Course Description Guide

2024-25

ACS Core Academic Requirements
4 English 4 Math (one math each year at ACS) 4 Social Studies (to include World History, US History, Gov't/Econ) 3 Science (to include biology, chemistry, and a lab science) 2 Foreign Language (3 recommended for selective colleges) 3 Bible .5 Health 1 Fine Art OR Industrial Art 2.5 Electives 24 Total Credits Senior Capstone Project and Presentation Required

Note - Courses marked with an asterisk (*) may or may not be offered depending on student interest and instructor availability

ENGLISH

English 9 - Literature and Composition (College Prep or Honors) | Grade 9 | 1 credit |

Freshman English is an introduction to reading, discussing, and writing about literature. Students study the various genres of literature, including novels, short stories, plays, and poetry.

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Literary selections focus on a wide range of literature, including classics and more recent novels from different parts of the world. Regular grammar exercises allow students to improve their proficiency in the building blocks of the English language and apply that knowledge to improve their own writing. A study of vocabulary provides the students with knowledge and tools needed to increase and improve their vocabulary. Students write narrative, persuasive, and expository essays on a regular basis. *Honors courses are for those who consistently exceed the objectives and expectations of the regular curriculum both in knowledge and application. Extra study time outside the classroom is expected.*

English 10 - World Literature and Composition (College Prep or Honors)| Grade 10 | 1 credit |

Sophomore English is a continuation of the study of complex literature from around the world. This survey features a variety of literary genres and an expanded study of literary terms and devices. Students continue to hone their writing skills with an emphasis on analytical writing. A research paper is also required in the first semester. An overview of grammar and an extension of vocabulary study enhance the students' ability to create a variety of compositions. *Honors courses are for those who consistently exceed the objectives and expectations of the regular curriculum both in knowledge and application. Extra study time outside the classroom is expected.*

English 11 - American Literature and Composition | Grade 11 | 1 credit |

Junior English is the study of a wide variety of genres of literature through the events of American history. This exploration demonstrates the unique nature of our nation and its rich history. This genre-rooted and theme-based literature study includes short stories, poems, plays, essays, novels, and noteworthy nonfiction. This course also emphasizes vocabulary, grammar, and persuasive composition. Students focus on the development of critical thinking as well as precision in writing.

AP English Language and Composition: American Language | Grade 11 | 1 credit |

From the College Board: “The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments…. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods.” Within this class students will read a wide variety of nonfiction sources in order to analyze the rhetorical strategies used to achieve an author’s purpose. They will also participate in writing essays and having discussions relating to modern topics and themes. This class is a serious

look into the craft of writing and the tools used in crafting essays. **Those who take the course are required to take the AP exam at the end of the year.**
Prerequisite: Successful completion of English 10

MATHEMATICS

Algebra I| Grade 9 | 1 credit |

The fundamental purpose of Algebra I is to formalize and extend the mathematics that students learned in the middle grades. The critical areas, organized into units, deepen and extend understanding of linear relationships, in part by contrasting them with exponential phenomena, and in part by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. Algebra uses algebra to deepen and extend understanding of geometric knowledge from prior grades. The final unit in the course ties together the algebraic and geometric ideas studied. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Geometry | Grade 9 or 10 | 1 credit |

The focus of GSE Geometry on the coordinate plane is organized into 6 critical areas. Transformations on the coordinate plane provide opportunities for the formal study of congruence and similarity. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. The study of circles uses similarity and congruence to develop basic theorems relating circles and lines. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises, and real and complex numbers are introduced so that all quadratic equations can be solved. Quadratic expressions, equations, and functions are developed; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Algebra. Circles return with their quadratic algebraic representations on the coordinate plane. The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations.
Prerequisite: Algebra I
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Geometry (Honors) | Grade 9 or 10 | 1 credit |

