



WESTLAKE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

High School
Course Catalog
2024–25

Bible

Apologetics / 2 semesters / ½ credit per semester

Normally taken during freshman or sophomore year, in this course students start with an introduction to bibliology as the foundation for apologetics. Students develop skills to defend the uniqueness, accuracy, and trustworthiness of the Bible; followed by a defense of the claims of Jesus Christ and his finished work on the cross and subsequent resurrection. They then explore several other areas of apologetics (“the Big Questions”) including cults and world religions, reconciling science and Scripture, and the problem of evil.

Theology / 1 semester / ½ credit / 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. Students develop a systematic understanding of five major doctrines: bibliology, theology proper, ecclesiology, pneumatology, and angelology. Various evangelical viewpoints are discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

Theology 2 / 1 semester / ½ credit / 9th or 10th Grade

Freshman or sophomore year. In this second part to Theology, students develop a systematic understanding of four major doctrines: anthropology, hamartiology, soteriology, eschatology. Various evangelical viewpoints are also discussed evenhandedly with supporting biblical texts.

Torah / 1 semester / ½ credit / 11th Grade

The goal of this course is for students to grow in their ability to responsibly read and interpret the Bible for themselves. This course emphasizes interpreting the Torah as divine-human literature. In other words, the books of the Bible should be read according to their ancient literary and historical context and simultaneously with the conviction God speaks authoritatively through these books to us today. In the Torah, students learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy. We will wrestle through their ancient message and together work out their ongoing significance for us today.

The Prophets / 1 semester / ½ credit / 11th Grade

In this course, students build on the goal introduced in the Torah course. They will learn how to engage the unique genre and historical context of some of the minor and major

prophets (e.g. Hosea, Joel, Isaiah and Jeremiah). Our aim will be to put ourselves as much as possible into the position of those who first heard these scriptures. We will regularly ask in class, what did this mean for its first audience? The Torah and Prophets form the key foundation block for understanding the entire Old Testament and the New Testament. By immersing themselves in the narratives, themes, images and symbols of these books students will be better positioned to live their lives as a participant in God's redemption story.

Luke-Acts / 1 semester / ½ credit / 12th Grade

Students study through Luke's two-part history. As they study his Gospel, emphasis will be placed on the Son of Man, His humanity, His crucifixion, and the implications of the Gospel for our lives. This is followed by (in Acts) Christ's ascension, the birth of the Church, the work of the Holy Spirit, and the spreading of the Gospel. Open discussion, understanding, critical thinking, a vibrant faith, and unity in the Spirit will be encouraged and particular attention paid to personal Bible study skills.

Romans & Revelation / 1 semester / ½ credit / 12th Grade

Students do a systematic study in "the most excellent treatise on the Gospel"—Romans—surveying topics like sin, atonement, baptism, predestination, tolerance, authority and more. Students will be pushed to come to their own, supported, conclusions on these and other theological questions. Our study in Romans will be followed by a survey of the apocalyptic book of Revelation. Students will explore different views of the book and their interpretations, ultimately coming back to how the message of Revelation informs and shapes our faith here and now. During Bible 12, students will commit significant time to preparing for a cross-cultural mission trip.

Introduction to Life Calling / Dual Credit / 1 semester / ½ high school credit / 3 college credits through Ohio Christian University / 11th or 12th Grade

Open only to juniors and seniors, *Introduction to Life Calling* assists students in discovering the concept of life calling in a holistic and faith-based setting by focusing on one's God-given design as the basis for this calling. Students are led to understand how vocation is best understood from a life-calling perspective. They will focus on more than just a career; they will evaluate their foundational values, unique design, and personal mission and be challenged to integrate this into their life. During the semester, students will take the IMAGE spiritual gifting assessment and the IMAGE Career Compatibility Profile as they explore their own choice of vocation. The fee for the dual credit option is set annually by the university awarding the credits.

