

RAPID CITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
HIGH SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

All classes are one-year, one-credit courses unless otherwise indicated.

R indicates required

BIBLICAL STUDIES (one unit required for each year at Rapid City Christian)

Bible 9 (*Old Testament Survey*) surveys the entire Old Testament, giving students an understanding of its structure, key themes, and people in the context of Israel's history so they will better understand how the Old Testament books fit into God's redemptive plan for mankind. Special attention will be given to Bible study skills, interpretation and application of the scriptures, and Christ connections.

Bible 10 (*New Testament Survey*) looks at each of the 27 books beginning with the author, audience, purpose, theme and place in history. Students will look at each book's characteristics, key people, events and teaching; they will then spend time looking at how the individual books fit into the larger scheme of the whole New Testament story. The first semester will set the ground work by comparing and contrasting the four gospels as the basis for the books to follow. As students study the epistles, they will examine the problems faced by early Christians in the early churches in light of present-day churches, seeking to see the relevancy of the scriptures in their lives now. Students will spend time learning how to study the Word for themselves. Students will practice looking at passages of the Word in context, exploring the cross references and searching through commentaries for cultural and historical information. Each student is expected to read the entire New Testament over the course of the year, using a reading schedule which breaks it into incremental sections that are read approximately five days a week.

Bible 11 (*Relationships and Ministry*) is intended to create an environment for students to discover biblical foundations and standards for relationships. This class will address how those foundations impact the areas of stewardship, leadership, and discipleship. Students in this class will have opportunities to do service projects in order to solidify the learning into transformational living.

Bible 12 (*Christian Thought*) will provide students with an understanding of the foundational and philosophical elements of our secular society while learning how to respond with truth, wisdom, and compassion. Students will also study the theological foundations of the Christian worldview that will help them understand their faith and grow in Christ. Special focus will also be on learning how to effectively study the Bible. Through these topic, discussions, and studies, students will grow in their faith as they see and experience the truth of Jesus Christ and the relevance He has in their daily lives.

LANGUAGE ARTS (four units required)

English 9 (R) combines reading and discussing literature selections that support a Christian worldview with expanding vocabulary, improving writing skills, and learning research techniques. Students learn the elements that are found in stories (conflict, character, theme,

structure, viewpoint, and moral tone). Students' vocabulary skills will be improved through a structured vocabulary curriculum and through extensive reading. Students will write paragraphs, essays, letters, and creative pieces and conduct a research project.

English 10 (*Composition and World Literature*) (R) (0.5 unit) is a course devoted to developing essay writing skills and interacting with world literature. Students learn and practice the entire composition process, from pre-writing to editing. Students write various essay types such as expository, cause/effect, compare/contrast, and research-supported persuasive. In addition, students explore various genres of non-Western literature, both classical and contemporary, Christian and non-Christian.

Speech (R) (0.5 unit) is a course that offers students the opportunity to prepare and present a variety of speech forms. Students learn to use organization skills, practice audience awareness, use appropriate grammar, and apply both verbal and nonverbal skills to effectively deliver oral presentations. Students acquire strategies and techniques that will assist them in presenting a Christian worldview effectively through spoken communication.

English 11 (*American Literature/Composition*) (R), gives students the opportunity to recognize the core Christian values that helped to create a nation based on Christianity. Students will explore several literary genres (essays, poetry, short stories, and novels), literary styles, and social and philosophical movements. Students will add to their verbal inventory with lessons in contextual vocabulary and expand their writing abilities through essays, compositions, and research projects.

English 12 combines written composition and the study of (primarily) British literature. Students read works by Shakespeare, Milton, C.S. Lewis and other British authors. Besides practicing narrative writing, students will write essays, compositions, and a research paper.

College Composition (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian College) (0.5 unit) teaches effective use of the English language in written composition. Students practice different voices, structures and styles through imitation, and they practice the strategies of invention, arrangement, and style in essays.

Oral Communication (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian College) (0.5 unit) is an investigation of basic principles of speech communication and their application to intrapersonal, interpersonal, small group, and public communication. The course provides a practical interweaving of communication theory, principle, and practice as it explores many of the communication situations the student will encounter in his/her career, personal relationships and ministry. Intercultural considerations and ethical responsibility are integrated throughout the course.

Note: Students are required to take any combination of two semesters of British Literature, College Composition, or College Literature.

