: Modern
This full-year course explores the expansive history of the human world. Students will learn many facts and the critical thinking skills necessary to analyze historical evidence. Five themes will serve as a frame of reference for the chronological study of our world's history: Interaction between humans and the environment; development and interaction of cultures; state-building, expansion, and conflict; creation, expansion, and interaction of economic systems; and development and transformation of social structures. An important skill students will acquire in the class is the ability to examine change over time, including the causation of events as well as the major effects of historical developments, the interconnectedness of events over time, and the spatial interactions that occur over time that have geographic, political, cultural, and social significance. Each student needs to develop the ability to connect the local to the global and vice versa. Students will learn to compare developments in different regions and periods and contextualize important changes and continuities throughout world history. The study of world history will begin with something more familiar: the recent past. We will attempt to answer the historical question, "What is the state of the world today?" before exploring how the world came to this state. Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP®exam.

AP® US History
This course is designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to engage with the problems and materials in U.S. history critically. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by placing demands on them equivalent to those of full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials—their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance—and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. This course examines the development of the United States from the pre-Columbian period through the present. Major themes include politics, American identity, religion, economic transformation, social issues, slavery and its legacy, and the United States' place in the world. Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Government
The United States Government and Politics course gives students an analytical perspective on government and politics in the United States. This semester-long course includes both the study of general concepts used to interpret U.S. government and politics and the analysis of specific examples. Familiarity with the various institutions, groups, beliefs, and ideas that constitute the U.S. government and politics is expected. While there is no single approach that an AP United States Government and Politics course must follow, students should expect to become acquainted with various theoretical perspectives and explanations for various behaviors and outcomes. Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Macroeconomics
This semester-long course provides students with a thorough understanding of the principles that apply to an economic system as a whole, using principles and models to describe economic situations and to predict and explain outcomes with graphs, charts, and data, as they explore concepts such as economic measurement, markets, macroeconomic models, and macroeconomic policies. Prerequisites: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

Mathematics

Algebra I
This course builds on the skills students learned in pre-algebra. Students study variables, functions, solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities, including systems of equations, probability, and the non-linear functions of quadratics, polynomials, exponentials, roots, and rational functions. Eighth- and ninth-grade students usually take this course, which is a foundation for all the other high school math and science classes. Prerequisites: Pre-Algebra. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Pre-Algebra and Teacher Recommendation.

Algebra II
Algebra II reinforces and extends concepts from Algebra I, including solving equations, identifying functions, graphing functions, and working with various functions. Algebra II extends these topics with many real-world applications and adds new topics such as complex numbers, matrix multiplication, and conic sections. Students in Algebra II begin working with a graphing calculator and use it extensively to find graphical solutions to equations, enter and graph tables of data, and use the data table to generate modeling functions and work with matrices, complex numbers, and trigonometric functions. Prerequisites: Algebra I and Geometry. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Algebra II, Geometry, and Teacher Recommendation.

Geometry
This course provides a comprehensive look at geometric concepts and logical reasoning based on knowledge of basic algebra and discrete mathematical concepts. Pure and applied mathematics are applied throughout the course while solving geometric problems. Multiple formats are supported through mastery, including two-column, paragraph, flow, and indirect proofs. Students learn to value the need to think logically and present ideas in a logical order. Traditional geometry concepts and logical reasoning are emphasized throughout, while measurement and applications are integrated to motivate students via real-world connections. Algebra is reviewed and integrated throughout. Algebra 1 skills are reviewed at the point of use, ensuring students maintain these skills. Algebra integration within coordinate geometry topics, plus probability and statistics connections, is found throughout. Prerequisites: Algebra I. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Algebra I and Teacher Recommendation.

Pre-Calculus Foundations
This course is designed to address the needs of students who will continue their study of mathematics past Algebra II. Although students are assumed to have completed Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry, the course reviews prerequisite topics as needed. Students dive deeper into the Algebra II topics of logarithms, polynomials, exponential, and rational functions. There is a large focus on trigonometric functions and identities. Prerequisites: Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation.