English

English 9 Creative Writing and Storytelling / 2 semesters / 1 credit

This course creates a foundational understanding of the English language storytelling and poetic tradition through breaking down the components into manageable units on: Characters and Archetypes, Plots, Settings, Narrative structure, Dialogue, and Poetry. Throughout this course students will discuss, analyze, and compose stories and poetry that exemplifies different aspects of creative writing and ultimately they will compose their own collection of short stories, a short novel, or a portfolio of poetry based on what they learn throughout the year. They will also be exposed to the mechanics of grammar as a “tool” in their collection for composition. They will follow a process based structure for their compositions and be walked through all the steps of composing researched essays and projects; all through a Biblical lens that asks the question “Why and how do we tell stories?”

English 10 World Literature / 2 Semesters / 1 Credit

This course expands on what was taught in 9th grade by using the different aspects of stories to discuss and analyze different time periods of literature. Students will engage with different stories from around the world that use similar narrative techniques in order to understand the cross-cultural value of storytelling and its worldwide effect on communication. They will be introduced to the idea of a universal story that can be found across national divides, along with the Christ narrative as the ultimate Hero's Journey and seeing God's story from a Literary perspective. Engaged learners will analyze literature through specific “lenses” to understand what components are shared cross-culturally and what components are unique to certain cultures.

English 11: American Literature (2 semesters, 1 Credit)

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout America's history, starting with the prehistoric oral traditions of Native Americans and ending with more modern classics from the 20th century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the experiences of Americans across time and how that allows us to recognize how past and present are connected.

English 12: British Literature (2 semesters, 1 Credit)

This course examines literary works that stretch throughout Britain's history, starting with Celtic and Anglo-Saxon oral traditions and ending with more modern classics from the 20th century. Over the course of the year, students will strive to not only strengthen their reading and writing skills, but also their ability to analyze and critically evaluate literary works through a Christian worldview. Emphasis will be placed on independent work, small group collaboration, and class discussions as the primary means of facilitating academic growth. Students will also strive to deepen their personal understanding of how literature reflects the values and beliefs of a culture and how that allows us to connect with those from the past, recognizing similarities and differences between life then and now.

Speech / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course covers the foundational elements of speaking in an effective and God-honoring manner. Students will explore excellent and historical speakers and speeches, and they will be provided with weekly opportunities to practice their own oratory skills. Types of speeches given include storytelling, persuasive and apologetics, demonstration, informative, job interviews, humorous, and impromptu, as well as giving a speech using a presentation app. This is an English elective and cannot be taken in lieu of a required English course.

Math

Algebra I / typically 8th grade / 2 semesters / typically not for high school credit

Prerequisite – Pre-algebra

Algebra is a foundational mathematics course that introduces students to the language of algebra and its practical applications. Throughout the course, students will explore essential algebraic concepts such as solving linear equations and inequalities, working with polynomials, understanding functions, factoring, and analyzing quadratic equations. Emphasis will be placed on developing problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and mathematical reasoning, all of which are crucial for success in higher-level math and real-world applications.

Key topics include:

- Operations with real numbers
- Solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities
- Understanding and applying functions and relations
- Factoring expressions and solving quadratic equations
- Working with exponents, radicals, and rational expressions
- Exploring systems of equations and inequalities

Students will also use graphing techniques and technology tools to visualize mathematical concepts, enhance their understanding, and prepare for future courses like Geometry, Trigonometry, PreCalculus, and Calculus. By the end of the course, students will be equipped with the skills and confidence to tackle more advanced mathematics and use algebraic reasoning in everyday situations.

Geometry / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – Algebra I

****Course Title:**** High School Geometry

****Course Description:****

High School Geometry is a comprehensive course designed to develop students' understanding of geometric concepts and their applications. Throughout the course, students will explore the properties and relationships of shapes, sizes, and spatial reasoning in both two and three dimensions. Topics include points, lines, angles, parallelism, congruence, similarity, triangles, quadrilaterals, circles, and solid figures. Students will also delve into geometric proofs, coordinate geometry, and theorems such as the Pythagorean Theorem and the properties of polygons.

In addition to theoretical concepts, the course emphasizes problem-solving and logical reasoning, helping students to develop critical thinking skills. Real-world applications and connections to other areas of mathematics will also be explored, reinforcing the relevance of geometry in everyday life and in various fields of study. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in geometric reasoning, which will prepare them for further study in mathematics, science, and engineering.