Drama (0.5 unit) is a fine arts elective geared toward improving students' understanding and application of acting skills and production details. Students will make frequent presentations to the class and provide specific, positively-framed feedback to other students. Topics covered in the class include the elements of acting, creating a character, technical theater, and production.

Journalism (0.5 unit) is an elective class for students who are interested in print journalism and want to develop their skills as a writer. Students will learn the fundamentals of writing feature stories, editorials, and sports articles. They will take photos to be used in publications and learn the rudiments of graphic design. The journalism class publishes a quarterly newsletter, *The Comet*, reporting events at Rapid City Christian.

MATHEMATICS (three units required)

Algebra 1 (R) is a very thorough first-year algebra course. Specific topics include real number operations, simplifying and evaluating expressions involving signed numbers, order of operations, exponents and radicals, properties of real numbers, absolute value, scientific notation, unit conversions, solutions of equations, solve inequalities, solve literal equations, percent equations, the algebra of polynomials and rational expressions, arithmetic and geometric sequences, word problems requiring algebra for the solution, linear equations, direct and inverse variation, solutions to systems of equations, Pythagorean theorem, functions, solutions of quadratic equations by factoring and completing the square, quadratic formula, and computation of the perimeter and area of two-dimensional regions. Algebra 1 is a pre-requisite for Algebra 2.

Geometry (R) covers topics such as points, lines, planes, parallel relationships, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, trigonometry, circles, areas, volumes, polygons, and co-ordinate geometry. Inductive and deductive reasoning will be used to write formal and informal proofs. The student will observe and study many applications to the real world. Cooperative learning will also be incorporated into the traditional classroom teaching structure. The student must have a good working knowledge of Algebra I to be successful in the plane geometry class.

Informal Geometry covers topics such as points, lines, planes, parallel relationships, congruent triangles, quadrilaterals, trigonometry, circles, areas, volumes, and polygons. The student will observe and study many applications to the real world. Cooperative learning will also be incorporated into the traditional classroom teaching structure. The student must have a good working knowledge of Algebra I to be successful in the plane geometry class. This course may be taken in lieu of the regular geometry class with the approval of the math department.

Algebra 2 (R) is a traditional second-year algebra class, but also covers basic trigonometry. Specific topics include the following: properties of real numbers, solving equations, linear functions, solving systems of equations, inequalities and systems of inequalities, graphing translations of different functions, matrices, roots of quadratic equations including complex roots, solving third and fourth degree polynomial equations, radicals, exponential equations, logarithms, rational expressions and equations, basic trigonometric functions, unit circle, and a wide spectrum of algebraic application problems.

AP Calculus AB is a college level mathematics course covering limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus. Each topic is covered graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Understanding not only how to solve problems, but why we solve them with those methods is essential for a complete grasp of calculus. Students must also be able to clearly and concisely explain in written sentences and in oral presentations why they have arrived at a solution. A graphing calculator will be used for much of this course. This course prepares students to take the AP exam offered by the College Board in the spring, which can lead to college credit for some mathematics courses.

College Algebra (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian University) (0.5 credit) covers topics from algebra and trigonometry at a level and emphasis appropriate for applied technology majors who will continue with at least one semester of applied calculus. Topics are chosen from the following: functions and their graphs, angles and triangles, systems of linear equations with determinants, trigonometric functions, equations and identities, exponential and logarithmic functions, a general treatment of conic sections. Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to demonstrate knowledge of the fundamental concepts and theories from algebra, geometry and pre-calculus; utilize various algebra and pre-calculus, problem-solving and critical-thinking techniques to set up and solve applied problems in geometry, sciences, and other fields; communicate accurate mathematical terminology and notation in written and/or oral form in order to explain strategies to solve problems as well as to interpret found solutions; and use calculators effectively as a tool to solve such problems as those described above.

Introduction to Statistics and Probability (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian University) (0.5 credit) is designed to familiarize the student to statistics and probability as observed and experienced in everyday life in newspapers, on TV and on the internet. Course topics will include data collection and analysis, through frequency distribution tables, graphs and the normal curve. In order to understand these topics, we must define several measures of central tendency, standard deviation and basic probability. The students will use MS Excel to analyze data.