The focus of Geometry on the coordinate plane is organized into 6 critical areas. Transformations on the coordinate plane provide opportunities for the formal study of congruence and similarity. The study of similarity leads to an understanding of right triangle trigonometry and connects to quadratics through Pythagorean relationships. The study of circles uses similarity and congruence to develop basic theorems relating circles and lines. The need for extending the set of rational numbers arises, and real and complex numbers are introduced

so that all quadratic equations can be solved. Quadratic expressions, equations, and functions are developed; comparing their characteristics and behavior to those of linear and exponential relationships from Algebra I. Circles return with their quadratic algebraic representations on the coordinate plane. The link between probability and data is explored through conditional probability. In addition to the content of the Geometry course, Honors Geometry delves deeper into the topics taught as well as adding more advanced concepts. Throughout the entire course there is a strong emphasis on logical reasoning skills, on problem solving, on communication, and mathematical writing skills. Students planning to eventually take AP Calculus should take Honors Geometry.
Prerequisites: Successful completion of Algebra I and teacher recommendation

Algebra II | Grade 10 or 11 | 1 credit |

It is in Algebra II that students pull together and apply the accumulation of learning that they have from their previous courses, with content grouped into six critical areas, organized into units. Students will expand their repertoire of functions to include linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, and radical functions. They also bring together all of their experience with functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems. Matrices and introductory probability and statistics will also be included. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of real-world problems.
Prerequisite: Algebra I and Geometry
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Algebra II (Honors) | Grade 10 or 11 | 1 credit |

In Algebra II (H) the ability to apply knowledge to a new or unfamiliar situation is one of the most important skills that will be learned and practiced and will become essential to the student's success. Students will extend their knowledge, understanding and communication (verbally, numerically, graphically and analytically) of concepts by solving open-ended problems and thinking critically. They will pull together and apply the accumulation of learning that they have from their previous courses, with content including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, radical and exponential functions, matrices and introductory probability and statistics. They will also bring together all of their experiences with functions and geometry to create models and solve contextual problems. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of real-world problems.
Prerequisite: Algebra I , Geometry
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Precalculus | Grade 11 | 1 credit |

Precalculus focuses on standards to prepare students for a more intense study of mathematics. The critical areas organized in seven units delve deeper into content from previous courses. The study of circles and parabolas is extended to include other conics, such as ellipses and hyperbolas. Trigonometric functions are further developed to include inverses, general triangles,

and identities. Matrices provide an organizational structure in which to represent and solve complex problems. Students expand the concepts of complex numbers and the coordinate plane to represent and operate upon vectors. Probability rounds out the course using counting methods, including their use in making and evaluating decisions. Students will experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations. Honors courses are for those who consistently exceed the objectives and expectations of the regular curriculum both in knowledge and application.
Prerequisite: Algebra II
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

*AP Precalculus | Grade 11 | 1 credit |

In AP Precalculus, students explore everyday situations using mathematical tools and lenses. Through regular practice, students build deep mastery of modeling and functions, and they examine scenarios through multiple representations. They will learn how to observe, explore, and build mathematical meaning from dynamic systems, an important practice for thriving in an ever-changing world. AP Precalculus prepares students for other higher-level mathematics and science courses. The framework delineates content and skills common to college precalculus courses that are foundational for careers in mathematics, physics, biology, health science, social science, and data science.
Prerequisite: Algebra II/ Math III
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

*AP Calculus AB | Grade 11 | 1 credit |

This is a college level course for advanced students in mathematics. Those who take the course are required to take the AP exam at the end of the year. College credit for the first semester calculus course at many universities is given for scores of 3, 4, and 5 on the exam. The topics covered include functions, graphs, limits, as well as derivatives and integrals of a single variable.
Prerequisite: Pre-Calculus Students should be able to read a college-level textbook and should possess basic mathematics and graphing skills. Teacher recommendation is required.
Technology required: TI-84 Graphing Calculator

Math Lab I | Grade 9 | 0.5 credits |

This is a pass/fail supplemental course designed to support students in Algebra I who may be looking for more one on one instruction. This class goes hand in hand with all the material taught in Algebra I. Must be in Algebra I to partake in Math Lab I.

Math Lab II | Grade 10 or 11 | 0.5 credits |

This is a pass/fail supplemental course designed to support students in Geometry or Algebra II who may be looking for more one on one instruction. This class goes hand in hand with all the

material taught in Geometry and Algebra II. Must be in Geometry or Algebra II to partake in Math Lab II.