Key topics include:

- Operations with real numbers
- Solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities
- Understanding and applying functions and relations
- Factoring expressions and solving quadratic equations
- Working with exponents, radicals, and rational expressions
- Exploring systems of equations and inequalities

This course is designed for all high school students, with varying levels of prior math experience, and prepares students for higher-level mathematics and standardized testing.

Algebra II / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – Algebra I

Algebra 2 is an advanced high school mathematics course that builds upon the concepts learned in Algebra 1. Students will deepen their understanding of algebraic principles and develop stronger problem-solving skills. The course focuses on functions and their properties, including linear, quadratic, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Students will explore systems of equations, inequalities, complex numbers, sequences and series, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on critical thinking, real-world applications, and the use of technology to solve problems. By the end of the course, students will be prepared for higher-level mathematics and ready to tackle challenges in fields such as science, engineering, and economics.

Key Topics:

- Functions and Relations
- Systems of Equations and Inequalities
- Polynomials and Rational Expressions
- Exponential and Logarithmic Functions
- Quadratic Functions and Complex Numbers
- Sequences and Series
- Probability and Statistics
- Matrices and Determinants

This course is designed to help students strengthen their algebraic skills, improve mathematical reasoning, and prepare for success in future math courses such as Precalculus and Calculus.

Pre-Calculus / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisites – Geometry, Algebra II

Precalculus is an advanced mathematics course designed to prepare students for the study of calculus and other higher-level mathematics. This course builds on concepts from algebra, geometry, and trigonometry, and introduces new topics essential for understanding the behavior of functions and their applications.

Students will explore a variety of mathematical functions, including linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and trigonometric functions. Emphasis will be placed on developing a deep understanding of function properties, transformations, and graphing techniques. In addition, students will study systems of equations, sequences and series, and the principles of mathematical modeling.

Key topics include:

- **Functions and Graphs:** Understanding the behavior of functions, including domain, range, and transformations.
- **Trigonometry:** The study of angles, the unit circle, trigonometric functions, and identities.
- **Polynomial and Rational Functions:** Analysis of zeros, factors, and asymptotes.
- **Exponential and Logarithmic Functions:** Applications of growth and decay, solving exponential equations, and the inverse relationship between exponential and logarithmic functions.
- **Sequences and Series:** Arithmetic and geometric sequences, summation notation, and an introduction to the binomial theorem.
- **Analytic Geometry:** Conic sections such as circles, ellipses, parabolas, and hyperbolas.
- **Vectors and Matrices:** Basic operations and applications of vectors in geometry and systems of equations.

Throughout the course, students will develop their problem-solving, critical thinking, and analytical skills. Graphing calculators and mathematical software tools may be used to enhance learning and facilitate exploration of complex concepts. Successful completion of Precalculus will provide students with a solid foundation for calculus and other advanced mathematical studies.

Calculus/ 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – Pre-Calculus

This course provides an introduction to the fundamental concepts of calculus, focusing on the study of rates of change and accumulation. Students will explore both differential and integral calculus, learning key concepts such as limits, derivatives, integrals, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Through a combination of theory, problem-solving, and real-world applications, students will develop a deeper understanding of how calculus is used to model and solve problems in fields such as physics, economics, engineering, and biology.

Topics covered include:

- *Limits and Continuity*
- *Derivatives and their applications*
- *Integration techniques and applications*
- *The Fundamental Theorem of Calculus*
- *Optimization and related rates*
- *Area under curves and applications to real-world problems*

The course emphasizes mathematical reasoning, critical thinking, and the use of technology for graphing and calculation. By the end of the course, students will have a solid foundation in calculus and be prepared for further studies in mathematics or related fields.

Statistics / 2 semesters / 1 credit/3 college hours

Co-requisite – Algebra II

High School Statistics is an engaging and practical course designed to introduce students to the foundational concepts and techniques used in analyzing data. Throughout the course, students will develop the skills necessary to collect, organize, interpret, and visualize data, and to make informed decisions based on statistical reasoning. Topics include descriptive statistics (measures of central tendency and variability), probability, sampling methods, statistical inference, correlation, and regression analysis.

Students will learn how to use technology, including graphing calculators and statistical software, to analyze real-world data sets. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking and understanding how statistics are used in everyday life, from making decisions based on surveys to interpreting data in the media. By the end of the course, students will be able to apply statistical methods to solve problems and communicate findings clearly and effectively.

This course is ideal for students interested in fields such as science, economics, social studies, business, and more. It also serves as an excellent foundation for advanced study in mathematics and data science.

Logic / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Logic studies the beginning laws of rational thought, the Syllogism, Venn Diagrams and informal fallacies. Students use conditional arguments, truth tables, and the theorems used in valid arguments. Students design logic circuits. Students apply the process to everyday situations around them.

See also **Applied Math & Science**.

Science

General Biology / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab

This course is designed to give students an overview of the study of biology for an understanding of the living physical world around them. The course is foundational for further, more specific biology courses. The study includes the history of biological science, the scientific method, basic chemistry, cytology, genetics, origins, and an examination of all six kingdoms. The subject demonstrates the design in the world and gives the student a sense of awe in the Designer. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses.

Chemistry / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab (Honors level is offered to students who complete units independently not covered within the general class)

The course is inorganic chemistry except for an introduction to organic chemistry as the last unit, which covers the standards of high school chemistry. The topics in this class include atomic structure, periodic table, electron configuration, chemical bonding, chemical formulas, stoichiometry, chemical equations, phases of matter, solutions, chemical kinetics, acid-base reactions. One unit is designed to introduce students to organic chemistry because of its use in Biology. The course goals are to fulfill science requirements and to prepare students for upper level high school science courses as well as college chemistry.

Applied Math & Science / 2 semesters / 1 credit

This course introduces students to some STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics) disciplines not covered in other Westlake courses. There are units in forensics, psychology, engineering & robotics, and previously unexplored areas of mathematics. Students will gain knowledge and skills of science and math through creative and collaborative discussion, labs, and projects. An emphasis is placed on real-world applications and examples. Students will be encouraged to grow in their appreciation of STEM and its beauty, creativity, challenge, practicality, and pervasiveness. This course may be taken for math or science credit.

Human Anatomy and Physiology (Honors level) / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – General Biology

This course follows the course in General Biology and focuses on the study of the human body. This study is more specific in the details (anatomy) and the function of the parts (physiology). Included are developmental, surface, regional, macroscopic,

microscopic, systemic, and comparative anatomy. The course makes use of experiments, identification, memorization, and interaction of the various structural parts. This study shows the intelligent complex design of the human body.

Physics / 2 semesters / 1 credit / includes lab / honors course option

Prerequisite – Algebra I

Physics is foundational to other sciences like chemistry, biology, earth science, and astronomy. This is a lab course in which practicality and concepts are emphasized, but calculations are also explored. Students do a survey through units in mechanics, forces, properties of matter, energy, heat, sound and light, electricity and magnetism, and the make up of atoms. Students will interact with each of these conceptually, mathematically, and empirically. One significant project is the design and construction of a Rube-Goldberg project.

Advanced Biology (Honors Level) / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – General Biology and Chemistry

This course content is more in-depth and greater expectation is placed upon interpretation and analysis of information than in General Biology. Topics include: Evolution (a thorough examination and understanding of the process of evolution from a Creationist viewpoint); Cellular Processes (Energy and Communication); Genetics and Information Transfer; Kingdom survey and Biological Interactions.

Social Studies

World History / 2 semesters / 1 credit

In this course students will be guided chronologically through the cultural, political and geographical landscape of the ancient world up through the 20th century. Students will examine ways in which people of the past have made sense of who we are and why we are here by reading and analyzing cultural artifacts such as selections from *The Epic of Gilgamesh*, *The Odyssey*, Plato's Dialogues, *The Confessions of St Augustine*, letters and documents from the Medieval Church in Europe and Asia, early Islamic texts, sermons of Martin Luther, The journal of Christopher Columbus, voices from the Atlantic Slave Trade, Nabeel Qureshi's *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, and others. Analytical reading and writing skills developed in Jr High will continue to be honed and applied in World History 9.

United States History / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Required for graduation, this is a one-year overview of the history of our nation from the Colonial period to the present, using a primarily chronological approach. Emphasis is placed on the political, social, and historical developments that have shaped our nation today. The course is designed to encourage thoughtful analysis of current policy challenges within the context of lessons that can be learned from our past national experiences. Classroom work is supplemented with debates, research, and a primary source analysis project.

American Government / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course provides an in-depth examination of American government as provided for in the Constitution. We begin with an investigation into the essential foundational questions of government such as, where does government come from? What is the job or purpose of government? What should the relationship between the church and the state look like? Is it ever appropriate to disobey the government? We then walk through the history and development of the United States Constitution, how it defines the purpose, roles and responsibilities of the legislative, executive and judicial branches, federalism and the Bill of Rights. We also give attention to how our cultural understanding of the Constitution and historical debate surrounding interpretation has changed. This course ends with an overview of the Illinois government and its relationship to the federal government.

Introduction to American Politics / 1 semester / ½ credit/ 3 college hours

Dual Credit Fee (Charged by CCU)

Political Science – Introduction to American Politics – taught in partnership with Colorado Christian University, is about politics, its practice and its study, its universal character and its character within the American constitutional order. Politics exists wherever man exists, because man is the political animal. He alone exercises rule—and offers justifications for it. The study of politics is bound up, intrinsically, then, with the study of human nature and its place within creation.

The course includes the U.S. Constitution test, required for graduation.

Foundations of Economics / 1 semester / ½ credit/ 3 college hours

Dual Credit Fee (Charged by CCU)

This one-semester survey of economics course focuses on the principles of the market system. Beginning with the interaction of the factors of production and the laws of supply and demand, students explore the American economic system, including the

various forms of business organization, money and banking, and the financial markets. They also explore the role of government in the economy as the Congress and the Federal Reserve formulate and apply fiscal and monetary policies, and respond to the challenges of a global economy.

The course includes the Illinois Constitution test, required for graduation.

Consumer Education and Intro to Life Skills / 1 semester / ½ credit

Consumer Education introduces students to the basics of personal finances. Students will learn how to put together a household budget, keeping track of income, expenses and cash flow. We will understand the various kinds of loans available to consumers, including credit cards and personal loans. Students will also develop an understanding of key consumer products and services such as purchasing and maintaining vehicles, housing, and various kinds of insurance. We will gain an understanding of the structure, language and major forms of federal and state taxes. All throughout the course we will maintain a constant conversation about how the Bible informs the way we think about and use money. This course includes an introduction to life skills that can help young adults succeed outside of the classroom. These life skills could include introductions to skills such as car maintenance, how to find and apply for an apartment, hosting a party/event, marriage and family planning, sewing a button, how to find a job, resume writing and more. This course meets the Illinois State Board of Education graduation requirement.

Current Events / 1 semester/ ½ credit

This semester-long, 11th and 12th grade course trains students in the habits of responsible and effective use of digital information in order to discern the details and significance of current events. Students will learn to evaluate the reliability and usefulness of information online by skillfully answering three core questions: who is behind the source, what evidence does the source use, what do other sources say?¹ Throughout the semester students will engage in two major research projects, one on a nation of their choice and the other on a domestic issue of their choice. They will implement media literacy skills by working as “local correspondents” for the class on their particular nation and domestic issue. Students will give regular briefings and reports to the class about their research on these two projects culminating in a final cumulative portfolio of their work and formal presentation to the class. In addition to these individual projects, students will investigate the recent history of key nations among six continents in order to better contextualize current events.

¹ These questions were developed in conjunction with a series of lesson plans from the Stanford Education Group. Westlake’s Current Events Course makes use of many of their Civic Online Reasoning lessons. More information can be found at <https://cor.stanford.edu/>

Western Civilizations (Dual Credit) / 1 semester / ½ credit / 3 college hours

Dual Credit (optional) = \$200

This college-level course is offered in partnership with Colorado Christian University (HIS 185). The study of the history of Western Civilization is central to a liberal arts education. This course covers the historical development of Western Civilization from its emergence in the Middle East through to the end of the seventeenth century. The nature and origin of Western political, social, and religious thought will be covered, as well as key individuals, events, values, and ideas.