Pre-Calculus (Honors only)
This course is designed to address the needs of students who will continue their study of mathematics in calculus or other disciplines. Although students are assumed to have completed Algebra 1, Algebra 2, and Geometry, the course reviews prerequisite topics as needed. Students dive deeper into the Algebra 2 topics of logarithms, polynomials, exponential, and rational functions. There is a large focus on trigonometric functions and identities. Topics will be taught in more depth than the Pre-Calculus Foundations level in each unit, and there will be material taught in Honors that is omitted in Foundations. Prerequisites: Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Pre-Calculus
This course will explore four big units: polynomial and rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric and polar functions, and the fourth unit consists of parametric, vectors, and matrices. It will emphasize communication using mathematical language to explain reasoning and problem-solving through multiple representations of varied functions. It will prepare a STEM student well for the AP® Calculus Series or a college calculus course. Prerequisites: Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

Advanced Functions and Modeling
The Advanced Functions and Modeling course integrates functions, statistics, and trigonometry with the algebra and geometry concepts that students have already studied in previous years. Sequences, counting problems, and other discrete math and precalculus topics are also covered. This course covers a wide scope and focuses on real-world orientations where students can apply the content that they have learned. Prerequisite: Algebra II

Calculus/Statistics (Honors only)
This course is designed for juniors and seniors to explore calculus and statistics topics. It intends to prepare students to succeed in an introductory college-level math course (including Advanced Placement math courses). During the first semester, students will learn the mechanics involved in limits, differentiation, and anti-differentiation and consider applications of these topics. During the second semester, students will be introduced to statistics topics, including exploring and displaying data, sampling and designing experiments, probability, and statistical inference. Prerequisites: Any Pre-Calculus and Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Calculus AB
AP® Calculus AB is roughly equivalent to a first-semester college calculus course devoted to differential and integral calculus topics. The AP® course covers topics in these areas, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections among these representations. Students learn to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Prerequisites: Pre-Calculus (H) or AP® Pre-Calculus or Calculus (H) and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Calculus BC
AP® Calculus BC is roughly equivalent to both first- and second-semester college calculus courses. It extends the content learned in AB to different types of equations and introduces the topic of sequences and series. The AP® course covers differential and integral calculus topics, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections among these representations. Students learn to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Prerequisites: AP® Calculus AB and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Statistics
The AP® Statistics course is equivalent to a one-semester, introductory, non-calculus-based college course in statistics. The course introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. There are four themes in the AP® Statistics course: exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Students use technology, investigations, problem-solving, and writing to build conceptual understanding. Prerequisites: Algebra II Honors, Advanced Functions and Modeling, or Precalculus and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

Science

Anatomy/Physiology (LS)
This course is offered to eleventh- and twelfth-grade students. The course covers the major body systems. Each system is explored on the microscopic, anatomical, and physiological levels. Students participate in lab dissection to appreciate God's design and understand the material taught in the classroom. Prerequisite: Biology. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors Biology and Teacher Recommendation.

Biology (LS)
This ninth-grade course covers the study of life, the science of organisms, and the study of human life. The course will be presented from a Christian worldview of creation. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Algebra I and Teacher Recommendation. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Teacher Recommendation.

Chemistry (PS)
Chemistry is the branch of physical science that studies the composition, structure, properties, and processes of matter and the energy changes accompanying these processes. The course covers atoms and their interactions with each other. Some topics explored include Quantum Mechanics, Periodic Properties, Bonding, Chemical Reactions, Gases, Solutions, and Acids and Bases. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently taking Geometry. Honors version available - Prerequisites for Honors - Completed or concurrently taking Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation.

Earth Science
This course explores the origins and connections between the Earth system's physical, chemical, and biological processes. Students will explore topics associated with matter and energy, surface processes on Earth, the atmosphere and oceans, geologic time, and the dynamics of the Earth. Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation.

Physics (PS)
Physics is a higher-level science course offered as an option to juniors and seniors to complete their third year of required science or to add an optional fourth year. The purpose of physics is to describe the relationships between matter and energy and their interactions in the known physical universe. Some topics explored include Forces, Mechanics, Momentum, Projectiles, Waves, Sound, Light, and Electricity. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently taking Algebra II. Honors version available - Prerequisite for Honors - Completed or concurrently taking Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation.

