

INTRODUCTION

2008-2009 School Year

Grand Rapids Christian High School is committed to an academic program that integrates the nurturing of faith and a Christian worldview throughout the curriculum. Accredited since 1926, the school offers a wide, liberal arts-based curriculum that has expanded recently to include State of Michigan core courses and graduation standards.

We believe that the high school curriculum ought to be one of exploration as well as focus on mastery. The curriculum of Grand Rapids Christian High School provides a broad selection of elective classes as well as core subjects. Requiring a full four years of high school will help assure both breadth and depth in the student's high school experience.

Teachers at Grand Rapids Christian High School are well qualified for their positions. Most teachers hold a master's degree in their discipline, and they

1. Hold current State of Michigan teacher certification
2. Hold credentials as being highly qualified in their teaching assignments
3. Fulfill their continuing professional development expectations for the State of Michigan and Grand Rapids Christian Schools
4. Develop annual professional goals and professional learning plans

At Grand Rapids Christian High School, students are challenged and supported in their studies in order to prepare them to be servants of Christ in contemporary society and to be equipped for their next education or work experience. Grand Rapids Christian High School provides a solid foundation by holding high academic expectations in all core courses. In addition, these courses

1. Integrate a Reformed Christian worldview and understanding into instruction and assignments
2. Follow the Grand Rapids Christian High School course syllabus
3. Incorporate and implement Michigan high school course standards
4. Incorporate modifications where appropriate
5. Integrate college curriculum expectations where appropriate
6. Apply Grand Rapids Christian Schools' best instructional practices and curriculum standards
7. Use school and state common assessments when available
8. Integrate North Central accreditation standards and goals

We expect our students to demonstrate knowledge of our Christian perspective and use this understanding as they are challenged to make decisions, raise questions, and examine real-life problems through the curriculum. We also expect students to be active participants in their learning, giving their best efforts toward developing a strong academic background for using their God-given potential to transform God's world. We believe that students can be successful; however, much of the success depends on working in partnership with families. As part of that partnership, we have designed this Curriculum Guide to help parents understand the course offerings and policies at Grand Rapids Christian High School.

We ask parents and churches to partner with staff members in nurturing their adolescent's spiritual, social, emotional, and academic growth through involvement in the learning process, through supporting the young adult's spirit and spiritual formation, and through prayer for the school's endeavors.

Diploma Requirements

Requirements for a Grand Rapids Christian High School Diploma

A. Students must complete four full years of high school studies.

Ordinarily, the senior year must be completed at Grand Rapids Christian High School. Early completion of high school is not an option, regardless of credits earned in excess of the minimum requirements. A minimum of one full year at Grand Rapids Christian High School is required for a Grand Rapids Christian High School diploma.

Students who terminate enrollment at Grand Rapids Christian High School with eighteen or more credits, at least 75% of which were earned at Grand Rapids Christian High School, may earn a Grand Rapids Christian High School diploma under arrangements made with the school.

B. A minimum of 22 (23 for the class of 2012) credit hours must be completed in grades 9 through 12. At least 16 of the credits must be earned in courses not considered modified courses.

All students must complete the following designated curricular core course requirements in order to earn a Grand Rapids Christian High School diploma.

Requirements through Class of 2011

COMPUTER COMPETENCY – 1 semester of Computer Applications
or credit for the Computer Competency Test

ENGLISH – 7 semesters (6 semesters if 2 semesters of foreign language are passed)

MATHEMATICS – 4 semesters

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 2 semesters

RELIGION – 4 semesters

SCIENCE – 4 semesters of laboratory science

SOCIAL STUDIES – 6 semesters

World Cultures – 1 semester

American History – 2 semesters

American Government – 1 semester

Requirements for Class of 2012 and following

COMPUTER COMPETENCY – 1 semester of Computer Applications
or credit for the Computer Competency Test

ENGLISH – 8 semesters

FINE ARTS – 2 semesters

MATHEMATICS – 8 semesters

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – 3 semesters

RELIGION – 4 semesters

SCIENCE – 6 semesters, including 4 semesters of laboratory science

SOCIAL STUDIES – 6 semesters

World Cultures – 1 semester

American History – 2 semesters

American Government – 1 semester

Students who have completed a required course in grade 8 may be exempt from the high school requirement only if the 8th grade course experience duplicates a GRCHS course and one or more of the following has been attained:

1. A course grade of B or better and letter of recommendation from subject teacher
 2. A satisfactory score, as determined by GRCHS, on the Grand Rapids Christian High School placement test
 3. A minimum score of 85-90% on the specific GRCHS course exam
- High School credit is not given for exempted courses.

Requirements for a Grand Rapids Christian High School Basic Diploma

The requirements for this diploma are the same as for a Grand Rapids Christian High School diploma with these exceptions:

- There is not a limit to the number of credits earned in modified courses.
- With prior approval, up to two credits may be omitted from the normal subject distribution requirement.

Class Requirements

In grades 9 through 12, all students must take a minimum of 2.5 hours of credit per semester. Students in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades are to be supervised in class the entire school day. Parents of seniors may request a parent-excused hour for their student.

Kent Career Technical Center students and early college students must take a minimum of 1.5 hours of credit at Grand Rapids Christian High concurrent with the off-campus classes.