The Rise of the Modern World (Dual Credit) / 1 semester / ½ credit / 3 college hours

Dual Credit (optional) = \$200

This college-level course is offered in partnership with Colorado Christian University (HIS 186). A study of the political, social, economic, intellectual, and religious developments in Europe from the 16th century and the impact of the West as it expanded its influence around the world. The course will explore key developments in Europe from the 16th through 19th centuries and the impacts of those developments around the world. Students will gain an understanding of the events and ideas of this time period through a global perspective. The course will highlight the ways empire was imagined and perceived by various people, both in the metropole and abroad. It is designed to cover important issues in World History not covered in the Western Civ course. As a course required for History and Global Studies majors, an emphasis will be placed on reading critically and writing using primary and secondary source evidence. In this course, we will seek to engage with all human beings – no matter the period in which they lived – from a Christian perspective of human nature.

Spanish

Spanish language instruction focuses on reading, writing, grammar, listening, speaking and learning about the cultures of Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish I / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite / none

Students will learn and apply new vocabulary related to greetings, school, family, pastimes and vacations. Students will form simple sentences using the present tense, number and gender agreement, and correct verb conjugations. Students will create an All About Me powerpoint presentation and read books like Pobre Ana and Patricia va a California. Instruction is a combination of Spanish and English.

Spanish II / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – Spanish I

Students will build on Spanish 1 and learn new vocabulary related to shopping, daily routines, food and celebrations. Students will form sentences using the preterite tense, object pronouns, and reflexive verbs. Students will create powerpoint presentations and read individual books throughout the year. Students are encouraged to speak as much as possible in Spanish. Grammar instruction is in English.

Spanish III / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite – Spanish II (earning at least a B) and teacher recommendation.

Students will learn new vocabulary related to a visit to the doctor, technology, housing, nature and city life. Students will write paragraphs using imperfect, imperative and subjunctive tenses, adverbs and past participles. The students will read *Agentes Secretos* and create a powerpoint presentation on a theme related to the book. They will also read *El Viaje Perdido* and other individual books throughout the year. Students are encouraged to speak predominantly in Spanish. Grammar instruction is in Spanish and English.

Spanish IV / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Prerequisite - Spanish III (earning at least a B) and teacher recommendation.

Students will learn new vocabulary words related to health and fitness, the workforce, fine arts and current events. Students will write and perform original skits using new vocabulary. Students will write multiple paragraphs using advanced verb tenses (subjunctive, perfect, future, and conditional). Students will read *Rival* and an abridged version of *Don Quixote* and create powerpoint presentations on themes related to the books. Students will also read the Gospel of John and individual books throughout the year. Students will prepare for a mission trip to a Spanish speaking country by writing testimonies, skits, learning songs and preparing games. The class is conducted in Spanish.

Technology

Computer Graphics / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course introduces basic techniques used in creating and modifying images using Adobe Photoshop™. Students master various graphics tools while creating, enhancing, and manipulating free-hand images and photographs in this project-based course.

Computer Aided Design / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course explores the use of CAD software for engineering applications using Solidworks™. Students learn the basics of three-dimensional CAD while constructing a model of a mechanical device. The course introduces many of the principles of mechanical drawing, and reinforces concepts of plane and solid geometry.

DH Introduction to Programming / 1 semester / ½ credit

This one semester project-based course provides a solid foundation in basic programming concepts, using Python. These concepts are the same or very similar to those needed to work in almost any programming language, and include writing properly formatted code that stores and makes accessible to users collections of data in an efficient and user-friendly manner. In the latter part of the course, students will apply the concepts they have mastered to create a simple video game, to build a program that facilitates analysis and graphing of collected data, and to create a web app.

Tech and Production / 1 semester / ½ credit

Tech & Production is intended to be an entry level course into the philosophy, skills, and tools widely used in producing, recording, streaming, and sharing events. These would include chapels, assemblies, concerts, and more. Students will learn how to set up and operate basic tools for sound amplification, light production, video recording and editing, and discuss the philosophy behind their effective use. A significant portion of class time will be devoted to practicing with the equipment. It is expected that students will be available to participate in multiple events throughout the semester, including some in the evenings.

