

25 • HIGH SCHOOL • 26  
COURSE CATALOG



GASTON  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

PREPARE *People*  
TEACH *Truth*  
GLORIFY *God*

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY .....	3
GRADING SCALE.....	5
GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS .....	6
COURSES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNC SYSTEM.....	6
NORTHSTAR ACADEMY ONLINE COURSES .....	7
POLICIES FOR NORTHSTAR ACADEMY ONLINE COURSES.....	7
COLLEGE NOW PROGRAM.....	8
POLICIES FOR COLLEGE NOW COURSES .....	8
GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2025-2026.....	9
EXPLANATION OF COURSE TYPES.....	10
HONORS CLASSES.....	10
ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP).....	10
EXEMPTIONS .....	10
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS.....	11
BIBLE .....	11
ENGLISH.....	13
COMMUNICATIONS .....	15
FINE ARTS.....	15
FOREIGN LANGUAGE.....	19
MATHEMATICS.....	20
SCIENCE .....	22
SOCIAL STUDIES .....	24
TECHNOLOGY .....	26
WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION .....	28
ELECTIVE MISCELLANEOUS.....	29



25 • HIGH SCHOOL • 26  
**COURSE CATALOG**

1625 LOWELL BETHESDA ROAD, GASTONIA, NC 28056

[WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG](http://WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG)

---

**NON-DISCRIMINATORY POLICY**

Gaston Christian School, Inc. admits students of any race, color, national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national or ethnic origin in the administration of its personnel or educational policies, admission policies, scholarships, athletic activities, or other school-administered programs.

**January 2025**

**Dear Students and Parents:**

Gaston Christian High School is committed to academic excellence in a Christ-centered environment. Our calling is to prepare each student academically, socially, and spiritually for the experiences and challenges of the twenty-first century. The Book of Proverbs teaches: “Apply your heart to instruction and your ears to words of knowledge.” Our teachers set high standards for scholastic integrity in order to meet this challenge.

We are thankful that we can be a part of your student’s continuing educational journey. This catalog provides information that is important to course selections for the 2025-26 school year. Please carefully review the course descriptions, graduation requirements, and criteria for acceptance into the Honors and Advanced Placement programs. Our college-preparatory curriculum provides a strong focus on English, math, science, social studies, and foreign language; however, the high school also offers a variety of electives that allow students to explore different interests. In order to provide more learning opportunities for our students and to allow more flexibility in their schedules, we offer dual-enrollment courses, online courses, and some electives as semester-long classes. All half-credit courses are indicated as such in the course description section of this handbook.

The School Counselors are available to answer any questions you may have concerning course selections. Thank you for the opportunity to serve your students in the coming year!

**In His Service,  
High School Administrative Team**

## GRADING SCALE

Regular	Honors	Advanced Placement & College Now
A = 4 points	A = 4.5 points	A = 5 points
B = 3 points	B = 3.5 points	B = 4 points
C = 2 points	C = 2.5 points	C = 3 points
D = 1 point	D = 1.5 points	D = 2 points
F = 0 points	F = 0 points	F = 0 points

Gaston Christian School grades on a percentage basis as follows:

A = 90 to 100

B = 80 to 89

C = 70 to 79

D = 60 to 69

F = Below 60

## GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Courses	Credits
*Bible	4.0
*English	4.0
*Math	4.0
Science	3.0
***Social Studies	3.0
**Foreign Language	2.0
Introduction to Communications	0.5
Technology	1.0
Physical Education	0.5
Health	0.5
Fine Arts	1.0
Electives	4.5
<b>Total Credit Requirement</b>	<b>28.0</b>

\*Students must take these courses each year of high school while enrolled at GCHS (9-12).

\*\*At least 2 units of the same language are required. 2 units must be taken during their high school years (9-12).

\*\*\*Students must take World History, US History, and Government.

Please note: Students must be enrolled in a minimum of seven credit courses each semester.

### COURSES REQUIRED FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNC SYSTEM

**English** – Four course units emphasizing grammar, composition, and literature

**Mathematics** – Four course units including Algebra I, Algebra II, Geometry and a higher level Mathematics course for which Algebra II is a prerequisite

**Science** – Three course units including at least one unit in a life or biological science (i.e. biology, anatomy and physiology) at least one unit in a physical science (i.e., physical science, chemistry, or physics), and at least one laboratory science (i.e. biology or chemistry).

**Social Studies** – Two course units in addition to one unit in U.S. history

**Foreign Language** – Two course units of a foreign language (both units in same language)

## NORTHSTAR ACADEMY ONLINE COURSES

Gaston Christian High School is an affiliate school with NorthStar Academy ([www.northstar-academy.org](http://www.northstar-academy.org)), a Christian provider of quality online courses. Accessibility to these online classes allows GCHS to offer a broader curriculum to better meet the needs of the students.

Please contact the School Counselor to get more information about this online program.

### **Policies for NorthStar Academy Online Courses**

1. NorthStar Academy online courses may not be taken as a substitute for courses taught by GCHS faculty except by administrative approval. Such approval would typically be granted if students have an unusual course schedule which prevents them from taking a required course at Gaston Christian due to scheduling problems. This approved exception would generally apply to students who transfer to GCHS in their junior or senior years and who have taken courses at their previous school in a different sequence from our standard course sequence.
2. Online courses may be taken on a credit-recovery basis. Students who do not pass a GCHS course may take the online course from NorthStar to make up that credit (at the expense of the student's family).
3. Students taking online courses during the school year will be scheduled one class period during the school day for course work.
4. Students and parents should realize that the NorthStar courses are as rigorous as on-campus classes and should expect a similar workload that includes homework time in addition to regular class time.
5. Grades for NorthStar Academy online courses will appear on student transcripts the same as with on-campus courses.
6. A student enrolled in an online AP course is required to take the College Board AP exam.
7. Any book fees for the online courses will be the responsibility of the parents.
8. The fees for NorthStar Academy courses taken at Gaston Christian are listed below. Northstar has not yet published their prices for 2025-2026 but we will update this document as soon as they are published. Please note that all fees are paid through GCS since the students receive a discount for registering through the school. An additional fee has been added to the price of the AP courses to cover the cost of the required AP exam that is administered in May.

Registration fee (once a year)	\$125
One-semester course (0.5 credit)	\$465
Year-long course (1.0 credit)	\$795
One-semester AP course (0.5 credit)	\$505
Year-long AP course (1.0 credit)	\$825

## COLLEGE NOW PROGRAM

The College Now program (also known as the Career and College Promise Program - or CCP) is a dual-enrollment opportunity for high school juniors and seniors to take tuition-free college classes through the North Carolina community college system, offering both on-campus and online courses. We work specifically with Gaston College. The earliest that a student can take a College Now course is August of the junior year.

### **Policies for College Now Courses**

1. Courses through the College Now Program may not be taken as a substitute for courses taught by GCHS faculty except by administrative approval for the following reasons: Such approval would typically be granted if students have an unusual course schedule which prevents them from taking a required course at Gaston Christian due to scheduling problems. This approved exception would generally apply to students who transfer to GCHS in their junior or senior years and who have taken courses at their previous school in a different sequence from the standard course sequence. In addition, students may take College Now courses that are also offered at GCHS if they have already completed or are currently enrolled in these high school courses.
2. Students taking online courses during the school year will be scheduled for one class period for College Now course work during each semester. If a student enrolls in more than one College Now class, studies for an additional course must be completed during personal study time.
3. Students and parents should realize these courses require a similar workload as college-level classes.
4. Students do not incur tuition fees for College Now courses; however, any other fees for these classes, including textbooks, will be the responsibility of the parents.
5. Credits for College Now courses are indicated on the GCS transcript as high school courses; students receive a separate transcript from the college to show the courses as college credits.
6. The grades for these courses are included in cumulative GPA calculations, and are weighted the same as A.P. classes since they are college-level courses. The cumulative GPA is what will appear on all transcripts that we submit to students, colleges, and scholarship applications. However, we will also calculate a “GCS GPA” that represents all classes taken at Gaston Christian that are not College Now. While this form of the GPA will not appear on any transcripts, it is the form of GPA that will be used to determine Junior Marshals, the Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Beta Club, National Honor Society, and any other graduation honors.
7. Students do receive graduation credit(s) for College Now courses. Each college course counts as 1 GCHS graduation credit. Regardless of the type of course, they are counted as general elective credits toward graduation requirements.
8. Students enrolled in a College Now course at a community college other than Gaston College must submit a copy of their transcript to the High School Counselor at the end of the semester.
9. Both Gaston College and Gaston Christian recommend that students take no more than two CCP classes at a time. Any student wishing to take more than two will need to seek approval from administration and explain why they wish to take more than two courses.



# GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL PROPOSED COURSE OFFERINGS 2025-2026

Note: All courses are 1.0 credit unless otherwise designated.

## **BIBLE**

Bible 9 (Old Testament Survey)  
Bible 10 (New Testament Survey)  
Healthy Christian Relationships (0.5 credit)  
Worldviews & Culture (0.5 credit)  
World Religions (0.5 credit)  
Christian Apologetics (0.5 credit)  
The Book of Revelation (0.5 credit)  
The Book of Galatians (0.5 credit)  
Biblical Theology (0.5 credit)  
New Testament Greek (0.5 credit)  
Christian Spiritual Formation (0.5 credit)  
Intro to the Bible (0.5 credit)  
Women of the Bible (0.5 credit)

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

Introduction to Communications (0.5 credit)  
Yearbook

## **ENGLISH**

English 9, Honors English 9,  
English 10, Honors English 10,  
English 11, Honors English 11,  
AP English 11,  
English 12, Honors English 12,  
AP English 12,  
Creative Writing (0.5 credit),  
Cross Disciplinary Studies (*International Students*)

## **FINE ARTS**

Art I, II (.5 credit each)  
Art III (.5 or 1.0 credit)  
Honors Art III, IV, V  
AP Art and Design  
Digital Photography (0.5 credit)  
Digital Art (0.5 credit)  
Band  
Honors Band  
Praise Team  
Concert Choir & Honors Ensemble  
Music Theory (0.5 credit)  
AP Music Theory  
Theatre Arts (.5 or 1.0 credit)  
Honors Theatre Arts  
Stagecraft (.5 or 1.0 credit)  
Costuming (.5 credit)  
Honors Costuming (.5 credit)  
Woodworking (.5 or 1.0 credit)

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

Spanish I  
Spanish 2  
Honors Spanish 3  
Honors Spanish 4  
French 1  
Honors French 2  
German 1

## **MATHEMATICS**

Algebra I  
Geometry  
Honors Geometry  
Algebra II  
Honors Algebra II  
Advanced Functions & Modeling  
Precalculus  
Honors Precalculus  
AP Precalculus  
Honors Calculus  
AP Calculus - AB  
AP Calculus - BC  
AP Statistics

## **SCIENCE**

Physical Science, Honors Physical Science  
Biology, Honors Biology  
Chemistry, Honors Chemistry  
Honors Anatomy and Physiology  
Honors Physics  
AP Physics 1  
AP Biology  
AP Chemistry  
Environmental Science

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

World History  
Honors World History  
AP World History  
AP European History  
U.S. History  
Honors U.S. History  
AP U.S. History  
Honors Psychology  
Philosophy  
U.S. Government/Economics  
Honors U.S. Government/Economics  
AP U.S. Government & Politics

## **TECHNOLOGY**

Visual Design (0.5 credit)  
Video Production (0.5 credit)  
Sound & Lighting Design for the Stage (0.5 credit)  
Digital Art (0.5 credit)  
Digital Photography (0.5 credit)  
Honors Computer Science (1.0 credit)  
Honors Engineering Essentials (STEAM)  
Broadcasting and Podcasting

## **WELLNESS/FITNESS**

P.E./Health (1.0 credit)  
Weight Training (0.5 or 1.0 credit)  
Team Sports (0.5 or 1.0 credit)  
Dance  
Athletic Training Aide (1.0 credit)

## **ELECTIVE MISC.**

Entrepreneurship  
Office Aide  
Personal Finance (0.5 elective credit only)  
Sports Marketing

## EXPLANATION OF COURSE TYPES

### HONORS CLASSES

Gaston Christian School currently offers many Honors classes. **Courses designed as “Honors” are accelerated and require stronger background and more intensive preparation than other courses. In order to move from a College-Prep level course to an Honors level course, students must make an A in the immediate prerequisite course. In order to maintain enrollment in Honors level courses, students must maintain a B average in the Honors level course. Standardized test scores will also be considered.**

### ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)

Gaston Christian School currently offers many Advanced Placement courses. Because these AP courses are comparable to first-year college courses, students will have considerably more homework per class period; these classes also demand superior reading, writing, and thinking skills. At the end of the year, students in AP classes will be required to take the College Board AP Examination. AP Art and Design students are required to submit a portfolio of artworks for review by the College Board. Colleges may grant credit for successful scores on the College Board AP exam given in May.

**Courses designed as AP (Advanced Placement) are accelerated and require stronger background and more intensive preparation than other courses. In order to move from an Honors level course to an AP level course, students must make an A in the immediate prerequisite course. In order to maintain enrollment in AP level courses, students must maintain a B average in the AP level course. Standardized test scores will also be considered.** Students enrolled in AP courses pay an additional fee for each AP class (\$190 per course).

### EXEMPTIONS

Students seeking an exemption to enroll in an honors or AP course for which they do not meet the prerequisites or required GPA must complete an exemption form. The form can be found in the academic counselor’s office. Once the form is submitted, the Academic Counseling Committee will review the request. Decisions are made based on the student’s academic performance, test scores, and demonstrated commitment to the rigors of advanced coursework. This process ensures that exceptions are granted thoughtfully and equitably.

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### **BIBLE**

#### **BIBLE 9**

##### **Old Testament Survey**

This course is an overview of the entire Old Testament. The goals of the course are 1) to glorify God by familiarizing students with the history of salvation; 2) to glorify Christ by showing how He is the fulfillment of Old Testament types and promises; 3) to familiarize students with key stories from the Old Testament which are necessary for Biblical literacy both in the Church and in Western literature. In so doing, the student will come to a deeper and fuller appreciation for the Gospel as it is presented in the New Testament and will be equipped to help others understand the Bible.

#### **BIBLE 10**

##### **New Testament Survey**

This class is a broad overview of the books of the New Testament. We will begin with a recap of the whole Old Testament, recognizing that the New cannot be properly understood without the Old. We will learn the different literary genres and historical contexts represented in the New Testament and understand how these guide us in reading the Bible responsibly and effectively. The goal of this course is to grasp how God's plan for his Kingdom to come on earth as it is in heaven is inaugurated in Jesus Christ and his Church, and how that plan invites us all today to join that Kingdom.

#### **HEALTHY CHRISTIAN RELATIONSHIPS (11)**

This course explores a biblical view of the relationships that all people experience. We will explore biblical foundations for healthy relationships with God, ourselves, families, friends, boyfriends, girlfriends, spouses, and creation. (Guys and girls will take this in separate classrooms. This course is required for juniors.)

#### **WORLDVIEWS & CULTURE (12)**

This course is a survey of the study of modern "isms" that students are likely to encounter in the world today. Over the course of the semester we will study Secularism, Marxism, and Postmodernism. We will use source readings from each of these movements as we try to develop an appropriate Christian response to each.

#### **WORLD RELIGIONS (12)**

This course will be a survey of the major religions of the world. We will study Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and Taoism. If time allows we will look briefly at modern cults such as Mormonism, Jehovah's Witnesses and Scientology. The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the beliefs and practices of each of these religions.

#### **CHRISTIAN APOLOGETICS (11-12)**

This course is a survey of Apologetics. One of the most perennial questions in all philosophy regards the existence of God. The question has been asked and argued in different ways for centuries. Religious adherents have maintained that the question can be answered positively, though to varying degrees of certainty. This course will explore the basic question of God's existence, along with related questions regarding the coherence of theology, the reliability of the Bible, and philosophical challenges and critiques to the religious worldview (particularly Christianity). Christians have engaged the conversation for millenia using the discipline of apologetics, though not all have agreed on the best method. This course will survey various approaches to apologetics, train students to clarify and defend their beliefs, and help students develop their personal relationship between faith and reason.

#### **THE BOOK OF REVELATION (11-12)**

This course is designed as an expository study of the Book of Revelation, with the goal of taking the student through the entire book with cross references to other portions of Scripture. The purpose is to assist the student in gaining a greater comprehension of the biblical teaching contained in the Book of Revelation with an emphasis on historical and practical application of the text.