Additional Curricular Information

- A. Hours of Credit** - All classes that meet every day during class hours 1 through 6 carry .5 hours of credit per semester. The 7th hour Activity/Enrichment classes that meet two (2) times per week carry .2 hours of credit per semester; most 7th hour Activity/Enrichment classes that meet four (4) times a week carry .4 hours of credit or .5 hours of credit.
- B. Grade Point Average** - Grade Point Average (GPA) is calculated on all subjects issued a letter grade in grades 9 through 12.
- C. Adding Classes Late**
1. Generally students may not add courses after the first three full days of the semester.
 2. Students adding courses after the second week of the semester must make up 200 minutes for each full or partial week of classes missed (excluding the first two weeks).
- D. Courses Taken Outside Grand Rapids Christian High** - A student who is deficient in hours may take one course per semester in another approved school. Such courses must be approved by the school administration prior to being taken. A student who takes outside courses without approval, repeats a course in which he/she had previously received credit, or takes particular outside classes simply for enrichment can have the final grades recorded on his/her permanent record card but will not be given GRCHS credit.
- E. Outside Credits** - Credits earned from outside Grand Rapids Christian High School to be applied to a GRCH diploma may not exceed seven. (Exception: Transfer students' academic status will be determined upon enrollment at Grand Rapids Christian High School.)
- F. Criteria for Valedictorian and Salutatorian**
1. Students will have attained the top two cumulative GPA's of the senior class at the conclusion

of seven semesters

2. Students must have earned majority of credits through seven semesters at Grand Rapids Christian High School
3. Students must be full-time students each semester of high school

G. Early College - A student who wishes to take early college courses for which the school does not offer an equivalent course must submit a written request signed by the parent stating the reason for the request and giving a brief description of the class(es) to be taken. This request must be submitted when a student submits his/her course requests for the following year. The request will be reviewed by a committee consisting of the counselor, chairman of the department in which the desired course falls, and the registrar. The committee will grant or deny the request.

Criteria used by the committee will be:

1. Demonstrated excellence (normally GPA 3.0 minimum) in the subject area; and/or
 2. Significant work already accomplished in the subject area; and/or
 3. Psychological, emotional, or social issues which may be pertinent to the request.
- High school credit is not given for early college courses.

H. Kent Career Technical Center Students - Students who desire to participate in Technical Center programs are to work out schedules and programs with their counselor with the approval of the registrar. These programs are considered to be auxiliary programs available to all area high schools. Since the Technical Center is not a credit-granting institution, all participants must be enrolled in and attend classes at a home school.

I. Independent Study

When a student is enrolled on a regular basis at Grand Rapids Christian High School:

1. Independent studies are available to 11th and 12th graders only. Ordinarily, to be considered for an independent study, a student must have at least a 3.3 grade point average in the department under whose management the independent study would take place.
2. No credit for independent study will be granted without the study having been given prior administrative approval.
3. Usually a maximum of one course (.5 credit) per semester is allowed as an independent study for a student.
4. To qualify for an independent study during the regular school years, a student must be enrolled in at least five courses (2.5) credits in the regular program. Summertime independent studies are also permitted.
5. Credit for an independent study will be awarded on a pass/fail basis. No letter or numerical grade for cumulative grade point average will be given.
6. An independent study must be supervised by a GRCHS teacher.
7. Cost for an independent study course (.5 credit) will be assumed by the family. Families will pay the cost of an online course or 3% of yearly tuition for a GRCHS-developed course.

When a student is not attending Grand Rapids Christian High School on a regular basis:

1. Credit will be granted only if the study is conducted under the jurisdiction of a recognized online high school program or by a Grand Rapids Christian High School teacher. These arrangements must be made in advance through the high school administration.
2. Credit for an independent study will be awarded on a pass/fail basis. No letter or numerical grade for cumulative grade point average will be given.
3. A charge of 3% of full-time yearly tuition will be assessed for each semester course (.5 credit)

taken under arrangements described above (I. 1.).

4. Under these arrangements, no more than four credits will be granted to any student.

J. Replacement Credit

1. In order to receive replacement credit, the course must be retaken within one year.
2. In order to receive replacement by retaking a course, permission must be granted by the administration prior to the beginning of the semester. Generally, such permission will be given if the original grade was C+ or lower or if an educational need is apparent.
3. When a replacement credit is given, the grade of record will be the replacement grade.

K. Grade Modifications

1. Students may require modifications to course work in individual cases. These modifications may reflect special learning needs or honors challenges.
2. Teachers will consult with students and parents about these modifications and these will be enacted with administrative approval.
3. Parents or guardians will receive notice of these modifications.
4. Course grading will be modified to reflect these and noted on the student's permanent school record.

Implications for M Grade Modifications

1. If more than twelve courses are modified, the student is placed on a basic diploma track.
2. Students and parents should be aware of NCAA (Division I and II) rules for athletes that prohibit accepting modified courses for first-year college athletes.
3. Modifications can be applied in regular classes and CLC classes. Course grades may be modified by using a 60% grading scale or other grading standards.

Guidelines for Honors Modifications

1. Identification: Academic departments develop criteria for admittance into their honors modification program. In addition to the High School Placement Test for entering 9th graders, these may include teacher recommendations, student application, GPA requirements, criteria developed by the department, grades in the discipline, motivation and interest, independent learning skills, and the need for further academic challenge.
2. Grading: GRCHS has high expectations for the quality of student's honor (H) grade work. Both assignment and course grades should reflect the quality of work completed. If a student withdraws, the grades received in H assignments may be averaged into the final course grade.
3. Withdrawal from courses or modifications: Students are encouraged and expected to complete this honors component. Students may withdraw from the honors course component /program during the semester only by using the regular procedure for dropping a course (through the counselors and registrar). Grading issues should be handled at the time of the course drop, but as in other course withdrawals, there is no guarantee of credit for assignments.

- L. Grading Irregularities** – International students with limited English proficiency may be given credit/no credit grades for their first semester at Grand Rapids Christian High School. Some 9th grade students placed in the special support program may receive credit/no credit grades during their first marking period.