Pre-calculus (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian College) (0.5 credit) covers material that is consistent with preparation for the next steps in mathematical studies: the real and complex number systems; arithmetic operations with polynomials; special products and factoring; linear, fractional and quadratic equations; inequalities, exponents, radicals and absolute values; functions and graphs; logarithms, logarithmic and exponential functions; analytic geometry, sequences and series, probability, statistics (optional). Class time will be a combination of question and answer, group work, quizzes and tests.

Trigonometry (dual enrollment with Colorado Christian College) (0.5 credit) covers material that is consistent with preparation for the next steps in mathematical studies: trigonometric functions, trigonometric identities and equations, triangle trigonometry, trigonometric inverses, trigonometric graphing, advanced graphing, applications of sine and cosine, deriving addition formulas, polar coordinates, vectors and determinants, introduction to calculus (optional). Class time will be a combination of question and answer, lectures, group work, quizzes and tests.

SCIENCE (three units required)

Physical Science (R) is designed to set the foundation for understanding the method and limitations of the scientific method. A systematic study is engaged using the Bob Jones text, *Physical Science*, giving the student a fundamental understanding of the concepts and methods within the disciplines of chemistry and physics. The students will be presented with integrated Biblical thought, within these content areas, to further sharpen their appreciation of the Creator and his creation.

Biology (R) explores God's creation through the study of life ranging from cellular mechanisms to entire ecosystems. This is a lab science course with special emphasis on biochemistry, cellular organization and function, genetics, invertebrate and vertebrate body designs, plant design and functions, and ecology. This course gives special attention to understanding the truth of Biblical creation and the theory of evolution via natural selection.

Botany is designed to explore God's creation through the study of plant diversity, growth, reproduction, and genetics. This course focuses on identifying local and invasive plant species in the Black Hills and surrounding prairie and includes frequent laboratory work and research on plant germination, response to stimuli and genetics.

Chemistry is designed to be a continuation and advancement of the study of chemistry begun in Physical Science. Topics such as the review of the scientific method, the arrangement and history of the Periodic Table and its uses, arithmetic relationships with chemicals in a balanced equation, and the various gas laws are taught. This course also covers the principals of chemical thermodynamics as well as solutions and the basics of organic chemistry. Laboratory procedures and experiments are an integral part of this course. Throughout the course, students are presented with evidence for a designer of creation.

Environmental Science is a lab science that focuses on understanding the many natural resources God has given mankind and how people currently use those resources. Chemistry concepts are taught throughout the course as we explore the interplay of private industries, individuals, and government agencies with respect to environmental ethics, non-renewable and renewable energy sources, waste management, population growth, land use, agricultural methods, solid waste, and air quality issues.

Physics is designed to give the students a basic understanding of the physical laws of God's creation. Initial study focuses upon the mechanics of motion, kinematics and dynamics. Major emphasis is given to problem solving, with application of discovered mathematical relationships. Students are then introduced to simple harmonic motion, thermal physics, and electromagnetic phenomena including ohms law. Students will be prepared for continued and advanced study in physics in readiness for career and ministry.

Note: Students are required to take either Chemistry or Physics.

Anatomy and Physiology is designed to familiarize the student with the basic anatomical and physiological features of the human body. Emphasis is given for appreciation of the astounding

order, design, and complexity of this human body. Foundational study on these topics will prepare the student for further study and carry with them a working knowledge of the structures and chemistry of the body for use in daily living. Integration with Biblical content covering a variety of topics including human behavior and sexuality is presented.

SOCIAL STUDIES (three units required)

World Geography (0.5 units R) is taught over two semesters of both systemic and physical geography of the world. Semester one covers the foundations of the world beginning with the creation narrative of the Old Testament, continuing with the various elements of geography joined with a biblical world view backed by scriptural references. Semester I continues with a study of Latin America, and Continental Europe. Semester II continues with a study of the physical/cultural geography of Mediterranean Europe, Central Eurasia, Asia, The Middle East, Africa, and Oceania.

World History (0.5 units R) is taught each year for two semesters. The first semester begins with ancient civilizations of the Near East, moves through the Roman Republic and Empire, covers ancient civilizations of Byzantium, Russia, Islam, India, Japan, China, and Africa, and then settles on Western Europe for the remainder of the course. The first semester ends with an examination of the Middle Ages. The second semester begins with the Renaissance, Reformation and Age of Exploration and Discovery, examines the absolute monarchs, the French Revolution, the Napoleonic era, the Congress of Vienna, the Industrial Revolution, and examines the factors that led to World War I and the impact on politics, geography and society from the events of World War I.