### **THE BOOK OF GALATIANS(11-12)**

This course is designed to be a survey of Galatians. The New Testament book of Galatians shows us that the Gospel is necessary for everyday life and transforms us from the inside out. This course is a focused study that explores the historical, theological, and practical aspects of the book. Students are invited to delve into the rich content of Galatians, understanding its cultural context and the theological implications for following Jesus while fostering a deeper appreciation for the transformative power of the gospel in the lives of believers.

### **BIBLICAL THEOLOGY (11-12)**

This course is an introduction to Christian theology. The course will provide an overview of the major doctrines of the Christian faith (i.e., Trinity, Bible, person and work of Christ, humanity, salvation, person and work of the Holy Spirit, church, eschatology) in the context of the Statement of Faith of Gaston Christian School. It will also help our staff and students differentiate between essential core doctrines and those that are of a more peripheral nature in order that they can cooperate well with others in the body of Christ.

### **NEW TESTAMENT GREEK (11-12)**

This course is an introduction to Koine Greek for the purpose of reading the New Testament in its original language. English translations of the New Testament are accurate, reliable, and useful, but knowledge of the original language allows for deeper study and closer familiarity with God's Word as the biblical authors originally wrote it. Only students with a sincere desire to learn a dead language and the willingness to put in the work that this requires should take this class.

### **CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL FORMATION (11-12)**

This course is a combination of studying the prescriptive (the theology and necessity of the spiritual life) and descriptive (practices and lived experiences) elements of Christian spirituality. The class will study the ways the Scriptures demonstrate and the Church has learned to engage, live, and move in the presence of God, and attempt to begin charting a course between being a new convert and becoming a mature follower of Christ. This course will be sensitive to the varied traditions of the Christian faith, with a view toward encouraging the student to participate in the spiritual practices and traditions he or she is a part of.

### **INTRO TO BIBLE (required for new International students, optional for new students)**

#### **Foundational Bible Introduction**

International Bible is an introductory Bible class for first-year International students. It is a foundational study of Genesis, Exodus, and the book of John for first-year International students. It focuses on how the sin of man is met by the intervention and redemption of God, through Jesus Christ. The goals of this class are to introduce God as Creator and Jesus Christ as Redeemer to first-year students, as well as, familiarize students with the rudiments of Bible study and how to search for information in the Bible, and prepare International students to join domestic students in mainstream Bible classes the following year.

### **WOMEN OF THE BIBLE**

Throughout Scripture, God weaves in the lives and experiences of women to show His character and declare His glory. This course explores the diverse roles, narratives, and experiences of different women in the Bible. Students are encouraged to foster critical thinking, cultural awareness, and a deeper appreciation for the diverse roles and contributions of women in biblical literature.

## **ENGLISH**

### **ENGLISH 9**

#### **Prerequisite: English 8**

English 9 focuses on developing critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Students are challenged to analyze short stories, novels, poetry, and drama; they explore the writings of long fiction through studies of John Bunyan, George Orwell, and William Shakespeare. In addition, a literary anthology provides a thematic approach to literary studies. Students build vocabulary skills, research skills, and grammar skills throughout the course of the year. Summer reading is required.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 9**

#### **Prerequisite: English 8 taken the previous year in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section English 8**

This course offers a more intense and in-depth study of literature with a strong emphasis on mastery of literary devices and analysis; Honors English 9 also focuses on developing critical thinking, reading comprehension, and writing skills. Students analyze short stories, novels, poetry, and drama; they explore the writings of long fiction through studies of John Bunyan, George Orwell, Jack London and William Shakespeare. In addition, a literary anthology provides a thematic approach to literary studies. Students build vocabulary skills, research skills, and grammar skills throughout the course of the year. Summer reading is required.

### **ENGLISH 10**

#### **Prerequisite: English 9**

English 10 builds on foundations of literary analysis and critical thinking with a special emphasis on developing the ability to write clearly and effectively. Literary studies for English 10 are *Night*, *Julius Caesar*, *Antigone*, *The Screwtape Letters* and selections from a literature anthology; the students also review grammar skills throughout the year and continue to build research and vocabulary skills. Summer reading is required.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 10**

#### **Prerequisite: English 9 in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

As an Honors course, this class takes a more analytical approach to the study of literature selections (*Night*, *Julius Caesar*, *The Screwtape Letters*, *Antigone*, *Les Miserables*, *A Doll's House* and *The Metamorphosis* as well as anthology selections). Honors English 10 also provides a focus on developing the ability to write clearly and effectively, with an emphasis on evidence-based analysis; students will complete a research writing project. Summer reading is required.

### **ENGLISH 11**

#### **Prerequisite: English 10**

This course follows the development of American literature from Native American oral tradition and myths to modern literary styles and includes study of a diversity of literary forms (poetry, short stories, essays, and novels) by some of the most noted American authors. Studies in long fiction include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Students will complete a research project. Summer reading is required.

### **HONORS ENGLISH 11**

#### **Prerequisite: English 10 meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

This course offers a critical approach to the study of literature with a strong emphasis on literary analysis. The students focus on a chronological survey of American literature (poetry, short stories, essays, and novels). Studies in long fiction include *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Crucible*. Both in-class and out-of-class essays are required as well as a research project. Summer reading is required.

## **AP ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 11)**

**Prerequisite:** Honors English 10 and in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section

This course is designed to give the student exposure to college-level work as well as provide preparation for the Advanced Placement examination in Language and Composition. In this class, there is extensive practice of writing and analyzing AP exam essays with a particular focus on literary analysis and critical reading skills; the class is designed for students who are highly motivated and who are capable of reading complex literary selections and producing close textual analysis of them. Timed writings are an integral part of this course. Students are required to take the AP exam offered by the College Board in May. The literary emphasis is a chronological survey of American literature (Native American oral tradition to modern literary styles) with the following supplemental studies: *The Scarlet Letter*, *The Great Gatsby*, and *The Glass Menagerie*. Research focuses on poetry analysis. Summer reading is required.

## **ENGLISH 12**

**Prerequisite:** English 11

A chronological survey of British literature (Anglo-Saxon period to the twentieth century) is the central focus of this course. Longer works of literature include *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* and *Macbeth*. Other aspects of the course include writing assignments appropriate for college preparation as well as a research project. Summer reading is required.

## **HONORS ENGLISH 12**

**Prerequisite:** English 11 and in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section

A chronological survey of British literature (from the Anglo-Saxon period to the twentieth century) provides the central focus of this course. Longer works of literature include *Wuthering Heights* and *Macbeth*. Numerous writing prompts, a focus on literary and rhetorical devices, and a research paper are also requirements for Honors English 12. Summer reading is required.

## **AP ENGLISH LITERATURE AND COMPOSITION (ENGLISH 12)**

**Prerequisite:** AP English 11 in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section

This course is designed to give the student more exposure to college-level work by building on the skills and knowledge gained in AP English 11 as well as to provide preparation for the Advanced Placement examination for English Literature and Composition administered by the College Board in May (required of all AP English 12 students). The class is designed for students who are highly motivated and who are capable of reading complex literary selections and producing close textual analysis of them. Timed readings and writings are an integral part of this course with particular emphasis on literary analysis and critical reading skills. The literary focus is a chronological study of British literature with a brief examination of Greek tragedy. Along with the textbook survey of literature, students will pursue the following supplemental studies: *Oedipus Rex*, *Macbeth*, *Heart of Darkness*, and *Wuthering Heights*. Critical analysis of poetry constitutes the research project; vocabulary studies focus on literary and rhetorical devices. Summer reading is required.

## **CREATIVE WRITING (11-12)**

This course operates under the philosophy that any human creative activity is a reflection of the Imago Dei in humanity; humans are creative because God, who made us in His image, is creative. This course is designed to develop student creative writing skills through repeated practice and work-shopping. Students will improve their craft through daily quick-writes, targeted story prompts, character studies, and more. Projects will be independent, usually guided by a prompt or rubric, and read aloud by students for feedback purposes before final submission. Due to the emphasis upon peer feedback, students will be expected to meet a high standard of maturity and respect. Creative Writing is a semester course.

## **CROSS DISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

The Cross Disciplinary Studies course is one that first-year international students are offered to accommodate adaptation of study in the United States. This course helps the students to better understand the school's policies and rules, equips them in usage of the English language in academic and informal settings, and assists in the fusion of the multiple subjects and materials in their first year of study. An intentional focus is paid to customized help in writing and in areas that students may struggle during this transition time. The course is a year-long mandatory class for all new international students and will be included on the student's transcript. It is offered for 1 credit and a grade.