Fine Arts

Concert Band / 7th – 12th grades / 2 semesters / 0.8 credit***Prerequisite – Intermediate Band***

Concert Band is for students having acquired the skills necessary to play music at an upper junior high to senior high school level, as determined by the director. Students through 8th grade will typically receive one group lesson per week.

High School Vocal Ensemble / 9th – 12th grades / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Using a wide variety of musical styles from traditional to contemporary, students in our vocal ensemble develop their vocal skills while glorifying Christ and representing Westlake at school concerts and in a number of church and community activities.

Leadership and Worship / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Leadership and Worship course develops biblical understanding and skills in servant leadership, the theology and practice of worship, how to plan and prepare appropriate worship material, and the use of media and technology in worship. Students use their knowledge and skills while regularly leading worship in our weekly Upper School chapels. This course is normally restricted to juniors and seniors.

IA High School Orchestra / 2 semesters / ½ or 1 credit

Students will develop note-reading skills, aural skills, rhythmic patterns, intonation, scales, key signatures, music selection, and performance. Students will develop these skills through learning a String Instrument, which will include the VIOLIN, VIOLA, and CELLO, and DOUBLE BASS. Students will also be expected to perform at least twice during the school year. There is no prerequisite for this course.

Music Theory / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course is a teacher-guided independent study course exploring basic pitch and rhythm notation through interval relationships, and from major and minor scales through basic functional harmony and part-writing. Students will be provided with materials for study and practice and given time to work independently and individually with the instructor. There is no prerequisite for the course.

Music Appreciation / 1 semester / ½ credit

Students will examine the relationships between major philosophical movements in Western Civilization (such as the Enlightenment) and their expression in music from a Biblical worldview. The course provides an overview of each main movement or period from the Middle Ages through the present day with major examples from the music of the period, examined through an understanding of Scripture and broader historical context.

Art 1 / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Students will study the fundamental concepts and techniques in representational and

observational life drawing in a variety of art mediums such as graphite pencil, charcoal pencil, conte, soft pastels, oil pastels, and watercolor just to name a few. Skills will be practiced as students learn about the elements of art: The visual components of color, line, shape, form, space, tone, and value. These elements of art are essential building blocks that artists use to create their works. We will also focus on creativity and self-expression by exploring some abstract work including collage, 3-D relief art, non-representational art, and other mixed media creations. Contemporary and historical art perspectives and references related to the pieces we are working on will be woven in throughout the year. Fridays are designated “free art days” where students can explore new mediums and work on independent pieces. Participation in the ACSI art show is encouraged which includes writing an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

Art 2 / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Pre-requisite Art 1

Students will have more opportunities to practice and improve upon their skills. There will be more challenging assignments that will parallel what we learned in Art 1. Opportunities to repeat and refine skills with assignments that were done in Art 1 will be available. Fridays will still be designated “free art days” where students can explore new mediums and work on independent pieces. Participation in the ACSI art show is strongly encouraged which includes writing an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

Art 3 / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Pre-requisite Art 1 & 2

Students will transition into independent study. Students will be required to produce a minimum of two to three in-class independent studies every quarter. These independent studies must exhibit the seven elements of art that they have learned from Art 1 and Art 2. Students will have their choice of art medium for most pieces, but throughout the year they must have at least one drawing in graphite or charcoal and one in acrylic or watercolor. In addition, one still life will be required that all independent students will work on at the same time in addition to one self-portrait. Opportunities to work on what Art 1 and 2 students are doing in-class will also be open to you. Participation in the ACSI art show is strongly encouraged which includes an artist statement that your teacher can help you with.

Art 4 / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Pre-requisite Art 1, 2, & 3

Students will work on independent pieces in addition to one still life as well as one self-portrait. A minimum of two to three in-class pieces are required for every quarter;

medium choice is up to you. Opportunities to work on what Art 1 and 2 students are doing in class will also be available to you. Participation in the ACSI art show is expected which includes an artist statement. If you have plans to study art in college, your teacher can help you with portfolio development which should include original art from direct observation.