SCIENCE

Biology I | Grade 9 | 1 credit |

This lab-based course addresses major subtopics of biological study including biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, origins of life, ecology, plant and animal physiology, and human anatomy. Students will engage in laboratory exercises, Harkness discussions, research, and writing assignments to enrich their learning and synthesize real-world applications and bioethical considerations in the classroom. They will gain a deeper appreciation of the creativity of our Creator and complexity of the biological world, as they learn to give God glory through the stewardship of His creation.

Biology I (Honors) | Grade 9 | 1 credit |

This lab-based course offers a more in-depth study of the principles of biology listed above. Topics covered: biochemistry, cellular and molecular biology, genetics, origins of life, ecology, plant and animal physiology, and human anatomy. It will involve more advanced lab opportunities and lab reports. Students must be highly motivated and possess advanced writing and reading comprehension skills in order to succeed. Honors courses are for those who consistently exceed the objectives and expectations of the regular curriculum both in knowledge and application. Extra study time outside the classroom is expected.

Chemistry I (College Prep or Honors)| 1 credit |

This lab course involves a study of the composition, structure, and interactions of matter. Topics covered are the Biblical basis for science study, the mathematics of chemistry, properties of matter, atomic structure, the Periodic Table, bonding, nomenclature, balancing equations, and stoichiometry. The student is required to perform and document labs and keep an organized notebook of his or her work. HONORS - This lab course is a more in-depth study of chemistry. In addition to the standard topics listed above, it will include more advanced mathematical topics, nuclear chemistry, modern structural theories, and redox reactions. Honors courses are for those who consistently exceed the objectives and expectations of the regular curriculum both in knowledge and application. Extra study time outside the classroom is expected.

Human Anatomy & Physiology |College Prep and Dual Credit | 1 credit |

Human anatomy & physiology is designed to continue student investigations that began in biology. This curriculum is extensively performance and laboratory-based. It integrates the study of the structures and functions of the human body, introducing distinct anatomical and physiological systems while focusing on the essential requirements for life. Areas of study include organization of the body, chemistry, cells, tissue, the integumentary system, the skeletal

and muscular systems, nervous and endocrine systems. Careers related to medicine, research, healthcare, and modern medical technology will be emphasized throughout the curriculum. Case studies concerning diseases, disorders, and ailments (i.e. real-life applications) will be emphasized. ACS partners with Colorado Christian to offer this dual credit course. *Prerequisite: Biology (I)*

Sports and Exercise Science | College Prep | 0.5 credit |

This course provides an introduction and overview of the multidisciplinary field of exercise and sport science. The importance of specialized areas of study such as exercise physiology, biomechanics, exercise/sport psychology, motor behavior, fitness management, and nutrition for optimal health and physical performance will be highlighted. This course also provides an overview of the exercise and sport science program as well as career perspectives within the field.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

World History (College Prep or Honors) | Grade 9 | 1 credit |

The course is a survey of world history, which is a record of the past from creation to the present, revealing the actions of God and man. Students will have the opportunity to explore and/or investigate many fascinating people, places, and events. Using historical thinking skills, students will learn to think and write --assembling, organizing, and analyzing information in order to draw logical conclusions from this knowledge. These critical thinking and writing skills will help the students to become responsible and informed decision-makers.

United States History | Grade 10 | 1 credit |

The United States History course is a survey of United States History from the pre-Columbian period to the present day. United States History is intended to introduce students to the civic culture of this nation and focuses on the origins and development of its political, economic, and social institutions. The course will emphasize the importance of citizenship, the role that each student has as a good steward of the freedoms with which God has blessed Americans, and understand that “freedom is not free.” Students will enhance their thinking and writing using historical thinking skills --assembling, organizing, and analyzing information in order to draw logical conclusions from this knowledge. These critical thinking and writing skills will help the students to become responsible and informed decision-makers.