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

### **INTRODUCTION TO COMMUNICATIONS (11)**

This course, required for all GCS Juniors, is a semester overview of basic communication skills. The purpose of the course is to equip the student with both the knowledge and the skill to communicate effectively in everyday life situations as well as professional situations. The coursework will include but not be limited to several in-class presentations, several improvisational speeches, in-class lecture and note taking, and a final project/presentation.

### **YEARBOOK (9-12) [TEACHER RECOMMENDATION REQUIRED]**

Yearbook involves writing, editing, creative design, and technology skills to help preserve the history of Gaston Christian School. Because of the many deadline pressures involved, students must be organized and responsible. Students will take part in personally planning and organizing the yearbook theme, cover, and basic design. They will be responsible for all photographs, including writing copy and designing the pages on which they are placed. The entire yearbook is produced online; therefore, good computer skills are essential. Students are expected to learn teamwork and to complete all assignments; they will also be required to sell commercial and personal advertisements to help offset the yearbook's cost. Enrollment is limited to 12 students. Yearbook may count as a Fine Arts graduation credit. Honors credit is available to students after 2 years of staff membership.

## **FINE ARTS**

### **ART I (9-12)**

Art I is a basic introduction to various visual art concepts and art-making techniques. Students will use various art media and methods to create drawings, paintings, and ceramic pieces. Art I is a one-semester course.

### **ART II (9-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Art I**

The purpose of this course is to build on the foundation of skills and understanding of the visual arts. Projects for this class will include working with clay, paper maché, mosaics, weaving, and wire sculpture. Art history will be incorporated into projects assigned. Art II is a one-semester course.

### **ART III (10-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Art II**

The purpose of this course is to help the students who are interested in the creative aspect of making art, using the elements and principles of design in compositions and other projects. Projects for the class will include drawing, painting, and sculpture. Art history will be incorporated into projects. Students have the option to take Art III for a semester or for the full year.

### **HONORS ART III (10-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Art II and teacher recommendation**

This course is for the more serious-minded art student. The development of clear goals and detailed plans to meet them are utilized through the use of the elements and principles of design. Projects for this class include painting, multimedia, sculpture, and clay. The opportunity for developing proficiency in a chosen media of interest is also available. The manipulation of art media, puzzle-solving procedures, art criticism, and art history are included in this course. In addition, independent projects are allowed and encouraged. Honors Art III is a yearlong course.

### **HONORS ART IV (11,12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Honors Art III and teacher recommendation**

This course is for the more serious-minded art student. The development of clear goals and detailed plans to meet them are utilized through the use of the elements and principles of design. Four areas of concentration include art production, art criticism, aesthetics, and art history. In addition, students will be encouraged to concentrate on portfolio development. The opportunity for developing proficiency in a chosen media of interest is also available. Independent projects are allowed and encouraged. Honors Art IV is a yearlong course.

### **HONORS ART V (12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Honors Art IV and teacher recommendation**

This course is for the more serious-minded art student. The development of clear goals and detailed plans to meet them are utilized through the use of the elements and principles of design. Four areas of concentration include art production, art criticism, aesthetics, and art history. In addition, students will be encouraged to concentrate on portfolio development. The opportunity for developing proficiency in a chosen media of interest is also available. Independent projects are allowed and encouraged. Honors Art V is a yearlong course.

### **AP ART AND DESIGN (12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation**

This college level course challenges the student to produce in-depth, inquiry-based art and design making. Because of the demand of the course set forth by the College Board (portfolio standards and expectations), this class is only for the very serious-minded art student who plans to pursue collegiate studies in art and design and/or who is interested in a future career in art. The AP Art and Design student will exhibit a high level of maturity, strong time management and organizational skills, an ability to work on projects independently, and a consistent work ethic. The student is required to submit a digital portfolio of required artworks for review by the College Board.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (11-12)**

This course will be an introduction to basic digital photography. Students are welcome and encouraged to have their own personal camera, however cameras will be available for students that do not have one. Students will need their own 64 GB SD cards. Students will learn the basics of how to use digital cameras, the functions of the camera (ISO, aperture, shutter speed), composition, and story-telling. This course will focus on digital photography as an art form. A variety of field trips in the immediate area as well as field trips to highly photographic locations will be offered. Students will enter their work in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, in which a small monetary fee will be required from the student to enter. Students will edit photos on school supplied iPads. Digital Photography is a one-semester course. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page. Students may take this course more than once, but doing so requires a teacher recommendation.

### **DIGITAL ART (10-12)**

This course will be an introduction to creating digital art. Students will use school supplied iPads and Apple Pencils to create their art. The use of the Procreate app, and Adobe Creative Suite apps will be a focus. Students will enter their work in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, in which a small monetary fee will be required from the student to enter. Digital Photography is a one-semester course and can count as either an art credit or a tech credit. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the



Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page. Students may take this course more than once, but doing so requires a teacher recommendation.

\*NOTE - This course can be counted either as a Technology credit or a Fine Arts credit.

### **BAND (9-12)**

This course is designed to help woodwind, brass, and percussion students develop proper instrumental techniques and sight-reading skills. Music history, music theory, and music terminology will be learned as it relates to the literature being rehearsed. Students electing band must be proficient in their particular instrument with a minimum of three years of band experience, a history of private lessons, or acceptance through student audition. A variety of instrumental literature will be utilized. Performances include Christmas and spring concerts. Band is a yearlong course.

### **HONORS BAND (10-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Audition with band director**

This course is designed for those with more advanced experience and skill with woodwind, brass, and percussion players. In this course, they will continue to develop proper instrumental techniques and sight-reading skills. Music history, music theory, and music terminology will be learned as it relates to the literature being rehearsed. Students electing honors band must be proficient in their particular instrument with a minimum of two years of band experience at GCS in middle school and/or high school. A variety of instrumental literature will be utilized. Performances include Christmas and spring concerts. Students in Honors Band will be required to do extra assignments and extra work beyond what the students in Band are required to do. This could include, but is not limited to attending performances, auditioning for an honors band or a community band, and/or writing research papers. Honors Band is a yearlong course.

### **PRAISE TEAM (9-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Audition with Director**

This course is designed to provide an understanding of music and worship in the local church and an overview of a professional worship leader's and musician's responsibility to the ministry of worship in the church. Emphasis is given to the reasons for studying worship, the relationship between music and worship; the principles for Biblical worship; the tasks of teaching and training worshipers; and congregational worship leading in the local church. Students will also study general music theory and theory specific to the instrument and voice.

### **CONCERT CHOIR & HONORS ENSEMBLE (9-12)**

#### **Prerequisite: Audition with Director required for Honors Ensemble**

This course is designed for the student who enjoys singing and performing choral music; no experience is required. Music history, music theory, and music terminology will be taught as it relates to the literature being rehearsed. A variety of choral literature will be studied and performed with an emphasis on sacred music. Performances include Christmas and spring concerts, chapel, choir tour, and occasional performances in area churches and community functions. Concert Choir is a yearlong course.

\*Students can be placed at an honors-level of Concert Choir that may also be called Honors Ensemble. To enter the honors-levels, students need to be in High School chorus 1 year and recommended by the teachers. Once enrolled, they will try out for the NCMEA Honors chorus if selected by the director. They will help keep the library up to date and keep up with copies of music filed away. They will audition for high school musicals. And they will go and/or see/watch 1 choral performance per semester and write a paragraph review of that performance turned in for a grade. Examples could be musicals or chorus performances at other high schools, local theater musicals, Christmas/Easter Productions at churches etc.

## **MUSIC THEORY**

The major emphasis of this course is to develop musical knowledge in students through study of the vertical aspects of music, their relationship to God, and how music can be a vital part of their Christian faith. This course is highly recommended for those students who wish to know more about music and how to use it, including students in the Fine Arts Department who wish to have a deeper knowledge of their craft and intend on pursuing a career or college degree in music. This course is designed to enhance music skills and basic music fundamentals. The course takes a beginning approach to the concepts of theory and analysis, with references to historical context. The essential aspects of melody, harmony, rhythm, and form are studied. Students will study notation, structure, function, scales, intervals, chords, and key signatures. Individual creativity is nurtured through both rhythmic and melodic composition. Students will also be introduced to Christian music and how it is composed, arranged, and used in a worship setting. Music Exploration is a one-semester course.