Grand Rapids Christian High School

Course Descriptions

Applied Business

One semester of Computer Applications is required. All other courses offered are electives.

COMPUTER APPLICATIONS – This course is designed to further develop students' current computer skills to a level necessary for college and employment. It provides an overview of microcomputer applications including: intermediate and advanced word processing using Microsoft Word, beginning and intermediate spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel, basic databases using Microsoft Access, beginning slide show presentations using Microsoft PowerPoint, and the integration of the various applications. Students must meet the computer competency requirement for graduation by taking this course or by scoring at least 80% on the Computer Competency Test.

ACCOUNTING I – This elective course offers an important and necessary foundation for students in their preparation for college and business, as well as in their personal finances. The course provides students with a basic understanding of fundamental accounting practices and procedures. Students will learn and understand accounting terminology, concepts, principles, and procedures through the use of workbook applications, computerized applications, and a business simulation. Checking accounts and payroll applications are also covered in this course.

MARKETING/MANAGEMENT – This elective course provides students with a basic understanding of our American Market system. It introduces students to the various functions of marketing, business, and personal finance. Students learn through the use of various activities, including case studies, group projects, computer applications, workbook applications, and the actual operation of a student-run company that designs and sells a product. Various marketing and management decision-making skills are learned and applied in this course.

PRESENTATIONS AND DESIGN – This elective course utilizes and strengthens students' current computer skills. Students will learn the concepts of layout and design of documents such as newsletters, pamphlets, flyers, web pages, and PowerPoint presentations. They will create and design various original presentations and publications utilizing the various skills learned. Software used: Microsoft PowerPoint, Microsoft Publisher, and Microsoft Front Page.

Applied Technology

All courses offered are elective.

INTRODUCTION TO TECHNOLOGY – Each student will be exposed to careers and concepts in technical communications, manufacturing, construction, and transportation. Each student will participate in problem-solving activities that should pique interest and enhance skills related to applied technology. Stewardship of time and resources will be emphasized.

CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES – Each student will be introduced to the basic concepts in residential and commercial construction. The Applied Technology department has teamed up with ICCF to frame a house in our lab. The home will be delivered to the site where students have the opportunity to see the project through completion. A variety of procedures and practices will be presented.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

MANUFACTURING PROCESSES – Each student will experience activities related to the manufacturing industry today. An in-depth look at resources, processes, and new technologies will take place. Students will design and manufacture finished products.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

MANUFACTURING: WOOD TECH – Each student will be part of a manufacturing team that designs and produces a multi-functional cabinet. Safety and stewardship practices will be emphasized.

Although woodworking techniques are introduced, general manufacturing principles will be emphasized.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

TECH COMM ARCHITECTURE – Each student will review home styles, functional design, and construction methods used in residential and commercial architecture. Computer aided drafting techniques will be used to complete a set of working drawings for a residence.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

TECH COMM DESIGN – A team-taught course where each student will be introduced to principles and elements of design. Students will understand a design loop and apply it to several design problems in the technology computer lab and the visual arts room. A wide variety of design careers will be presented. This course will be divided into three-week sessions.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH or INTRODUCTION TO ART. Students who register for TECH COMM DESIGN or VISUAL ARTS DESIGN are enrolled in the same course.

This course may be taken only once.

TECH COMM DRAFTING – Each student will experience the language of technical drawing. Template, perspective, multi-view, and computer-aided drawings will be completed. An emphasis is placed on problem-solving techniques. Basic measurement and math skills are essential.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS – Each student will preview the resources and power sources needed to create energy for transportation. Activities related to power technology, the internal combustion engine, and the automobile will be experienced. Alternative power sources will be included.

Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH.

TRANSITIONAL PROBLEM-SOLVING – Practical engineering concepts will be introduced: geometric structures, levers and pulleys, hydraulics, pneumatics, electronics, and other principles. Several lab activities created to solve simple and complex problems will be presented. A major design problem will be completed. For approved juniors and seniors only.

English

All 9th graders must take LITERARY GENRES I and II. All 10th graders must take CRITICAL READING AND WRITING and COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE. All 11th graders must take AMERICAN LITERATURE. All 12th graders must take BRITISH LITERATURE or ENGLISH LITERATURE AP I and II. Seven semesters of English (six, if a student takes one year of a foreign language) are required for graduation for Classes 2009 - 2011. Beginning with the class of 2012, eight semesters of English are required. Outside reading is a requirement of all English courses. Students taking more than one English course at a time may drop one outside reading requirement for each course.

LITERARY GENRES I and II – Required courses, one for each semester of 9th grade. The literature consists primarily of narrative texts that include short stories, novels, media, and a small poetry unit. There is a greater emphasis on grammar in LITERARY GENRES-I. The course includes composition skills and outside reading.

LITERARY GENRES II-HONORS – This course is an advanced LITERARY GENRES-II class that explores topics in greater depth, complexity, and at a faster pace. It includes additional reading and writing expectations, including the study of nonfiction texts. Admission to this course is by application to and recommendation by the department.

COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE – Required one-semester course for all 10th graders. The course will focus on public speaking skills, listening skills, and a study and evaluation from a Reformed Christian perspective of media in our society.

CRITICAL READING AND WRITING – Required one-semester course for all 10th graders. The literature in this course consists of non-fiction texts and Shakespearean drama. Students will learn how to write a formal essay, focusing primarily on thesis statements, organization, essay format, logical development of ideas, and the study of language itself.

AMERICAN LITERATURE – Required one-semester course for all 11th graders. A survey of American literature from the founding of our country to the present, including major authors and characteristics of various time periods. This course parallels historical events as they relate to the

philosophies and writing styles of American authors and includes expository writing, responsive writing, class discussions, and tests and quizzes.