AP United States History |Grade 10 | 1 credit |

The AP U.S. History course focuses on the development of historical thinking skills (chronological reasoning, comparing and contextualizing, crafting historical arguments using historical evidence, and interpreting and synthesizing historical narrative) and the development of students’ abilities to think conceptually through a Christian Worldview about U.S. history from approximately 1491 to the present. Seven themes of equal importance – 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 – provide areas of historical inquiry for investigation throughout the course. These require students to reason historically about continuity and change over time and make comparisons among various historical developments in different times and places. Those who take this course are required to take the AP exam at the end of the year. See teacher for contract, summer work, syllabus, and pacing guide. *Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Students must be able to read a college-level textbook*

United States Government|Grade 11| 0.5 credit |

This one-semester course examines the institutional structure of government including the legislative process, the executive and bureaucratic structures, and the judicial process. Additional topics include civil rights and civil liberties, domestic policy, foreign relations, national defense, and state and local governments. The course will emphasize the importance of citizenship from a Christian perspective. Students will enhance their critical thinking and writing using historical thinking skills --assembling, organizing, and analyzing information in order to draw logical conclusions from this knowledge.

Economics | Grade 11 | 0.5 credit |

Economics is a single-semester course designed to introduce students to the basic concepts of both micro and macroeconomics. The course is designed to help students become responsible citizens and effective decision-makers as they are exposed to economic issues at the personal, local, national, and international levels. Students will begin to understand the way economists think and the terminology they employ using historical thinking skills. Theoretical models are juxtaposed with real-world events that unfold during the semester making each class a unique experience from a Christian perspective.

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AP U.S. Government & Politics | Grade 11 | 1.0 credit |

AP United States Government and Politics introduces students to key political ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the political culture of the United States and our Godly Heritage. The year-long course examines politically significant concepts and themes, through which students learn to apply disciplinary reasoning, assess causes and consequences of political events, and interpret data to develop evidence-based arguments. Each student is expected to take the AP United States Government Exam that is administered in May. See teacher for contract, syllabus, and pacing guide. Prerequisites: Teacher recommendation. Students must be able to read a college-level textbook.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Spanish I | 1 credit |

The goal of the ACS Spanish program is acquisition of basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) through various methods of Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). Students listen to and understand, read, write, and speak Spanish as appropriate to their levels of study.

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Studies also include geography and culture. Students learn through classroom community building, listening, conversation, storytelling, writing, music, art, video, reading, and educational games.

Spanish II | 1 credit |

Students continue to acquire basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) through methods of Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). Students listen to and understand, read, write, and speak Spanish at a more advanced level. Studies continue to include geography and culture. Students learn through classroom community building, listening, conversation, storytelling, writing, music, art, video, reading, and educational games.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish I or teacher approval

Spanish III | 1 credit |

Students continue to acquire basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) with an increased focus on cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP) through methods of Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). Studies focus on increased grammatical awareness and academic language, listening, reading, writing, and conversation. Studies continue to include geography and culture. Students learn through classroom community building, listening, conversation, storytelling, writing, music, art, video, reading, and educational games. Thematic units on the arts, science, literature, social issues, and more guide students into deeper proficiency.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish II or teacher approval

Spanish IV| 1 credit |

Students continue to acquire basic interpersonal communication skills (BICS) with a heavier focus on cognitive academic language proficiency (CALP) through methods of Teaching with Comprehensible Input (TCI). Studies focus on increased grammatical awareness and academic language, listening, reading, writing, and conversation. Studies continue to include geography and culture. Students learn through listening, conversation, storytelling, writing, music, art, video, reading, and educational games. Thematic units on the arts, science, literature, social issues, and more guide students into deeper proficiency in academic language.
Prerequisite: Successful completion of Spanish III or teacher approval

*Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture |1 credit |

Students continue to acquire Spanish while preparing for the tasks and subject matter required for success on the Advanced Placement Spanish Language and Culture exam in the spring semester. Students will read, listen, speak, and write in various formats, including those on the AP exam. The AP test requires reading comprehension, conversational speaking, a brief cultural comparison oral presentation, an email response, and an essay using information from written and audio sources as well as personal experience and study. Students are required to take the AP exam in the spring.
Prerequisite: Teacher approval and successful completion of Spanish III or higher

BIBLE

Introduction to Biblical Christianity | Grades 9, 10, 11 | 1 credit|

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to the Bible, exploring its historical, cultural, and literary aspects. Students study key themes, characters, and events of the Old and New Testaments, including the life and teachings of Jesus Christ gaining a deeper understanding of biblical teachings and their relevance to modern life. . Through discussions, readings, and reflections, students develop critical thinking skills and explore their own beliefs and values.