## **AP MUSIC THEORY**

AP Music Theory is an introductory college-level music theory course. Students cultivate their understanding of music theory through analyzing performed and notated music as they explore concepts like pitch, rhythm, form, and musical design. This course framework provides a clear and detailed description of the knowledge and skills necessary for student success in AP Music Theory, evaluated in the context of the AP Music Theory Exam, and aligned with college expectations. The framework specifies what students must know, be able to do, and understand, with a focus on big ideas that encompass core principles and processes of the discipline. The framework also encourages instruction that prepares students for advanced music theory coursework, as well as lifelong musical engagement and practice.

## **THEATRE ARTS (9-12)**

Theatre Arts at GCS is concerned with developing the creative imagination within each student by providing a nurturing environment for its expression. As part of the long history of Christian involvement with the fine arts, our program seeks to impart all the various aspects of theatre in a way that enables each student to be a redemptive presence on and off the stage. Students will learn the basics of theatre arts: theatre terminology & etiquette, theatre history, the production process, acting skills, technical aspects of theatre, and play analysis. They will also acquire the fundamental value of mutual respect as well as greater self-confidence. Theatre Arts is a semester or year long course.

## **HONORS THEATRE ARTS (10-12)**

### **Prerequisite: Theatre Arts and teacher recommendation**

Honors Theatre Arts involves the applied study of theatre vocabulary, reading and writing of theatre literature, acting, and technical theatre. Acting experience in Honors Theatre Arts continues and refines the exploration of the concepts of self, body and voice work, improvisation, and acting techniques. Theatre study at this level places a greater emphasis on the execution of skills, ensemble work, and collaboration with other student artists. Students use a wider variety of theatre literature and styles from theatre history and various cultures in forms of theatre and theatre related media through informal and formal productions. Honors Theatre Arts is a yearlong course.

## **STAGECRAFT (10-12)**

This program creates the opportunity for students to learn the necessary skills for successful stagecraft design and production. Students will gain theoretical and practical competence in scenic design, set construction, stage direction, and all other aspects of stagecraft. As a 'hands-on' course, students are required to help design and construct the sets for all theatre arts productions as well as provide support for other activities at GCS as needed. Stagecraft is a semester (fall only) or yearlong course.

## **COSTUMING (10-12)**

The first semester of this course offers an introduction to the history, concepts, and techniques of theatrical costuming. Students will learn and practice costuming techniques (hand sewing, machine sewing, patterning, etc.) as well as examine costuming history and design. In the second semester, students will collaborate with the theatre arts department to design and construct costumes for its productions. Costuming is a semester-long course, but it may be taken more than once in the same year or in different years.

## **HONORS COSTUMING (11-12)**

### **Prerequisite: Costuming and teacher recommendation**

Honors Costuming continues exploring the processes of costume construction learned in the first level of costuming while allowing students to take on leadership roles as designers and lead costumers. Students enrolled in Honors Costuming will learn and use more advanced costuming techniques and practices on more intricate costumes and projects. In addition to providing core support for the theatre arts department's play season, students will be expected to submit work to display at each of the Fine Arts Nights. Honors Costuming is a semester-long course, but it may be taken more than once in the same year or in different years.

## **WOODWORKING (10-12)**

This course introduces the students to the fundamental skills of fine woodworking. Students will be trained in the proper use of hand tools, power tools, and machinery used in woodworking. They will also be trained to recognize the varieties of trees harvested for use as lumber, the characteristics of each type of wood, and the techniques necessary to complete projects using the most common woods used in cabinetry, furniture making, and construction. Students will choose projects to make with the approval and guidance of the instructor, and each student is expected to purchase the materials needed for the projects they choose to complete in class. Woodworking is a semester or yearlong course.

# **FOREIGN LANGUAGE**

## **SPANISH 1**

Spanish I focuses on the basic structure of the Spanish language, including both grammar and conversational skills. Students begin to develop listening, writing, reading, and speaking abilities and also become acquainted with Hispanic culture.

## **SPANISH 2**

### **Prerequisite: Spanish 1**

Spanish II builds on the foundation of the first-year study, allowing students to develop proficiency in spoken and written Spanish. By expanding the vocabulary and reviewing grammar skills, the students develop a certain fluency while broadening their knowledge of various aspects of Hispanic cultures.

## **HONORS SPANISH 3**

### **Prerequisite: Spanish II in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

Honors Spanish III is an elective for those students who have successfully completed Spanish II at the high school level or have placed out of Spanish II because of previous acquaintance with the language. Students continue to develop their proficiency in the four skills: listening, writing, reading, and speaking. The course provides opportunities to acquire a certain fluency and ease of understanding through various means, including short literary texts, authentic materials, and videos in the Spanish language. The student is required to communicate as much as possible in Spanish to develop oral and written skills.

## **HONORS SPANISH 4**

Honors Spanish IV is an advanced language course designed for students who have successfully completed Spanish III and wish to refine their fluency and deepen their understanding of the Spanish-speaking world. This course emphasizes advanced communication skills in speaking, listening, reading, and writing, with a strong focus on cultural literacy. Students will engage in complex conversations, write analytical and creative pieces, and study authentic Spanish-language materials, including literature, news articles, and film. The course also explores historical and contemporary issues in Hispanic cultures, allowing students to develop a global perspective. Instruction is conducted primarily in Spanish, encouraging immersion and critical thinking.

## **FRENCH I**

The students will communicate at a basic level in French with the teacher and their peers through interpretive and presentational means. They will relate cultural practices and cultural products to perspectives, and make connections to other academic disciplines. They will compare their own culture and language to the target language while fostering lifelong learning and appreciation within and beyond the school.

## **HONORS FRENCH II**

**Prerequisite: French I**

French II builds on the foundation of the first-year study, allowing students to develop proficiency in spoken and written French. By expanding the vocabulary and reviewing grammar skills, the students develop a certain fluency while broadening their knowledge of various aspects of French cultures.

## **GERMAN I**

The students will communicate at a basic level in German with the teacher and their peers through interpretive and presentational means. They will relate cultural practices and cultural products to perspectives, and make connections to other academic disciplines. They will compare their own culture and language to the target language while fostering lifelong learning and appreciation within and beyond the school.

---

# **MATHEMATICS**

A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required for all high school math courses.

## **ALGEBRA I**

**Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra**

Considered to be the most important foundational math course in high school, the primary aim of Algebra I is to enable the student to learn, communicate, and apply algebraic concepts: operations with real numbers and polynomials, relations and functions, creation and applications of linear functions and relations, and nonlinear functions. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated through the course.

## **GEOMETRY**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I**

Geometry continues the student's study of geometric concepts building upon middle school topics. Students will move from an inductive approach to deductive methods of proof in their study of geometric figures. Two- and three-dimensional reasoning skills will be emphasized, and students will broaden their use of the coordinate plane to include transformations of geometric figures. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators and graphics software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

## **HONORS GEOMETRY**

**Prerequisite: Algebra I in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section.**

In addition to the content of Geometry, three-dimensional reasoning skills will be emphasized along with advanced topics. Geometry continues the student's study of geometric concepts building upon middle school topics. Students will move from an inductive approach to deductive methods of proof in their study of geometric figures. Two- and three-dimensional reasoning skills will be emphasized, and students will broaden their use of the coordinate plane to include transformations of geometric figures. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators and graphics software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

## **ALGEBRA II**

**Prerequisite: Geometry**

Algebra II continues the study of advanced algebraic concepts including graphing, functions, polynomials, rational expressions, complex numbers, systems of equations and inequalities, and matrices. Emphasis will be placed

on practical applications and modeling. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators and graphics software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

### **HONORS ALGEBRA II**

**Prerequisite:** Honors Geometry in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section.

In addition to the content of Algebra II, the Honors level course will include advanced topics in the study of algebra. Algebra II continues the study of advanced algebraic concepts including graphing, functions, polynomials, rational expressions, complex numbers, systems of equations and inequalities, and matrices. Emphasis will be placed on practical applications and modeling. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators and graphics software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

### **ADVANCED FUNCTIONS AND MODELING**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II

Advanced Functions and Modeling provides students an in-depth study of the modeling and application of functions. Topics of basic statistics will also be introduced. This course is offered to keep active advanced algebra skills for the college bound. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators and application software, will be used regularly for instruction and assessments.