Physical Education & Health

Physical Education / 1 semester / ½ credit

The high school physical education course is scheduled in the ninth grade. The course is designed to meet various needs of the students at this age as follows: physical fitness development, social interaction, and various other physical, mental, and psychological needs. To do this the course will focus on a variety of topics related to physical fitness and various lifetime fitness activities. All of these are geared toward encouraging cardiovascular and respiratory improvement, muscle development, improved fitness level, teamwork, and motivation.

Health / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course meets the Illinois State Board of Education's graduation requirement as a one semester health course. The course is designed to study the Biblical Worldview of the 7 areas of total health: spiritual, mental, physical, environmental, occupational, emotional and social health. Curriculum units include God's creation in human development covering all systems of the body, how heredity impacts individual and community health, environmental health issues, diseases and disease prevention, substance abuse, safety, fitness, nutrition, basic understanding of mental health issues that teens face, sexual abstinence education, and Holy Sexuality. Some basic anatomy and physiology will be covered as it relates to overall health and disease prevention. Also covered are basic first aid and CPR skills.

Secondary Physical Education Elective / 1 semester / ½ credit

This one-semester course covers traditional PE games, lifetime sports & activities, and game invention/development. The course satisfies graduation requirements for those who do not qualify for sports participation credit.

Other Courses

College Preparation / 1 semester / ½ credit

This course guides students through the process of college planning by preparing them to take either the ACT or SAT tests as well as go through the steps necessary for college application and securing financial aid. Students receive an overview of entrance tests and their components. Different test taking tactics are learned as well as strategies to increase reading speed and comprehension. Each student takes a diagnostic exam at the beginning of the year to discover what aspects of the test most need to be studied for each individual student. Practice tests are also taken throughout the course for additional practice.

Yearbook / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Throughout this course, students will work to design and publish a yearbook that serves to commemorate the current school year, celebrate our students, staff, and school community, and bring God glory for His faithfulness. Students will work to gain a better understanding of the various elements that go into a project of this magnitude including photography, digital design, and marketing. Students will also have the opportunity to serve the student body through the creation and publication of video announcements and announcement slides.

Teacher Aide / 1 semester / ¼ credit

Being a teacher aide allows students to view school “from the other side” using a hands-on approach by actually working under the supervision of a teacher in a work environment. Students will be given a wide variety of duties which may include copying, grading papers, teaching lessons, tutoring students, running errands, etc. Teacher aides are very valuable to our teaching faculty. A student will daily log or journal the work they have done. Periodically their supervisor will review their performance. Grading typically covers soft skills like punctuality, attitude towards work, completing tasks, etc. This aide opportunity requires a high level of confidentiality and trust. Students who choose this elective will be required to sign a statement of understanding, expectations and confidentiality.

Special Services Internship / 2 semesters / 1 credit

Open to select juniors and seniors, this course provides aspiring educators an opportunity to work directly with elementary students who are receiving intervention and/or re-teaching support. Working under the guidance of the special services director

and in conjunction with classroom teachers, students in this course study the philosophy and application of research-based interventions, encourage younger children by using those interventions, and monitor progress. This is an ideal course for students who have an interest in education as a career. Students must apply for the course and be interviewed.

Current Events / 1 semester/ ½ credit

This semester-long, 11th and 12th grade course trains students in the habits of responsible and effective use of digital information in order to discern the details and significance of current events. Students will learn to evaluate the reliability and usefulness of information online by skillfully answering three core questions: who is behind the source, what evidence does the source use, what do other sources say?² Throughout the semester students will engage in two major research projects, one on a nation of their choice and the other on a domestic issue of their choice. They will implement media literacy skills by working as “local correspondents” for the class on their particular nation and domestic issue. Students will give regular briefings and reports to the class about their research on these two projects culminating in a final cumulative portfolio of their work and formal presentation to the class. In addition to these individual projects, students will investigate the recent history of key nations among six continents in order to better contextualize current events.

² These questions were developed in conjunction with a series of lesson plans from the Stanford Education Group. Westlake’s Current Events Course makes use of many of their Civic Online Reasoning lessons. More information can be found at <https://cor.stanford.edu/>