AP® Biology + Honors Lab (LS)
AP® Biology focuses on eight major themes that permeate most biological topics and integrate them into a cohesive whole. Students must be able to relate knowledge on various topics and make connections between biological concepts at all levels of the biological spectrum. Each unit focuses on two or more themes that are particularly relevant to the topic. Students cultivate their understanding of biology through inquiry-based investigations as they explore the following topics: evolution, cellular processes — energy and communication, genetics, information transfer, ecology, and interactions. The revised AP® Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester college introductory biology course. Prerequisite: Biology and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Chemistry + Honors Lab (PS)
The AP® Chemistry course is designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course taken during the first year of college. The course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations as they explore atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. This course requires 25 percent of the instructional time to allow students to conduct laboratory investigations. This includes a minimum of 16 hands-on labs, at least six inquiry-based. Prerequisite: Chemistry and Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Environmental Science (LS)
In this course, students will explore and investigate the interrelationships of the natural world, identify and analyze environmental problems, both natural and human-made, evaluate the relative risks associated with these problems, and examine alternative solutions for resolving/ preventing them. At least one class period per week will be spent on experimentation. Prerequisite: Teacher Recommendation. Students are required to take the AP® exam.

AP® Physics 1 (PS)
AP® Physics 1 is an algebra-based introductory physics course equivalent to a first-semester college physics course for non-engineering science majors. The course emphasizes understanding of fundamental physics concepts and development of scientific process skills through inquiry-based instruction. Students are required to take the AP® exam. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently taking Algebra II and Teacher Recommendation

AP® Physics C Mechanics (PS)
AP® Physics C Mechanics is a calculus-based introductory physics course equivalent to a first-semester college physics course for engineering majors. The course emphasizes understanding of fundamental physics concepts and development of scientific process skills through inquiry-based instruction. Students are required to take the AP® exam. Prerequisite: Completed or concurrently taking Calculus and Teacher Recommendation

Required Courses

Physical Education/ Health (Required Full Year - Recommended for 9th grade)
This required course for ninth graders will equip students with the knowledge, skills, and tools to exhibit a physically active lifestyle and maintain a satisfactory level of health. The course covers physical fitness, volleyball, flag football, basketball, team handball, ultimate Frisbee, playground games, waffle ball, floor hockey, and golf. The health course covers nutrition, fitness, mental health, personal safety, first aid, preventing diseases, avoiding drug abuse, and pursuing the right relationships. The course will empower students to live a healthy lifestyle and develop the willingness to learn and participate to the best of their ability. Boys and girls will attend class together every other day throughout the year.

Art Appreciation* and Honors Art Appreciation* (Required Grade 10) (or take Music and Theatre)
This required sophomore-level course provides students with a basic understanding of the visual arts through a biblical worldview. The formal elements of design are examined, and students observe a wide variety of two and three-dimensional art. Students examine art history and discover how God ordained the visual arts for His glory. Students study the world of art in its cultural setting to gain an appreciation for world missions and to interpret and illustrate God's Word. The honors level of the course includes an increased focus on artists, genres, styles, and terms to understand the historical evidence provided by art.

Music Appreciation* (Required Grade 10) - 1 semester
Music is always around us. We hear it everywhere we go. Music holds a special place in God's heart. Throughout the Bible, we see where God asks us to praise Him with music. It's used in praise, celebration, ceremony, and before a battle. In Music Appreciation, students explore the powerful effects of music, how it has shaped history, and how to use music to deepen their relationship with Christ. Students in Music Appreciation are exposed to musical styles from the first instruments made to classical music, Broadway, jazz, Motown, contemporary Christian, and more.

Theater Appreciation* (Required Grade 10) - 1 semester
Theater Appreciation explores the development of theater throughout history. Beginning with Greek theater and ending with current trends in theater today, the course is designed to cultivate our creativity as God designed it. This course allows students to discover the parallels of history and its impact on theater and culture. Students will explore theater through practical applications and hands-on study to gain an appreciation of theater.

**** Students may satisfy the fine arts elective requirement with elective classes designated as fine arts in place of 10th-grade Art/Music/Theater Appreciation.***

Senior Seminar (Required Grade 12)
This course is designed to equip students to graduate from GRACE with the confidence that they are prepared to serve God in the unique ways He has created each of them. During the first semester, students will revisit and refine their personal statements, which reflect their character and the path they believe God has set before them. These personal statements will also serve as a foundation for crafting cover letters and exploring job opportunities. Students will be encouraged to continue exploring post-GRACE options and engage in thoughtful discussions about why certain paths may not be the right fit for everyone.