### **PRECALCULUS**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II

Precalculus provides the student with continued study of advanced algebraic topics, as well as the study of analytical geometry, sequences and series, and a study of logarithms and trigonometry. This course is meant to prepare the student for continuation in calculus on a high school level or as an introduction for an entry-level college mathematics course. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

### **HONORS PRECALCULUS**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section.

Along with topics of Precalculus, the honors course will include an introduction to limits and continuity and the derivative with its applications. This course will prepare the student for the study of calculus on the AP level or as an introduction for an entry-level college mathematics course. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

### **AP PRECALCULUS**

**Prerequisite:** Algebra II in addition to meeting requirements stated in the AP section.

AP Precalculus is a one-year high school course equivalent to a one-semester college course in Math. Emphasis will be placed on the skills required to take the College Board AP test through the use of geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expressions of concepts, results, and problems. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. Students will be required to take the AP exam administered by the College Board in May.

### **HONORS CALCULUS**

**Prerequisite:** Precalculus in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section.

Honors Calculus develops the student's understanding of calculus (functions, graphs, limits, derivatives and integrals) and provides experience with its methods and applications. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment.

### **AP CALCULUS AB**

**Prerequisite:** Honors Precalculus in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section.

AP Calculus is a one-year high school course equivalent to a one-semester college course in Calculus. Emphasis will be placed on the skills required to take the College Board AP test through the use of geometric, numerical, analytical, and verbal expressions of concepts, results, and problems. Appropriate technology, from manipulative

to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. Students will be required to take the AP exam administered by the College Board in May.

### **AP CALCULUS BC**

**Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB in addition to meeting the requirements in the AP section.**

AP Calculus BC is an introductory college-level calculus course. Students cultivate their understanding of differential and integral calculus through engaging with real-world problems represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally and using definitions and theorems to build arguments and justify conclusions as they explore concepts like change, limits, and the analysis of functions.

### **AP STATISTICS**

**Prerequisite: Honors Precalculus (or concurrent enrollment in Honors Precalculus) in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section.**

AP Statistics, a one-year high school course equivalent to a one-semester, introductory college course in statistics, introduces students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Students will observe patterns and departures from patterns, decide what and how to measure, produce models using probability and simulation, and confirm models. Appropriate technology, from manipulative to calculators, will be used regularly for instruction and assessment. Students will be required to take the AP exam administered by the College Board in May.

## **SCIENCE**

### **PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Physical Science is a foundational course that prepares students for more advanced high school science. With an emphasis on God's orderliness, this course provides an overview of chemistry and physics. One semester focuses heavily on chemistry concepts such as properties of substances and general trends of the periodic table. The other term concentrates on physics concepts such as movement, electricity, sound waves, and light. The course offers numerous lab activities to complement classroom discussion. Homework and class work will emphasize logic, math, and problem-solving skills. Additional projects will be required to supplement the curriculum.

### **HONORS PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

**Prerequisite: Meeting the requirements stated in the honors section of the previous science course.**

Honors Physical Science is a foundational course that prepares students for more advanced high school science. With an emphasis on God's orderliness, this course provides an overview of chemistry and physics. One semester focuses heavily on chemistry concepts such as properties of substances and general trends of the periodic table. The other term concentrates on physics concepts such as movement, electricity, sound waves, and light. The course offers numerous lab activities to complement classroom discussion. Homework and class work will emphasize logic, math, and problem-solving skills. Additional chemistry and physics projects will be required to supplement curriculum.

### **BIOLOGY (10)**

Focusing on the foundational principles of the life sciences, this course provides a broad understanding of many biological topics, including the function and structure of cells, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, botany, and zoology. Laboratory opportunities include microscopic investigations and dissections as students observe and study the intricate design inherent in God's creation.

### **HONORS BIOLOGY**

**Prerequisite: Meeting the requirements stated in the honors section.**

Critical thinking opportunities and current events applications will be the focus of this basic survey of themes in biology. Topics are similar to those taught in Biology but are covered with increased breadth and depth. They include

function and structure of cells, biochemistry, genetics, microbiology, botany, and zoology. Laboratory opportunities include microscopic investigations and dissections as students observe and study the intricate design inherent in God's creation.

## **CHEMISTRY**

**Prerequisite: Biology and currently enrolled in Algebra II**

Chemistry explores the composition, structure, properties, and transformation of matter. Its problem-solving approach coordinates theoretical elements of the science with laboratory experimentation. Students receive an introduction to the major divisions of chemistry and develop a greater understanding of and appreciation for the order and design of God's creation.

## **HONORS CHEMISTRY**

**Prerequisites: Biology and currently enrolled in Algebra II in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

Honors Chemistry is for students who exhibit exceptional aptitude in math and science since topics are covered with increased breadth and depth. This class is a survey of the basic themes in chemistry including the classification of matter, behavior of subatomic particles, trends in the periodic table, molecular bonding, chemical equations and reactions, stoichiometry, kinetic molecular theory, solutions, chemical equilibrium, acids and bases, and reduction-oxidation reactions. Lectures include theoretical concepts and numerous math-based problem-solving applications. Laboratory activities allow students to investigate basic principles in chemistry and apply learned theory. As an honors course, students will be expected to grasp an in-depth, theoretical understanding of each topic and apply those concepts mathematically. Several projects involving the application of chemistry-related themes will be completed.

## **AP CHEMISTRY**

**Prerequisites: Honors Chemistry in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section**

This second-year chemistry course is very demanding, both in time and effort required. Students will utilize the first-year chemistry course content for a foundation for discussion of the following topics: chemical kinetics, equilibrium, thermodynamics, electro chemistry, nuclear chemistry, and organic chemistry. College-level laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course, designed to be the equivalent of the general chemistry course usually taken during the first college year. Students must take the Advanced Placement Chemistry exam in May.

## **HONORS ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY**

**Prerequisites: Biology in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section ; Chemistry is recommended but not required.**

This course provides an in-depth study of the systems of the human body and enables students to develop an understanding of human anatomy and physiology by exploring the structure and function of vertebrate tissues and organ systems. The course is designed for students who may want to enter the medical or biological fields.

## **AP BIOLOGY (11-12)**

**Prerequisites: Biology, in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section**

The AP Biology course is designed to be the equivalent of a college introductory biology course usually taken by biology majors during their first year in college. Successful completion of this rigid college-level course and a score of 3 or above on the nationally administered AP Biology exam may permit students to receive college credit for an introductory biology course and/or allow them to register for courses for which biology is a prerequisite. The course and subsequent exam focus on aspects of biology including molecules and cells, heredity, evolution, organisms, and populations. Students must take the Advanced Placement Biology exam in May.

## **HONORS PHYSICS (11-12)**

**Prerequisites: Honors Precalculus (or concurrent enrollment); Chemistry in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

Students will study a variety of topics that include the laws of motion, changes within physical systems, conservation of energy and momentum, force, thermodynamics, and the characteristics and behavior of waves. Students will

also conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and problem solving. A strong math background is required.

### **AP PHYSICS 1 (11-12)**

**Prerequisites: Chemistry in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section**

This physics course is very demanding, both in time and effort required. It will be a math heavy algebra-based in-depth investigation into the following topics: kinematics, dynamics, gravitation, work, energy, momentum, statics, torque, thermodynamics, waves, electricity, magnetism, optics, relativity, quantum physics, and radioactivity. College-level laboratory investigations are an integral part of this course, designed to be the equivalent of the general physics course usually taken during the first college year. Students must take the Advanced Placement Physics 1 exam in May.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE**

Students will know how science has built a vast body of changing and increasing knowledge described by physical, mathematical, and conceptual models and that science may not answer all questions. In Ecology, students will develop an understanding of the global environment and the role that humans play in sustaining it. Students will develop essential skills to make environmental decisions regarding current issues. Students will also conduct laboratory and field investigations, use scientific methods during investigations, and make informed decisions using critical thinking and problem-solving.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **WORLD HISTORY (9)**

Providing an overview of the history of civilization from Creation to the present, this course focuses on how God uses individuals and groups of people to accomplish His plan for man. The class will study the various cultures and movements of the Mediterranean region and Europe and, as time permits, Asia and Africa. Emphasis is placed on historical/cultural progression. Methods include lecture/discussion, reading, map interpretation, and development of essay writing skills.