BRITISH LITERATURE – Required one-semester course for all 12th graders. A literature course including the study of poetry, prose, and drama of Western writers, with an emphasis on British authors. The course is arranged thematically and focuses on class discussion and student response through writing assignments, tests, and quizzes.

ENGLISH LITERATURE AP I and II – This is a full-year course for selected 12th grade students. Poetry, prose, and drama are studied in greater depth than in BRITISH LITERATURE. Additional writing assignments and discussions emphasize a more technical analysis of literature. The class helps prepare students for the Advanced Placement test offered in the spring. Students with a grade average of B+ or better in English classes may apply to enroll in this course. Forms are available from the department or a counselor.

COMPOSITION – A composition course in which students study the basics of good writing: well-developed paragraphs, unity, coherence, and style. Students practice expository writing through the basic five-paragraph essay, with emphasis on introduction, thesis statement, supporting detail, organization, and conclusion. Included is a seven-week period of library research and research paper. Intended for juniors and seniors who plan to attend a four-year college after graduation.

COMPOSITION-ADVANCED – An advanced composition course in which students review several characteristics of good writing: coherence, unity, thesis statements, and style. Students also practice several kinds of writing: exposition, argumentation, and description. Included is a six-week period of library research and an extended paper. Intended for 11th and 12th grade students who already possess strong writing ability. Primary focus will be on developing the ability to write at the collegiate level.

COMPOSITION-WRITING FOR WORK AND LIFE – This course balances academic-style writing with the diverse types of writing tasks students find when they leave the high school setting. Emphasis is placed on the basics of good writing: clarity, structure, and coherence. Writing projects place value on effective communication toward direct outcomes. Intended for junior and senior students who plan to attend a two-year college or enter the workplace after graduation.

CREATIVE WRITING AND INTERPRETATION – In this class students will analyze literature and technique with the goal of writing and presenting finished pieces of poetry, prose, and drama. The class provides opportunities for the students to communicate and respond to their writing through a variety of dramatic experiences: tableaux, improvisations, role-playing, storytelling, oral interpretation, and readers' theatre. Students will experience a comfortable environment where they can share, explore, and create. The course is an elective for 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

FORENSICS – This class is an advanced speech course recommended for students who may be interested in individual or group competition outside of school, although it is not required. Research, interpretation, presentation, evaluation and coaching sessions are offered in public address categories such as informative, oratory, impromptu, extemporaneous, and broadcast speaking as well as in oral interpretation events such as prose, poetry, drama, humor, and children's literature. The course also includes units that focus on interpersonal communication, problem solving, and small group dynamics. This course can substitute for the COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE semester course required in 10th grade. Juniors and seniors may take it as an elective.

MODERN FICTION – The reading and study of novels, including the basic elements and techniques of fiction: plot, characterization, theme, tone, point of view, and setting. This course also includes a substantial amount of student writing. Intended for students who are interested in reading, discussing, and working with quality fiction and in writing some works of their own. Offered only to 11th and 12th grade students proficient in reading and writing.

MODERN NONFICTION – Students read a variety of nonfiction pieces including essays, journals, news articles, autobiographies, and biographies, some of which incorporate film study as well.

The course includes vocabulary study, practice in various writing techniques, including research, and mechanics. Intended for juniors and seniors who need an elective giving further training in reading and writing skills. Students who are fairly competent in these skills should not enroll.

WORLD LITERATURE – Designed for students who have completed CRITICAL READING AND WRITING and COMMUNICATION AND CULTURE. World Literature is an elective course that introduces students to long works from five non-Western cultures, spanning from antiquity to the present day. Students will read a variety of literary forms, including the epic poem, the novel, the short story, poetry, the modern drama, and the narrative. The course focuses on reading, class discussion, and student response in the form of written assignments, tests, and presentations.

Family and Consumer Sciences

All courses offered are elective and are gender neutral.

SKILLS FOR LIVING – Introductory course to all Family and Consumer Science classes. Units offered include clothing construction, communication and relationship skills, consumerism, practical living, food prep, and nutrition. In-class projects include sewing a sweatshirt, cooking labs, breakfast project, building personal awareness and self-esteem, and making new friends. Intended for 9th and 10th graders.

CLOTHING CONSTRUCTION – This course is intended for all levels of ability from an avid seamstress to someone with no experience at all. Students learn a variety of basic sewing skills including hand sewing on buttons, putting in zippers, and attaching waistbands. In addition, students will develop skills using a serger and altering existing clothing. Major projects involve creating a top and bottom garment of the student's choice and altering old clothes to fit better. This class is open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students.

FOODS AND NUTRITION – This course is intended to provide students with the information necessary to develop life-long healthy eating habits. Topics include understanding cooking terms, equipment, reading recipes, accurate measurement of ingredients, and proper knife skills. Implementation of the new Food Pyramid Guide and practicing safe food preparations skills will also be examined. Highlights: Cooking labs, vegetable campaign, diet and nutrition analysis, meal management projects, and in-class taste testing days. The course is open only to 10th, 11th, and 12th graders.

RELATIONSHIPS – This course is designed to guide students in learning about the complex world of relationships. Topics include discovering oneself, friendships, dating, engagement, sexuality, marriage, parental development, childbirth, and early childhood development. Major themes include guest speakers, self-portrait, cost of having a child project, prenatal development and birth videos, early childhood media and toy evaluations. Intended for 11th and 12th graders.

Fine Arts

For the Class of 2012 and following, two semesters of study in the Fine Arts will be required for graduation and to meet the new requirements of the Michigan Department of Education. Any two semesters of classes taken in the Fine Arts Department will fulfill that requirement.