US History (R) is taught each year for two semesters. The standards for this course will be shared between grades eight and eleven. The eighth-grade history course will cover, in depth, from the “Age of Exploration and Discovery” through the Civil War. The eleventh grade U.S. History course will begin with an overview of the period from “Manifest Destiny” to the Civil War, beginning in depth with the Civil War Era and the period of U.S. History known as “Reconstruction.” The eleventh-grade history course will then continue through the “Gilded Age,” World War I, the 1920s and ending with the Great Depression. The course examines the Thirties, the lead-up to World War I, the lead-up to World War II, the war itself and the aftermath known as the “Cold War.” The course covers the Korean War, the Space Race, the Vietnam War, and the Gulf Wars I & II.

US Government (0.5 units R) is taught from a Christian perspective beginning with the foundations of the government primarily through a review of the Constitution, Declaration of Independence and other important documents. A thorough examination of the purposes of government and the types of government that arise from the pursuit of a particular purpose follows. Each major branch of government is studied, as are topics such as federalism, foreign policy, the federal bureaucracy, and the issues of the day. Government also includes a study of common labels used in politics and what those labels have come to represent.

Economics (0.5 units) is a course designed to familiarize the student with the theory and evolution of economics. It is designed to examine the basic precepts of how a nation engages in economy in light of God's laws concerning sowing and reaping. The course will examine economic laws, factors of production, supply and demand in the market place, competition, types of economies and the government's role in economics, and the future of economy.

FINE ARTS (one unit required)

Drama (0.5 units) is a fine arts elective geared toward improving students' understanding and application of acting skills and production details. Students will often make presentations for the class and provide specific, positively-framed feedback to the rest of the class. Topics covered in the class include the elements of acting, creating a character, technical theatre, and production.

High School Art (0.5 units) emphasizes the student's uniqueness as an artist, teaching the student how to draw with different values of pencils and paint with acrylic paint on canvas. The course provides the student with skill to draw and paint by taking them through a series of exercises to build their confidence and ability. Major projects are assigned to give opportunity to use the skills learned in the exercises.

HS Band is a multi-grade performing band ensemble of standard concert band instrumentation. If the student was not in the RCCS band program the previous year, then there is a required placement test with the band director, showing competency through the Method 2 book level, to register for this course, which shows the student is prepared to read high school level band music. Students work to learn excellence in the performance of concert band music and achieve music literacy from a diverse music repertoire. Students will perform in both the December and Spring Concerts, the Graduation ceremony, as well as our Region Solo & Ensemble Contest. We also serve as the school's Pep Band and events will be scheduled for football, volleyball, and basketball games, where students are expected to participate. Opportunities are available for students to audition for the South Dakota All-State Band, as well as SDSU Honor Band and BHSU Northern Hill's Honor Band. The HS Band will participate in Dordt College's Christian High School Choir/Band Festival every other year according to their rotating schedule. Students may take this course every year and receive credit. All music courses reflect and teach the belief that we are creative creatures of a Creator God.

HS Choir is a multi-grade performing vocal ensemble of mixed voices. There are no prerequisites for this course. Students work to learn proper vocal technique utilizing vocal exercises and solfege, training in education on their vocal instrument, and achieve excellence in music literacy and performance from a diverse music repertoire. Students are expected to perform in both the December and Spring Concerts, the Graduation ceremony, as well as our Region Solo & Ensemble Contest. Opportunities are available for students to audition for the South Dakota All-State Choir and 9th graders are eligible to audition for South Dakota Junior Honor Choir. The HS Choir will participate in Dordt College's Christian High School Choir/Band Festival every other year according to their rotating schedule. Students may take this course every year and receive credit. All music courses reflect and teach the belief that we are creative creatures of a Creator God.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Fitness Training is a course designed to build upon the skills and knowledge that students learned during the Physical Education 9 course. This course will introduce students to more lifetime activities as well as covering basic training principles to help prepare them for making choices for their physical activity participation once they leave high school.