### **HONORS WORLD HISTORY (9)**

**Prerequisite: Meeting the requirements stated in the honors section**

This course provides an overview of the history of civilization from Creation to the present. The course focuses on how God uses individuals and groups of people to accomplish His plan for man. The class will study the various cultures and movements of the Mediterranean region, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Emphasis is placed on political, diplomatic, and intellectual movements. The student will develop the ability to write logical essays; methods include lecture/discussion, readings, and map interpretation. The goals of this course are to expose the student to the development of current world culture and to prepare a student for the methods, expectations, and techniques of an Advanced Placement history course.

### **AP WORLD HISTORY (9)**

**Prerequisite: Meeting the requirements stated in the AP section.**

This course provides an overview of the history of civilization from Creation to the present. The course focuses on how God uses individuals and groups of people to accomplish His plan for man. The class will study the various cultures and movements of the Mediterranean region, Europe, Africa, and Asia. Emphasis is placed on political, diplomatic, and intellectual movements. The student will develop the ability to write logical essays; methods include lecture/discussion, readings, and map interpretation. The goals of this course are to expose the student to the development of current world culture and to prepare a student for the methods, expectations, and techniques of an Advanced Placement history course. The goals of this course are to expose students to the methods and expectations of a college freshman history class and to prepare the student for the AP exam in May.



## **AP EUROPEAN HISTORY (10)**

**Prerequisite:** World History in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section

In AP European History, students investigate significant events, individuals, developments, and processes from approximately 1450 to the present. Students develop and use the same skills, practices, and methods employed by historians: analyzing primary and secondary sources; developing historical arguments; making historical connections; and utilizing reasoning about comparison, causation, continuity, and change over time. The course also provides seven themes that students explore throughout the course in order to make connections among historical developments in different times and places: interaction of Europe and the world, economic and commercial development, cultural and intellectual development, states and other institutions of power, social organization and development, national and European identity, and technological and scientific innovations. The goals of this course are to expose students to the methods and expectations of a college freshman history class and to prepare the student for the AP exam in May.

## **U.S. HISTORY (11)**

This course provides the students with a general history of the United States of America (from colonization to the present). The student will learn to identify the religious and secular influences on the formation of this country, to identify key events and people in its history, and to explain key themes in our nation's history through written assignments and research projects.

## **HONORS U. S. HISTORY (11)**

**Prerequisite:** World History in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the honors section  
**Continuation in or acceptance into the Honors program**

The course provides the students with a history of the United States (from colonization to the present) through intensive reading and writing. The students' knowledge of the nation's past is used to gain a proper historical perspective: determining how past events have influenced current times and how the cause and effect relationships shape the future.

## **AP U.S. HISTORY (11)**

**Prerequisite:** World History in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section

The AP U.S. History course examines the entire scope of history from the settlement of the American continents to events of current times. Emphasis is placed upon a complete understanding of social, political, diplomatic, economic, cultural, and intellectual movements as well as the development of minorities and women in each major era. The students will develop the ability to write college-level essays and use a variety of documents to answer short answer questions, long response questions, and document-based questions (DBQs). Methods include lecture/discussion; readings; map interpretation; and research into key events, movements, and people (including all Presidents). The goals of this course are to expose students to the methods and expectations of a college freshman history class and to prepare the student for the AP exam in May.

## **HONORS PSYCHOLOGY (11-12)**

This class is a general survey course designed to introduce students to the fundamental methods and content of psychology. Students will compare and contrast Christian psychology with secular approaches; compare and contrast the major principles of the learning, psycho dynamic, cognitive, biological, and sociocultural perspectives in psychology; list and apply the essential elements of critical thinking; distinguish between basic and applied psychological research. Topics of discussion include research methods, the biology of behavior, sensation and perception, stress and adjustment, learning, memory, cognition, motivation, emotion, life-span development, personality, abnormal behavior and its therapies, social behavior, and individual differences.

## **PHILOSOPHY (11-12)**

This course prepares students for classical readings by offering a broad-based introduction to the major concepts and issues that arise within the History of Ideas. Specifically, this course introduces students to the four basic fields of philosophy: metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and logic. These will be studied in terms of knowledge (logic, epistemology, and science), being (metaphysics, human nature, philosophy of religion), and value (ethics, political philosophy, and aesthetics). We will study how these issues inform various worldviews, how these issues

are addressed and understood within (or without) the Christian faith, and emphasize the interrelatedness of our abstracted ideas and our embodied lives - that is, what does it mean to do philosophy for life?

### **U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS (12)**

During the first semester, students survey the important events and ideas that shaped the writing of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution. The second semester of this course explores the development of economics throughout United States history. Supply and demand, monetary systems, and economic theories are studied to prepare the student for living in today's world.

### **HONORS U.S. GOVERNMENT AND ECONOMICS (12)**

**Prerequisite: US History in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the Honors section**

This course will allow the students to survey the development of the U.S. Constitution and American government through the use of primary sources, simulations, problem solving, and comparative government study. The students will also survey the development of the United States economic system. Studies of supply and demand, monetary systems, economic theories, and personal finance prepare the student for living in today's world.

### **AP U.S. GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS (12)**

**Prerequisite: US History in addition to meeting the requirements stated in the AP section**

AP U.S. Government and Politics provides a college-level, nonpartisan introduction to key political concepts, ideas, institutions, policies, interactions, roles, and behaviors that characterize the constitutional system and political culture of the United States. Students study U.S. foundational documents, Supreme Court decisions, and other texts and visuals to gain an understanding of the relationships and interactions among political institutions, processes, and behavior. They also engage in disciplinary practices that require them to read and interpret data, make comparisons and applications, and develop evidence-based arguments. In addition, they complete a political science research or applied civics project. Methods include lecture/discussion; readings of textbook and primary sources; Supreme Court opinion analysis; and a community service project. The goals of this course are to expose students to the methods and expectations of a college freshman government class and to prepare the student for the AP exam in May.

---

## **TECHNOLOGY**

---

### **VISUAL DESIGN (9-12)**

Students will learn the art of graphic design through an introduction to Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator. As students use the Adobe programs, they will learn the art of typography, manipulation of photos, creating 3D effects, creating logos, and preparing professional finalized documents for print. Students will also become proficient in navigating the Apple operating system workspace. A portion of the class will be dedicated to learning through an online curriculum that is geared toward preparing interested students to take an Adobe certification exam! Visual Design is a one-semester course. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page.

### **VIDEO PRODUCTION (9-12)**

Students will learn the art of video editing and will be introduced to iMovie, Adobe Premiere Pro, Adobe Audition, and Adobe After Effects. As students use the Adobe programs, they will learn the art of video editing, audio editing, visual effects, sound effects, and rendering projects. Students will learn key concepts of composing good video shots and how to piece them together into a polished finished product. Students will also become proficient in navigating the Apple operating system workspace. Video Production is a one-semester course. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page.

### **SOUND & LIGHTING DESIGN FOR THE STAGE (10-12)**

This technology course introduces students to technical systems and programs used to produce visual and audio effects for staged performances. Students will learn the terminology, technology, and practices used by sound and lighting technicians and designers to create their own sound and lighting designs for in-class projects and out-of-class performances. Sound and Lighting Design for the Stage is a one-semester course.

### **HONORS COMPUTER SCIENCE (10-12)**

**Prerequisite: Algebra 1**

Project Lead The Way (PLTW) Computer Science engages students in collaborative projects that help them develop in-demand computer science knowledge as well as transportable skills like creative thinking and communication. And whether they're creating an online art gallery or using automation to process and analyze DNA-sequence data, PLTW Computer Science students are seeing how their learning connects to the real world.

### **HONORS ENGINEERING ESSENTIALS (10-12)**

**Prerequisites: completed or concurrent enrollment in Honors Algebra II**

Students explore the breadth of engineering career opportunities and experiences as they solve engaging and challenging real-world problems like creating a natural relief center system or creating a solution to improve the safety and well-being of local citizens.

### **DIGITAL ART**

This course will be an introduction to creating digital art. Students will use school supplied iPads and Apple Pencils to create their art. The use of the Procreate app, and Adobe Creative Suite apps will be a focus. Students will enter their work in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, in which a small monetary fee will be required from the student to enter. Digital Photography is a one-semester course and can count as either an art credit or a tech credit. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page.