MUSIC

ALL courses offered are elective full-year courses that meet five days per week, except as noted. Placement of students enrolling in performing groups is done with the advice and consent of the instructor. Non-credit organizations under the supervision of this department include: vocal ensembles, pep band, and instrumental ensembles.

FRESHMAN CHOIR – Students study and perform a variety of choral music.

WOMEN'S CHOIR – Students study and perform choral music for treble voices.

A CAPPELLA – Students further development of musicianship while studying and performing a variety of choral music.

CHAMBER CHORALE – Select group emphasizing the study and performance of choral music suitable for a smaller performance ensemble.

FRESHMAN BAND – Large ensemble emphasizing the development of musicianship of students in instrumental music.

CONCERT BAND – Large ensemble that continues development of musicianship of students in instrumental music

SYMPHONIC BAND – Large ensemble of selected musicians that study and perform major works of band repertoire.

JAZZ BAND – Ensemble experience in jazz studies, including review and performance of classic jazz forms. Meets 7th hour, 2 days/week.

CONCERT STRING ORCHESTRA - Large ensemble that emphasizes development of musicianship of string students.

SINFONIA – Large ensemble that continues development of musicianship of string students.

SYMPHONY STRINGS – Large ensemble that studies and performs major works of symphonic literature.

FULL ORCHESTRA – SYMPHONY STRINGS along with selected wind and percussion players study and perform larger orchestral works. Meets 7th hour, 2 days/week.

INTRODUCTION TO MUSIC TEACHING (Student Internship) – Students selected as interns will assist their lead teacher in the day-to-day operation of a music ensemble. Students will gain insight and practical experience in the psychological, spiritual, and physical aspects of music teaching. This opportunity is designed for senior students considering a career in music and is by permission of the instructor.

THEATRE ARTS

All courses offered are elective.

ACTING I – This class will introduce the student to the basic principles and techniques of performing, including vocal technique, pantomime, and improvisation. The students will have opportunities to perform in class with monologues, duo and group scenes, and through study of the various types of theatre styles.

ACTING II – In ACTING II, students continue developing skills developed in Acting I. There is much more emphasis on script work. This semester will include units on musical theatre, classical theatre and dialects, and the audition.

Prerequisite: ACTING I.

PRODUCTION I – This class will instruct students in the technical aspects of the theatre, including basic principles of set design, set construction, lighting, costume and makeup, sound, special effects, and business practices. Students will have the opportunity to develop their own production during the year.

PRODUCTION II – In PRODUCTION II students take the basics learned in the first semester and apply them in different ways than just simple designs. This semester will include units on theatre criticism, play writing, and production management.

Prerequisite: PRODUCTION I.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN THEATRE – This class is geared for the serious student in his/her second year of theatre and beyond who wishes to study theatre much more intensely and guide his/her program. Students set their own program with guidance from the instructor, clearly defining personal objectives and goals. Students in these classes have the chance to work independently or in small groups, redefining their course of study every nine weeks. Students are required to include a research-based project. Some possible units: script writing, theatre history, directing, technical theatre onstage productions, playwright study, advanced acting/musical theatre. This class can be taken more than one semester. Permission of the instructor is required.

DANCE I – This class includes units in ballet and contemporary dance. Limited enrollment.

DANCE II – This class focuses on advanced instruction in ballet and contemporary dance. Permission of the instructor is required.

DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKING – Filmmaking begins with the power of visual composition and then adds the emotion of sound and the drama of movement, creating one of the most common and influential communication mediums of today. This course will focus on documentary film, exploring its types, elements, structure, and ethics. Students will also learn experientially by taking their own documentary project through research, scripting, filming, editing, and presentation.

VISUAL ART

All courses offered are elective.

INTRODUCTION TO ART – Basic introduction to the elements and principles of design as expressed in both two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects. This class is a prerequisite for all other Art Department courses.

DRAWING AND PAINTING – A studio class that concentrates on basic realistic drawing and painting techniques, although assignments in abstraction are given.
Prerequisite: INTRODUCTION TO ART.

ADVANCED DRAWING/PAINTING – This course is designed for junior and senior students who have a serious interest in the visual arts and can work well independently. In addition to assembling a portfolio, students are responsible for oral reports, gallery visits and a sketchbook. Prerequisites: INTRODUCTION TO ART and DRAWING AND PAINTING (or departmental approval).

CLAY – A studio class that concentrates on hand-built clay methods and glazing techniques.
Prerequisite: INTRODUCTION TO ART.

PRINTMAKING AND DESIGN - A studio class that concentrates on basic printmaking techniques, including collagraph, linoleum, and woodcut. Several design projects in media other than printmaking will also be explored.
Prerequisite: INTRODUCTION TO ART.

VISUAL ARTS DESIGN - A team-taught course where each student will be introduced to principles and elements of design. Students will understand a design loop and apply it to several design problems in the technology computer lab and the visual arts room. A wide variety of design careers will be presented. This course will be divided into three-week sessions. Prerequisite for freshmen and sophomores: INTRO-TECH or INTRODUCTION TO ART. Students who register for TECH COMM DESIGN or VISUAL ARTS DESIGN are enrolled in the same course. This course may be taken only once.

Foreign Language

All courses offered are electives and open to all students. However, students who plan to attend college are strongly encouraged to take at least two years of a foreign language. Contact the college you plan to attend for specific details. Any of the classes listed below may be offered as a modified foreign language class to help students meet the new requirements of the Michigan Department of Education. The modified course is intended for students who struggle with language arts skills. The language offered will be determined by student demand. Departmental approval will be a prerequisite for admission into this course. All travel and exchange opportunities will also be available to these students.

