NRCA Insider's Guide
TO COURSE SELECTION
2018 2019
Dear Students and Parents,

Choosing courses can be a daunting task! I am so grateful to the Journalism class for partnering with the teachers to compile the resources in this book. Please use the information inside to guide you in your course selection. You will find information about course content, homework expectations, and any additional fees required for each class.

Per the NRCA handbook, students must have an A (90-100) in this year’s course to be eligible to select an honors course in that same subject for next year. A student must have an A (90-100) in an honors course to be eligible to request an AP course in the same subject. Students are required to choose at least three alternate elective choices (different from their first choice elective) to ensure that they receive one of their choices.

The online course registration will open Monday, April 9, and will close on Tuesday, April 17. The course registration icon is found in PowerSchool. Students must print their requested schedule, have their parent sign the schedule, and turn in the form at the front desk in the school lobby by Wednesday, April 18.

Students will receive their schedules at Open House on Tuesday, August 14, 2018.

If I can help in any way, please contact me at dmonahan@nrcaknights.com or (919) 573-7900 x7926.

Blessings for a great 2018-2019 school year!

Debbie Monahan
College Counseling Director
AP Requirements
Students who enroll in AP courses are required to take the AP exam in May to receive AP credit (two additional quality points) for the course. If students do not take the exam, their GPA is modified to receive only honors credit (one quality point) for the course. The AP exam fee is determined by College Board each year.

Virtual Academy
Students may choose to enroll in an optional online class. These classes are recommended ONLY for the highly motivated and disciplined student. Additional fees are required and are due by May 11, 2018.

2018-19- NRCAPlus Virtual Academy Pricing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Type</th>
<th>Price</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>½ Credit Course</td>
<td>$570</td>
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<tr>
<td>Full Credit Course</td>
<td>$700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP Full Credit Course</td>
<td>$800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AP ½ Credit Course</td>
<td>$600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One-Time Registration Fee</td>
<td>$40</td>
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AP Courses
- AP Computer Science A
- AP Art History
- AP Statistics
- AP World History
- AP Micro & Macro Economics (½ credit each)

Full Credit Courses
- French, Latin, German, and Chinese language

Half Credit Courses (2 must be taken in one year)
- Digital Photography
- Game Design
- Forensics I & II
- Music Appreciation
- Personal and Family Finance
- SAT Training
- ACT Training

About this Book
Core curriculum courses are arranged by subject. Within each subject, courses are arranged by grade (9 to 12) and level.

Elective courses are listed in alphabetical order.
North Raleigh Christian Academy has a dual enrollment agreement with the fully accredited College at Southeastern where six classes offered at NRCA and instructed by NRCA teachers are eligible for college credit through dual enrollment.

Six NRCA classes can be taken concurrently for NRCA high school credit and College of Southeastern college credit.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRCA HIGH SCHOOL COURSE TITLE:</th>
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<td>Biblical Hermeneutics</td>
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<td>AP United States History</td>
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<td>AP Literature and Composition</td>
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<td>AP European History</td>
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<td>Honors Philosophy</td>
<td>HOI 1110—History of Ideas</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian Apologetics</td>
<td>PHI 1100—Faith, Reason &amp; the Christian Mind</td>
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Applications for Dual Enrollment will be available in August 2018 and will be due in February 2019.
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<th>ACADEMICS</th>
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<tr>
<td>Bible</td>
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<td>• Systematic Theology</td>
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<td>History</td>
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<td>• US History</td>
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<td>Math</td>
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<td>• Geometry</td>
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<td>• Geometry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
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<td>• Honors Biology</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>• English I</td>
<td>• Honors English I</td>
<td>• English II</td>
<td>• Honors English II</td>
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<tr>
<td>Language</td>
<td>• Spanish I</td>
<td>• Spanish II</td>
<td>• Spanish I</td>
<td>• Spanish II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Electives</td>
<td>• Art I</td>
<td>• Band*</td>
<td>• Broadcast Production</td>
<td>• Choir*</td>
</tr>
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Before-School Classes:
- • Honors Jazz Ensemble
- • Honors Ensemble (% credit)
- • Honors Choreography & Performance
- • Honors Advanced Acting (% credit)
- • AP Studio Art
- • Honors Jazz Ensemble
- • Honors Ensemble (% credit)
- • Honors Competitive
- • Speech & Debate
- • Honors Creative Writing
- • Honors Production & Film
- • Honors Choreography & Performance
- • Honors Advanced Acting (% credit)
- • AP Studio Art
- • Honors Jazz Ensemble
- • Honors Ensemble (% credit)
- • Honors Competitive
- • Speech & Debate
- • Honors Creative Writing
- • Honors Production & Film
- • Honors Choreography & Performance
- • Honors Advanced Acting (% credit)
- • AP Studio Art
- • Honors Jazz Ensemble
- • Honors Ensemble (% credit)
- • Honors Competitive
- • Speech & Debate
- • Honors Creative Writing
- • Honors Production & Film
- • Honors Choreography & Performance
- • Honors Advanced Acting (% credit)
English

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Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30-45 minutes

Major concepts covered:
Grammar (review of major concepts covered in middle school curriculum); Vocabulary; Literature (genre approach); Writing (five-paragraph literary analysis, journals); Expository speeches

Insider information for students:
The amount of reading and writing required in Honors English I is significant. Students should budget their time wisely, balancing both in-class titles and outside reading.

Insider information for parents:
A goal for this year is to teach students to manage long-term assignments independently.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30 minutes, but varies

Major concepts covered: Vocabulary; Grammar - parts of speech; Literature - short stories; poetry; drama (Cyrano de Bergerac, Julius Caesar); mythology; Research Project; novel (Animal Farm); literary terms and their application for each genre; speeches

Insider information for students: Students must write in response to a journal prompt three times per week. There is a cumulative vocabulary test once per quarter.

Insider information for parents: The cumulative vocabulary tests each quarter cover all words studied from the beginning of the year.

Significant course changes: None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

No Fear Shakespeare Julius Caesar; Animal Farm; Frankenstein
Composition Book - college ruled
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30-45 minutes, typically

Major concepts covered:
First semester hits reading skills hard. Second semester focuses on writing skills. Students practice using Mortimer Adler’s principles for annotating texts, both in class and out of class. The mandatory literary selections are works of great World Literature, and the outside reading falls into the category of great literature also but may include American and British literature titles. Students write and deliver persuasive speeches based on the classical model for argumentation, compose literary analyses, and complete a research project. Vocabulary exercises and assessments prepare students for college entrance exams.

Insider information for students:
Assignments have long-term due dates. To be successful in the course, you should not postpone beginning these assignments. Their start dates are scheduled to give you adequate time to complete the assignment in depth and with excellence. Good time management skills are essential.

Insider information for parents:
Students should not delay the start of long-term projects. One of the goals of the course it to help students cultivate excellent time-management skills, in addition to excellent reading and writing skills.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
English II - World Literature
Grade: 10

Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30 minutes but varies

Major concepts covered:
Vocabulary; Grammar - SAT concepts and Sentence Diagramming; Mythology/Odyssey; Research Skills; Literature - Macbeth, Things Fall Apart, Night, nonfiction selections, short stories, poetry, literary terms for each genre

Insider information for students:
One outside reading project required each quarter, and students complete a 3-5 page research paper.

Insider information for parents:
One outside reading project required each quarter and is read entirely at home. This outside reading is their homework, with additional unfinished classwork assignments.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Novels: Things Fall Apart; Night; