

**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)**

**Old Testament Survey** is designed for high school freshmen. The entire Old Testament will be surveyed giving the 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.

**New Testament Survey** for high school sophomores looks at each of the 27 books beginning with the author, audience, purpose, theme and place in history. Next we look at each book's characteristics, key people, events and teaching. Then we spend time looking at how the individual books fit into the larger scheme of the whole New Testament story.

The first half of the year we set the ground work by comparing and contrasting the four gospels as the basis for the books to follow. As we work into the epistles we talk about the problems faced by early Christians in the early churches in light of our present day churches. We seek to see the relevancy of the scriptures to our lives now. We spend time learning how to study the Word for ourselves. Students practice looking at passages of the Word in context, exploring the cross references and searching through commentaries for cultural and historical information. Lastly, each student is expected to read the entire New Testament over the course of the year. A reading schedule is provided breaking it into incremental sections that are read approximately five days a week.

**Bible 11** 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 (*Understanding the Times*)** is a one-semester, video-based curriculum from Summit Ministries that brings a host of Christian worldview and apologetic experts into the classroom. This class will help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview and how it compares with the tenets of other leading worldviews of our day: Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age, and Postmodernism. Additional topics covered include abortion, apologetics, the arts, biotechnology, critical thinking, cults, euthanasia, leadership, radical environmentalism, radical feminism, the problem of evil, religious pluralism, and scriptural reliability. This course is reading intensive with roughly 25 discussions to complete for each chapter. Projects, discussion questions and classroom discussion will prepare the student to take tests at the conclusion of each chapter.

## **LANGUAGE ARTS (four units required)**

**English I (R)** begins a unified four-year high school grammar curriculum with an overview of the basic sentence structure, usage, and mechanics in Standard English. Students will study literature selections that support a Christian worldview. Students will 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, compositions, and creative writings.

**Speech (R)** is a one-semester 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.

**Written communication (R)** is a one-semester course devoted to the reinforcement of students' grammar skills (sentence structure, usage, and mechanics) and the application of these skills in writing themes, essays, letters, composition and creative writing projects. The semester also provides an opportunity for students to study a classic of World Literature as they read Shakespeare's *Julius Caesar*.

**American Literature/Composition (R)**, the study of our nation's literary history, allows students to recognize the core Christian values that helped to create a nation based on Christianity. Students will explore many 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.

**British Literature** is a comprehensive study of the history of the English language and the literature of Great Britain. English literary works show the importance of religion to its language and literature. Students are exposed to *Beowulf*, Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton, and many other British authors. Students will write essays, themes, compositions, and a research paper. They will also write short stories, poetry, and an autobiography.

**College Composition (dual enrollment)** 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.

**College Literature (dual enrollment)** is study of major works, authors, styles, and themes from the classical to modern periods.

**Creative Writing** is a one-semester Language Arts elective that provides students with an opportunity to practice their existing skills as writers while developing new methods and techniques in a variety of genres (poetry, narrative essay, short story, etc.). Students will critique

their peers' writing and provide feedback. Students will work as a team to produce a printed collection of their pieces by the end of the semester.

### **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.

**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, algebra of three polynomials, radicals, exponential equations, logarithms, rational expressions and equations, basic trigonometric functions, unit circle, sequences, and a wide spectrum of algebraic word problems.

**Advanced Mathematics** falls between Algebra II and higher mathematics. Topics covered include functions and graphs, polynomials, rational functions, exponential and logarithmic functions, trigonometric functions, analytic trigonometry, applications of trigonometry, matrices and systems of equations, analytic geometry including conic sections and polar forms, probability, statistics, sequences and series, and an introduction to Calculus.

**AP Calculus** 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.

## 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)** is designed to give students foundation and some detail of the anatomical and physiological, of living systems. Initial study will cover the scope of complexity of living systems, focusing upon the fundamental unit, the cell. Major emphasis will be given to the evaluation and refutation of the evolutionary paradigm and presenting the evidence for a designer Creator. Students will be prepared for continued and advanced study in readiness for society, career and ministry.