FRENCH I-VIII – The goal of all French classes is meaningful communication. Students will first learn to speak and understand French in very basic settings. Later they will supplement this with readings and web activities designed to enhance cultural awareness along with writing letters and paragraphs appropriate to their level of study. The entire program is enhanced through the use of video and language lab tapes to expose students to native speakers of all ages.

GERMAN I-VIII – Students will begin their study of German much like they learned English as children: they will concentrate on understanding and using spoken language while building a broad, useful vocabulary base. They will gradually build reading and writing competence, moving from word to sentence to paragraph and to story mastery levels throughout the four-year study. Integral to the instruction is use of audio and visual materials that communicate cultural values as well as language instruction. An exchange program has been established with a partner school in Hamburg, Germany.

LATIN I-IV – The Latin courses teach basic fundamentals of Latin grammar and syntax with emphasis on vocabulary study and the interrelationship of English and Latin sentence structure. Students are expected to attain fluency in both reading and writing skills. Appreciation for Rome’s significant contributions to Western thought and culture receives some emphasis, but the course focuses primarily on developing proficiency in language skills.

SPANISH I-VIII – In our Spanish courses, we emphasize the importance of communications and fluency in listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. We also focus on cultural concepts including social customs, geography, significant historical events, outstanding contributions in the fields of art and literature, and important personalities. We use multimedia and other technology, the internet, and stories from native speakers to enhance these programs.

SPANISH IX-X – This fifth-year class studies the art, music, and film of different Spanish-speaking countries. Emphasis will be on utilizing language skills outside the classroom in the Grand Rapids community.

Pre-requisite: Completion of or concurrent enrollment in fourth-year SPANISH.

Mathematics

Four semesters of mathematics (six semesters for Class of 2012 and following) are required in grades 9 through 12.

ALGEBRA I and II – The student will study the real number system involving generalizations and symbolic manipulation. Topics include: integers; properties of real numbers; methods of solving equations, inequalities, and linear systems; polynomial computation, simplification, and factoring; coordinate and linear graphing; percentage; and introductory units in statistics and probability. Emphasis is placed on relating topics and linking learning to real life situations. Use of graphing calculators is included whenever possible. The pacing of topics and the style of presentation are appropriate to the learner.

ALGEBRA I- and II-ENHANCED – The student will study the real number system emphasizing generalizations and extensive symbolic manipulation. Topics include: integers; properties of real numbers; methods of solving equations, inequalities, and linear systems; polynomial computation, simplification, and factoring; coordinate and linear graphing; percentage; and introductory units in statistics and probability. Verbal problem applications are included in all units where applicable. Emphasis is placed on student-directed learning as well as mastery of the laws and algorithms of algebra.

GEOMETRY I and II – The student will study properties, mathematical relationships, and proofs; improve skill in drawing, visualizing, and following algorithms; use geometric ideas in real situations; and represent geometric concepts with coordinates, networks, or other diagrams. The pacing of topics and the style of presentation are appropriate to the learner.

Prerequisite: ALGEBRA I and II.

GEOMETRY I- and II-ENHANCED – The student will study properties, mathematical relationships and proofs; improve skill in drawing, visualizing, and following algorithms; use geometric ideas in real situations; and represent geometric concepts with coordinates, networks, or other diagrams. This course emphasizes reading, problem solving, and student-directed learning.

Prerequisite: ALGEBRA I- and II-ENHANCED.

INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA I and II – This course includes a comprehensive review of procedures and concepts learned in ALGEBRA I and II, here studied in more depth. Topics include: functions notation, graphing, polynomial and exponential functions, solving equations and inequalities, systems of equations, triangle trigonometry, and statistical models of data. The pacing of topics and the style of presentation are appropriate to the learner.

Prerequisite: GEOMETRY I and II.

ADVANCED ALGEBRA I and II – This course is an extension of the algebra concepts learned in ALGEBRA I- and II-ENHANCED. Topics include: sequences and series, matrices, systems of equations,

functions and function notations, exponential and logarithmic functions, an introduction to trigonometry, mathematical models of data, complex numbers, introduction to fractals and their applications. This course emphasizes reading, problem solving, and student-directed learning. Prerequisite: GEOMETRY I- and II-ENHANCED or INTERMEDIATE ALGEBRA I and II.

FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS, AND TRIGONOMETRY I and II – Students will study the theory, application, and modeling of linear, quadratic, higher order, power, exponential, logarithmic, and circular functions, and of sequences and series. Statistics topics include: data collection, measures of center and dispersion, distribution, correlation, line and curve fitting, permutations, combinations, and probability. The trigonometry portion of the course covers graphs and properties of trigonometric functions, laws of sine and cosine, unit circle relationships, and trigonometric identities. Prerequisite: ADVANCED ALGEBRA I and II.

STATISTICS AP I and II – Topics in data analysis, probability, and statistics are presented. Topics include measures of center and dispersion, variance, distribution, samples, plots, curve fitting, regression lines, correlation, probability, and inference. Focus is placed on preparation for the national AP Statistics exam.

Prerequisites: PRE-CALCULUS I and II or FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS, AND TRIGONOMETRY I and II.

PRE-CALCULUS I and II – This course includes the study of linear, quadratic, higher order polynomial, exponential and logarithmic, and trigonometric functions; unit circle and triangle trigonometry; analytic geometry; polar coordinates and graphs; sequences and series and their limits; combinatorics, probability, and statistics.

Prerequisite: FUNCTIONS, STATISTICS, AND TRIGONOMETRY I and II.