In the second semester, students will complete Dave Ramsey's *Foundations in Personal Finance*, fulfilling North Carolina's Financial Literacy requirement. Additionally, the curriculum will cover a range of practical topics, including etiquette and planning skills. Hands-on activities—such as learning how to jump-start a car battery and preparing a meal—will provide real-world problem-solving experiences, ensuring that students leave GRACE feeling capable and confident.

Computer Science

(Beginning with the class of 2028, there will be a 1-credit requirement for Computer Science instruction in keeping with recent legislation in North Carolina.)

Adobe Photoshop - (9th-12th)
In this class, students will learn about Adobe Photoshop and work toward earning their Adobe Photoshop certification. Students will learn how to use the different tools and set up different workspaces in Photoshop. There will be hands-on assignments and practice throughout the school year to help prepare for the certification exam. (Note: There is an additional fee for the certification exam.)

Creative Computing - (9th-12th)
Designed for students who are more inspired by design studios than computer labs, this course explores how technology can be used as a tool for creative expression. Students will create interactive digital art using p5.js, experiment with AI-generated artwork, design 3D models, and develop a personal website to showcase their work. No prior programming experience is required.

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence - (9th-12th)
This hands-on course will introduce students to data science and artificial intelligence through project-based learning. Topics will include data analysis and visualization, statistical reasoning, how AI systems learn from data, and ethical considerations in data use and AI. Students will learn to collect, analyze, visualize, and interpret data to answer real-world questions using mathematical concepts and Python programming. The required Python programming concepts will be taught as part of the class. Prerequisite: This class requires the completion of Algebra I with a final grade of at least a B and a Teacher Recommendation.

HS Computer Science - 1 (9th-12th) - 1 semester
This entry-level course is designed for high school students with little to no background in computer science. It aims to introduce the fundamental concepts of computer science and computational thinking, including problem-solving, basic programming, and understanding how computers work. Through interactive lessons, students will learn about computer hardware and software, basic programming, network connectivity, and internet safety.

HS Computer Science - 2 (9th-12th) - 1 semester
Students will continue their introduction to the fundamental concepts of computer science while exploring basic data and AI concepts, including related ethical issues. Students will use critical thinking skills to apply what they have learned to evaluate the impacts of computing on society. Prerequisite: Computer Science-1 or Intro. to Python

Introduction to Artificial Intelligence (9th-12th)
Students will learn fundamental programming concepts like variables, loops, conditionals, and functions, using Python's English-like syntax for easy learning. This enables beginners to write simple scripts for problem-solving, data handling, or automation with hands-on coding exercises and projects, building a solid foundation for more advanced development.

Introduction to Python (9th-12th)
Students will learn basic Python concepts, control structures, functions and modules, exceptions, and files. They will program a variety of hardware with multiple editors. Students will be introduced to team-building concepts to overcome challenges in real-world scenarios and have the opportunity to demonstrate their solutions to the problems.

Intro to Java (9th-12th)
Students will learn basic Java concepts, conditionals and loops, arrays, classes, objects, and an introduction to expectations, lists, threads, and files. Students will complete team challenges to demonstrate their solutions to real-world problems using robots and sensors. This course prepares students to take AP Computer Science A.

AP® Computer Science Principles (9th- 12th)

AP® Computer Science - Principles: 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 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 is unique in its focus on fostering student creativity. Students are encouraged to apply creative processes when developing computational artifacts and to think creatively while using computer software and other technology to explore questions that interest them. They will also develop effective communication and collaboration skills, working individually and collaboratively to solve problems and discussing and writing about the importance of these problems and their impacts on their community, society, and the world. Prerequisite: Intro to Python

AP® Computer Science A (Java) (11th-12th)

AP® Computer Science A: AP® Computer Science A is equivalent to a first-semester, college-level course in computer science. The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem-solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem-solving and design using the Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. The AP® Computer Science A course curriculum is compatible with many CS1 courses in colleges and universities. Prerequisite: Intro to Java.