**Advanced Placement Biology** focuses on the enduring understandings within the four big ideas outlined in the curriculum framework: (1) The process of evolution drives the diversity and unity of life. (2) Biological systems utilize free energy and molecular building blocks to grow, to reproduce and to maintain dynamic homeostasis. (3) Living systems store, retrieve, transmit and respond to information essential to life processes. (4) Biological systems interact, and these systems and their interactions possess complex properties. The class will include video lectures that students must view on a computer, tablet, smart phone, etc. This will allow for class time dedicated to laboratory work and discussions. Each unit will include lectures, discussions, worksheets, student-led laboratory investigations and various projects or assignments to further support student understanding outside of lab work.

**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. Laboratory procedures and experiments are an integral part of this course. Throughout the course, students are presented with evidence for a designer of creation.

**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. Finally 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 unit 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 unit 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, but will begin 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 unit 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, 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 unit)** 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 unit)** 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 credit)** 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.

**High School Band** is a multi-grade class comprised of the standard concert band instrumentation. There are no pre-requisites for this course, but success is unlikely unless a student has studied his instrument for at least one year before enrolling. All members are expected to participate in every scheduled band activity. A typical year includes daily rehearsals, four to eight pep band performances at athletic events, one contest appearance, and two formal school concerts. Students are required to practice at home regularly and keep a record of their practice sessions. Students may take this course every year and receive credit.

**High School Choir** is a multi-grade performing group of mixed voices. There are no prerequisites for this course. First semester is open to all interested students; second semester is limited by audition to 40. All members are expected to participate in every rehearsal and concert. Students work to achieve two primary goals: (1) basic musical literacy and (2) excellence in the performance of choral music. Both of these goals are enveloped in a direct and intentional effort to train them in their responsibility both to (1) lead the community of believers in musical worship and to (2) reflect the *Imago Dei* as creative creatures of a Creator God. Students may take this course every year and receive credit.

### **HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

**Physical Education 9 (0.5 unit R)** is a course where students learn proper weight training techniques. Following middle school courses which emphasize cardiovascular endurance through aerobic exercise, students in this class focus on the components of muscular strength and

muscular endurance. This experience allows each child to see and feel the benefits of strength training, while learning a valuable lifetime physical fitness skill.

**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.

**Fitness Training** is an advanced Physical Education course, the pinnacle class in the systemic physical education curriculum. Using the components of cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength and muscular endurance learned in grades 6-9, students write their own Individual Fitness Plan (IFP) designed to meet the individual goals of the child. Whether the focus is general fitness or geared toward a specific sport, an IFP can be written for every person. IFPs ranging from basketball, football, volleyball, track & field, cross country, dance and golf have been written and successfully implemented by students.

### **MODERN LANGUAGES (one unit required)**

**Spanish I** introduces basic conversation, vocabulary and Spanish grammar. Students research a Hispanic country and read a novella set in Mexico to aid them in developing a cultural awareness of the Spanish-speaking world. The class is taught using TPRS methodology (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling).

**Spanish II** continues to build upon the language foundation laid in Spanish I. Spanish I (or documentation of a basic knowledge of language learned in Spanish I) is a prerequisite for this course. Students read two novels during the year, exploring life and culture in Guatemala and El Salvador, an acquiring vocabulary relating to the life of the teenage protagonists. Grammar and constructions begun in the first year of Spanish are reviewed and expanded. During the second year of instruction students will learn to converse using past tenses. Students also practice a simple way to communicate the gospel in Spanish during the second semester. The class is taught using TPRS methodology (Teaching Proficiency through Reading and Storytelling).

**French I** is designed as a beginner level language course. There is no prerequisite for this class. Students will learn basic structure, grammar, and vocabulary, with an emphasis on conversation. French culture is also a big part of this class, as we look at 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.

**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.

## **OTHER**

**Personal Finance** 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.