CALCULUS AP I and II – In this course students will explore, define, and understand the meaning of and relationship between the derivative and the integral of various functions. Students will work with functions represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. Students will learn to model problem situations with functions, differential equations, and integrals, and will communicate this data in oral and written form.

Prerequisite: PRE-CALCULUS I and II and departmental recommendation.

SENIOR STATISTICS AND APPLIED MATHEMATICS – This course includes a study of statistics, probability, finance, and other applied mathematical concepts. Enrollment is open only to seniors with department recommendation.

Prerequisites: INTERMEDIATE or ADVANCED ALGEBRA I and II.

Physical Education

Two semesters of Physical Education are required for all 9th graders. Beginning with the Class of 2012, an additional one-semester elective course is required for graduation.

P.E. 9-I HEALTH AND FITNESS – This course will incorporate both intellectual and physical units in human health, fitness, CPR, and First Aid. The CPR unit will include instruction, testing, and certification. The fitness aspect may include but not limited to the Bigger, Faster, Stronger program, aerobic activities, cross training, circuit training, excellence for athletes, etc.

Ninth grade students must select one of the following two courses for second semester:

P.E. 9-II TEAM ACTIVITIES & FITNESS – The emphasis will be on team activities that fall under the categories of invasion sports, net/wall sports, and striking/field sports, along with some exposure to health-related activities.

P.E. 9-II INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITIES & FITNESS – The emphasis will be on individual activities that fall under the categories of net/wall sports, rhythmic activities, target sports activities, and outdoor pursuits, along with some exposure to health-related activities.

P.E. Electives:

BODY MECHANICS AND FITNESS I – Students are expected to actively participate in body and health development through weight training and fitness exercises.

Prerequisite: P.E. 9-I

BODY MECHANICS AND FITNESS II – This course continues the development of the body and health through weight training and fitness exercise.

Prerequisite: “B” grade or better in BODY MECHANICS AND FITNESS I.

TEAM SPORTS – Participation in team activities, including but not limited to: flag football, soccer, speedball, volleyball, basketball, ultimate Frisbee, and floor hockey.

Prerequisite: P.E. 9-II.

LIFETIME SPORTS AND FITNESS – Active participation in team activities, including but not limited to: racquetball, badminton, pickle ball, star ball, eclipse ball, Frisbee golf, and fitness training.

Prerequisite: P.E. 9-II.

FITNESS AND CONDITIONING I-IV – This course is designed for all students. The course implements the use of two programs: Bigger, Faster, Stronger and Better, Faster, Stronger.

Prerequisite: P.E. 9-I.

PHILOSOPHY OF COACHING – This course covers the fundamental rules, techniques, and the philosophy of coaching a variety of sports from the Christian perspective.

Religion

All courses are required for graduation except for BIBLICAL STUDIES.

BIBLICAL SURVEY (9th grade) – This introductory course integrates the themes and ideas that run through the whole Bible. One course focus is to foster the ability to see God at work in biblical history as well as in our own lives. God has much to say to the world with so many questions about life, truth, and salvation. Another focus is on the Old Testament as it sets the stage for the Good News of Jesus Christ as Lord in the New Testament.

HOW THEN SHALL WE LIVE (10th grade) – The focus of this course is on applications of key biblical teaching to all areas of life. Students are taught to think biblically and make decisions about life situations such as drug and alcohol use, human sexuality, honesty and integrity, and other adolescent issues. Students also will develop a sermon based on a biblical text. Students will understand the Reformed Christian worldview as compared to other worldviews.

CHRISTIANITY AND WORLD RELIGIONS (11th grade) – This class focuses on the history of Christianity and the beliefs of other world religions. After looking into Judaism, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism and comparing their beliefs and practices to Christianity, the course presents a thoughtful defense, or apologetic, of Christian belief in light of Christian history. Of particular importance is the question of how our faith relates to these other faiths. The course ends by looking into various cults or new religious movements.

CHRISTIAN WORLDVIEW (12th grade) – This course provides an understanding of worldview development and then looks at various contemporary worldviews. After looking specifically at a range of modern and postmodern belief structures, the course examines the Christian worldview with specific attention given to the Reformed Christian perspective. Students will confront critical questions such as who we are and what kind of world we live in, will probe issues such as the brokenness of our society, and will consider the ways to bring redemption to our fallen world. The course culminates with a final project that asks students to engage a controversial issue and analyze it through the lens of a Christian worldview.

BIBLICAL STUDIES – Does the Bible make sense? What is it really all about? This course considers these questions, major themes in the Bible, as well as some of the issues of biblical interpretation and how these impact our lives. Generally, this class is an elective but may be substituted for a core course in special cases.

Science

Four semesters (six semesters, beginning with Class of 2012) of Science are required for graduation. All 9th graders must take one year of PHYSICAL SCIENCE. All 10th graders must take one year of BIOLOGY.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE I and II – An introductory lab course in general science with an emphasis on an introduction to chemistry and physics. Topics covered form a foundation for continued study in the sciences.

PHYSICAL SCIENCE I- and II-HONORS – An introductory lab course in general science with an introduction to chemistry and physics. Topics covered will be similar to Physical Science I and II, but taught in greater depth and complexity. Admission to the course will be determined with middle school /high school science department recommendations.

BIOLOGY I and II – A lab course in biological science. Topics include ecology; cell biology; genetics; and taxonomy, structure, and function of plants, animals, and humans.
Prerequisite: Departmental approval and PHYSICAL SCIENCE I and II.

BIOLOGY I- and II-ENHANCED – A lab course in biological science. Topics include ecology; cell biology; genetics; and taxonomy, structure, and function of plants, animals, and humans. These topics are similar to the topics covered in Biology; however, the topics will be covered in greater depth and pace.
Prerequisite: PHYSICAL SCIENCE I and II.