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

Show Choir | Grades 9-11| 0.5 credit

A musical ensemble that combines choral singing with choreographed dance, often in the context of a story. Show choirs are different from traditional choirs because of their creative costumes and dance routines, and their music can include modern pop or show tunes. Show choir performances often include: Themed performances, Costumes, Props, Wider risers, and Reflective surfaces.

*Drawing/Painting I | Grades 9-11 | 0.5 credit (Fall or Spring Semester)|

This class will begin with basic drawing skills, then move into other media including pastels, charcoal, colored pencils, ink, acrylic, and watercolor. Styles attempted in this course include a mix of realistic, abstract, impressionist, and surrealist.
Prerequisite: Foundations of Art or instructor approval.

*Advanced Visual Art | Grades 10-11 | 0.5 credit (Fall or Spring Semester)|

This class is for the student who would like a more in-depth study of drawing and painting. Students will create studio works that are original expressions of a personal aesthetic. This course will begin with a review of drawing and then progress to painting for mastery of brush skills and control of values or tone of color. Mediums are pencil, charcoal, watercolors, acrylics, pastels, and oil paint.
Prerequisite: Draw/Paint I.

*Theatre Arts | Grades 9-11 | 0.5 credit (Spring Semester) |

In this course, students will obtain training and skills associated with Theatre: singing, acting, and movement/choreography. Students will achieve a professional and personal understanding of the arts through auditions, rehearsals, and performances of a full-scale production. Out of school rehearsals and performances required.

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*Worship Band I Grade: 9, 10, 11 | 0.5 or 1 credit

The Worship Band course is designed to provide an opportunity for students with existing skills in vocal, guitar, bass guitar, keyboard and drum areas to grow musically and spiritually through rehearsal and participation in chapel worship leading. This course heavily emphasizes musical skill development as well as building a basic worship philosophy formulation through rehearsal, performance and group discussion. Audition and/or interview with the instructor is required prior to enrolling.

*Yearbook | Grades 9, 10, 11 | 1 Credit

Over the course of this year, students will create a dynamic, visually appealing yearbook for Ambassador Christian High School. Students develop and build on essential skills such as design thinking, meeting deadlines, collaborative projects, commitment to completing the project which requires time outside of the classroom and regular school day, as well as how to use their God-given gifts and talents to serve the community. Students will serve the student body by appropriately and relevantly capturing the life and times of the school community. Students will learn basic layout/design, Adobe InDesign/Illustrator/Photoshop skills, journalism, and some photography basics.

INDUSTRIAL ARTS ELECTIVES

*Culinary Arts | Grades 10 - 11 | SPRING ONLY

Explore the art and science of cooking in this dynamic course. From basic techniques to advanced skills, learn to prepare a variety of dishes using fresh ingredients and professional methods. Discover flavor profiles, culinary traditions, and kitchen safety. Develop your palate, hone your knife skills, and unleash your creativity in the kitchen.

*Kit Car Course: (Automotive Tech) | Grades 10 - 11(priority)|

This hands-on course provides a comprehensive overview of assembling a kit car from start to finish. Students learn to interpret assembly instructions, select and use tools safely, and apply basic automotive mechanical principles. Topics include chassis assembly, engine installation, wiring, and final adjustments. Gain practical skills and knowledge for building your own custom vehicle.

OTHER ELECTIVES

*Intro of Business | Grades 9 - 11|

This course provides a foundational understanding of business principles and practices. Students explore key concepts such as entrepreneurship, marketing, finance, and management. Through real-world case studies and projects, students develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills. They also learn about the global economy, ethical business practices, and the role of technology in modern business.

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*Personal Finance | Grades 9 - 11|

This course is intended to be a study of economics, personal finance, income and education, money management, critical consumerism, and financial planning.

Strength and Speed Class I Grades 9-11 I

This course focuses on improving athletic performance through strength training and speed development. Students learn proper techniques for weightlifting, plyometrics, and speed drills. Emphasis is placed on building strength, power, agility, and speed to enhance overall athletic ability. Through structured workouts and personalized coaching, students can achieve their fitness goals and excel in their chosen sports. This course is designed to help students reach their full athletic potential in a safe and supportive environment.