Physical Education 9 (0.5 units R) is a course designed to help students build upon the knowledge and skills they learned in middle school physical education and help them become physically literate individuals who can be physically active for the rest of their lifetime. This course will introduce students to a variety of activities both individual and team/group that can keep individuals physically active even after they leave school and enter adulthood.

Health (0.5 unit R) is traditionally offered at the ninth grade level. The purpose of this class is to present the Bible as the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. This class investigates health issues as presented with the integration of the physical, mental, social and spiritual dimensions of life.

MODERN LANGUAGES (one unit required)

Spanish I introduces students to the basic conversation, vocabulary and grammar skills of the Spanish language. They will also learn about different cultural aspects of various Spanish-speaking countries. Students will not only acquire basic speaking, writing and reading skills in Spanish, but will also learn about attributes of God and memorize Bible verses in Spanish. Through a variety of speaking, reading and listening activities, students will develop a solid foundation of the Spanish language. Some projects that will be included in this class are: a family tree project called “Mi Familia Loca”, Mi Casa Ideal, and an end of the year video project. Students will also create skits throughout the semester demonstrating their understanding and abilities of the language. If time permits, the students will also read a short Spanish novel in the second semester.

Spanish II continues to build upon the language foundation laid in Spanish 1. Spanish 1 (or documentation of a basic knowledge of language learned in Spanish I) is a prerequisite for this course. Grammar and constructions from Spanish 1 are reviewed and expanded upon. In the second semester, students will also learn to converse using past tenses of the Preterite and Imperfect. Students will continue to learn new scripture verses, with the goal being to share their testimony and the gospel message in Spanish during the second semester. Some projects that will be included in this class are: Mi Comida – a food/country project, Mi Testimonio – writing/sharing their personal testimony in Spanish, and an end of the year video project. Students will also create skits throughout the semester demonstrating their understanding and abilities of the language. Also, as time permits, students will have the opportunity to read a few Spanish novels throughout the year. Completion of Spanish 2 will provide the students with a very solid understanding of the Spanish language and how to use it effectively in a variety of settings.

American Sign Language I introduces basic skills of American Sign Language (ASL) including: vocabulary, finger spelling, numbers, conversation and grammar. Deaf Culture and ways to communicate appropriately within Deaf Culture will be addressed. Christian vocabulary will be taught through memorization of Bible verses and songs.

American Sign Language II builds on the skills learned in ASL I. There will be review of past vocabulary and new vocabulary will be introduced. There will be a deeper focus on conversation skills and using classifiers. Deaf Culture and ways to communicate appropriately within Deaf Culture will continue to be addressed. New Christian vocabulary will be taught through memorization of Bible verses and songs.

French I is a beginning level language course. Students will learn basic structure, grammar, and vocabulary, with an emphasis on conversation. French culture is also a big part of this class, as the students observe the differences and similarities between American and French culture.

French II is an intermediate course. Through thematic units, students will expand skills in speaking, listening, reading, writing and cultural awareness. They will develop a functional command of words and phrases dealing with immediate needs and common everyday situations of simple questions and statements about family, residence, self, weather, time and interests. They will be able to recognize and properly use past/present tense grammar structures. The content expansion includes the use of familiar words and phrases applicable with normal commands, frequent instructions, and courtesy interchanges.

OTHER

Personal Finance (0.5) is a one-semester course intended to prepare students to understand the rudiments which enable a person to become economically prosperous and financially independent. It is based upon biblical foundation of being a steward of God's materials and money, which He has entrusted to every Christian man or woman to follow in obtaining a life free from debt and financial worry. During this course the students will learn the basic foundations of economic strategies and plans. The student will also learn to discern the pitfalls to avoid when embarking on a life of financial independence. The course uses *the Foundations in Personal Finance* curriculum, authored by Dave Ramsey.

Note: Students are required to take either Economics or Personal Finance.

Journalism (0.5 unit) is an elective class for students interested in newspaper journalism and developing their skills as a writer. Students will learn the fundamentals of writing feature stories, editorials, and sports writing. The journalism staff publishes a quarterly newsletter that is mailed to a large data base of constituents, reporting current events at Rapid City Christian.

Yearbook (0.5 unit) is an elective class that combines writing skills, photography, and design. Students construct Rapid City Christian School's annual yearbook. This is a class for motivated students who are highly responsible and can work to a large degree on their own. Students take all the photographs, write all the stories, and do the page design for the entire yearbook.

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