\*NOTE - This course can be counted either as a technology credit or a Fine Arts credit.

### **DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY (11-12)**

This course will be an introduction to basic digital photography. Students are welcome and encouraged to have their own personal camera, however cameras will be available for students that do not have one. Students will need their own 64 GB SD cards. Students will learn the basics of how to use digital cameras, the functions of the camera (ISO, aperture, shutter speed), composition, and story-telling. This course will focus on digital photography as an art form. A variety of field trips in the immediate area as well as field trips to highly photographic locations will be offered. Students will enter their work in the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, in which a small monetary fee will be required from the student to enter. Students will edit photos on school supplied iPads. Digital Photography is a one-semester course. Gaston Christian School requires that all students adhere to the Computer Access Policy, Addendum B, in the Student/Parent Handbook. Students and parents acknowledge their understanding and willingness to abide by these expectations by signing the Agreement Signature page. Students may take this course more than once, but doing so requires a teacher recommendation.

### **BROADCASTING & PODCASTING (11-12)**

The Broadcasting & Podcasting course introduces students to the dynamic world of audio and visual media production. Students will explore the fundamentals of storytelling, scriptwriting, interviewing, sound design, video production, and digital editing. Through hands-on projects, students will learn to create professional-quality broadcasts and podcasts, honing their technical skills. Students may be required to do a standard broadcast at our sports games.

## **WELLNESS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **HEALTH**

This course (one semester) introduces the aspects of healthy living that include physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health. It is primarily offered in 8th grade for a high school credit. For students who enroll in Gaston Christian after 8th grade who have not already taken Health class in high school, they can take this course as an independent study that will be led by the PE teachers.

### **PHYSICAL EDUCATION (9)**

In this course, the students acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment, continued social development through physical activity, and a choice to live a physically active lifestyle. The students will engage in a daily regimen of vigorous physical and cardio-respiratory activity. Students have the option to take Physical Education classes for a semester or for the full year.

### **WEIGHT TRAINING (10-12)**

**Prerequisite: Health/Physical Education**

These courses equip students with the knowledge to develop, implement, and maintain a program to strengthen the body. Students are challenged (under the supervision of the instructor) to develop their own weight training routines to achieve the desired strengthening results. Students have the option to take Weight Training classes for a semester or for the full year.

### **TEAM SPORTS (10-12)**

**Prerequisite: Health/Physical Education**

This course is designed to teach skills and basic rules and to offer physical activity in sports such as baseball, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. The course is open to students in grades 10-12. Students have the option to take the Team Sports course for a semester or for the full year.

### **DANCE (9-12)**

This course is designed for the beginner dancer. Students will learn basic ballet terms and positioning, along with jazz, country line, swing, modern, polka, shuffles, and tap dance. Class will consist of warm ups, focused barre exercises, center exercises, and across the floor movements. Dance is an elective course open to all students. This class will fulfill a P.E. elective credit. No previous dance experience is required. Students who enroll in this course have high expectations to be hard working, responsible, and have a willingness to try new things.

The purpose of this course is to give students of varying dance abilities and experience the opportunity to enrich their kinesthetic awareness by learning several genres of dance as well as learning the anatomy of the human body, basic fitness principles, the history of dance, dance terminology, choreography, and dance production. The dress code for class is a P.E. uniform.

### **ATHLETIC TRAINING AIDE (10-12)**

**Credits: 1.0**

This hands-on, semester-long elective course introduces students to the fundamentals of athletic training, with a focus on injury prevention, taping and wrapping techniques, and providing care for athletes. Students will learn how to properly tape and wrap athletes for injury protection and support during games and practices. The course will require students to attend athletic events after school, often totaling 5-6 hours per week, where they will assist in providing first aid, monitoring injuries, and supporting the athletic teams.

As a part of the course, students will gain real-world experience by working alongside athletic trainers and coaches in a dynamic, fast-paced environment. This class is designed for those interested in pursuing a career in sports medicine, physical therapy, or athletic training. Please note, this class is scheduled outside of regular school hours and requires a significant time commitment.

By the end of the semester, students will have a foundational understanding of athletic training practices and will be prepared to assist in the care and management of athletes during competition and training sessions.

## **ELECTIVE MISCELLANEOUS**

### **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Entrepreneurship Program seeks to engage interested and motivated students with a simulated entrepreneurship experience that provides real-world lessons they'll need to successfully start their own business.

Over the course of a semester, this program immerses students in business fundamentals like market opportunities, innovation, viability, feasibility, and business plan development. Working in teams and mentored by business leaders, the students pitch their business plans at the end of each semester as part of a regional competition.

### **OFFICE AIDE (12)**

Seniors may spend a period being an office aide. They can assist the office, the technology department, fine arts, admissions, or athletics. This can be for one semester or for a full year. Approval will be required by the staff member that the student wishes to work with. A grade and a credit are given for this course.

### **PERSONAL FINANCE (10-12)**

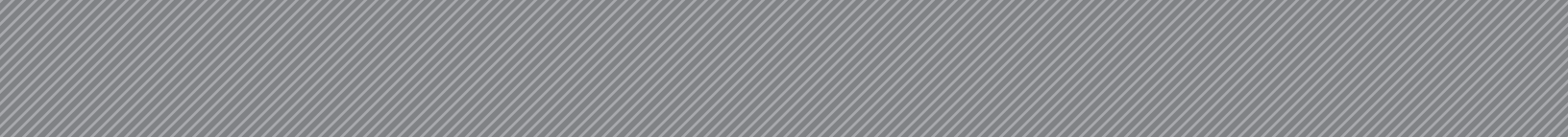
Note: This course does not meet math graduation requirements at GCS; it is a math elective course.

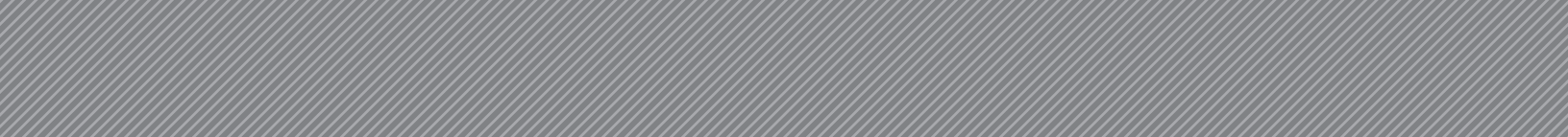
Personal Finance is designed to teach students how to take control of their money and help them avoid huge money mistakes in the future. The class will work through Dave Ramsey's "Foundations in Personal Finance" high school course. Through the use of videos and classroom and online activities, students will learn how to budget, save, spend wisely, avoid debt, and give. Other topics covered include insurance, taxes, investing and retirement.

### **SPORTS MARKETING (11-12)**

#### **Credits: 1.0**

The Sports Marketing course introduces students to the dynamic and fast-paced world of sports and entertainment marketing. Through interactive lessons, real-world case studies, and hands-on projects, students will explore the principles and strategies used to promote sports teams, events, and products. Topics include branding, sponsorships, market research, event planning, digital marketing, public relations, and social media strategies in the sports industry. Students will gain practical experience by developing marketing campaigns, analyzing fan engagement strategies, and working on collaborative projects related to local and national sports teams. The course will also examine career opportunities in sports marketing and the ethical considerations that impact the industry.







GASTON  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL

**PREPARE** *People*  
**TEACH** *Truth*  
**GLORIFY** *God*

**GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL - EAST CLEVELAND CAMPUS**

105 E. RIDGE ST., KINGS MOUNTAIN, NC 28086 | [WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG/EAST-CLEVELAND-CAMPUS](http://WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG/EAST-CLEVELAND-CAMPUS)

ELEMENTARY (PS4-6th Grade)

Phone: (980) 484-3888

---

**GASTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

1625 LOWELL BETHESDA ROAD, GASTONIA, NC 28056 | [WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG](http://WWW.GASTONCHRISTIAN.ORG)

**EARLY CHILDHOOD**

(PS3-Kindergarten)

Phone: (704) 824-9893

FAX: (704) 824-9895

**ELEMENTARY**

(1st-5th Grade)

Phone: (704) 824-9011

FAX: (704) 824-9013

**MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL**

(6th -12th Grade)

Phone: (704) 349-5020 (HS)

Phone: (704) 349-5030 (MS)

FAX: (704) 349-5027