BIOLOGY I- and II- HONORS – The topics are similar to the topics covered in BIOLOGY ENHANCED; however, topics are covered in greater depth and pace. An application process through the Science Department determines admissibility.
Prerequisite: PHYSICAL SCIENCE I and II.

CHEMISTRY I and II – An inquiry- and lab-based course that investigates the properties of matter, studies changes that occur in our world, and explores reasons for these properties and changes. Teacher/department recommendation required for enrollment in this class.
Prerequisite: BIOLOGY I- and II- ENHANCED or BIOLOGY I and II.

CHEMISTRY I- and II-ENHANCED – This course includes emphasis on the molecular structure of the universe, bonding, and the interactions between chemicals. Lab work is an important part of the course. Experiences in the lab are used to illustrate basic principles and to develop skills with lab equipment.
Prerequisite: GEOMETRY I and II and BIOLOGY I- AND II-ENHANCED.

CHEMISTRY AP I and II – An advanced-level course with an accelerated pace intended for those students who wish to take the Advanced Placement test and possibly receive college credit. Students with an overall GPA of 3.67 or higher who have completed BIOLOGY I- and II-ENHANCED are invited to apply for permission to enroll in this course. Forms are available from the department or a counselor. The department recommends concurrent enrollment in ADVANCED ALGEBRA I and II or higher-level math courses. Concurrent enrollment required in CHEMISTRY AP-LAB, which meets 2 days/week during 7th hour.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE – A study of how nature works and how things in nature are interconnected. The major theme for the course is sustainability and how it relates to topics such as ecology, biodiversity, resources, environmental quality, and human societies.

PHYSICS I and II – A lab study of the science that describes and explains motion, energy, waves, sound, light, electricity, electromagnetism, and atomic physics. Intended for 11th and 12th grade students.

PHYSIOLOGY – A study of human body systems and functions with special emphasis on material related to careers in medicine and health. Intended for 11th and 12th grade students.

Social Studies

Six semesters of Social Studies are required for graduation. All students must take WORLD CULTURES as 9th graders. AMERICAN HISTORY-20th CENTURY I and II are also required. All students must take AMERICAN GOVERNMENT in 11th grade.

WORLD CULTURES – A study of world cultures including comparisons of Western and non-Western traditions.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT – A comprehensive study of government and politics with a concentration on the United States. The study includes an overview of various aspects of political science, in depth study of the election process, and the structure and function of our national government. Projects underscore through first-hand experience the importance of government in daily life and participation.

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT AP I and II - A comprehensive two-semester course that studies government and politics in scope, depth, and complexity. This course will cover topics in philosophy, theory, constitutional history, political culture, elections and campaigns, governmental institutions, and public policies. Completion of this course will meet the GRCHS Government course requirement plus one elective course. Students going into 11th and 12th grade with a 3.5 GPA in Social Studies may apply to department for admission through their counselors or a department teacher.

AMERICAN HISTORY-20th CENTURY I – A survey course of American History beginning with Industrialization and ending with The Great Depression.

AMERICAN HISTORY-20th CENTURY II – A survey course of American History beginning with World War II to the present.

ECONOMICS – An introductory study of macro and micro economics. The main emphasis will be on economic systems, markets, personal finance, and U.S. economic policy. Students will be required to apply economic principles to topics such as: gambling, immigration, globalization, poverty, and a host of other social issues.

EUROPEAN HISTORY AP I and II – A survey of European history from 1450 to the present, this course covers in depth and complexity a range of topics including politics, culture, economics, philosophy, science, and technology. Strong skills in writing, reading and comprehension are required. Students in 11th and 12th grade with GPA of 3.7 in Social Studies courses are invited to apply for admission to the course through their counselor or a department teacher. Department recommends completion of WORLD CULTURES, AMERICAN HISTORY, and WESTERN CIVILIZATION courses.

GLOBAL ISSUES – A study of current issues and concerns within the global community focusing on the historical context and future prospects. The course will look at issues from various global and cultural perspectives in order to enlighten and expand the student's ability to view events and issues with sensitivity and respect toward God's diverse creation.

INTRODUCTION TO LAW – An introductory course designed to provide students with an understanding of the U.S. legal system and various components of both criminal and civil law. Case studies and current events help enrich the course and bring the subjects into greater focus. Intended for 9th and 10th graders.

PSYCHOLOGY – An introductory course designed to provide students with a general understanding of the principles of psychology such as: neuroscience, nature and nurture, human development, personality, and abnormal behavior. For 12th graders only.

SOCIOLOGY – This course emphasizes the study of the dynamics of individual and group relationships. A key focus will be on the effect of cultural trends and development on individuals.

WESTERN CIVILIZATION – A survey of western civilization (Egypt, Greece, and Rome) from ancient cultures through the French Revolution including how Western and North American civilizations, thought, and development have been shaped and influenced by non-Western cultures.

Miscellaneous

PARENT-EXCUSED HOUR – Parents of seniors may make a written request for their son or daughter to have a parent-excused hour.

EDUCATIONAL INTERNSHIP – This course allows students hands-on teaching experience and gives students a valuable addition to a college application or résumé. Students attend orientation meetings, tutor individuals or small groups, and job shadow. This course is open to 10th, 11th, and 12th grade students, with the approval of the Educational Support Services (ESS) department.

STANDARDIZED TEST PREPARATION – Opportunity for 11th grade students to overview and prepare for ACT, SAT and MEAP tests. Offered during the first semester for credit. Meets 2 days/week for nine weeks during 7th hour.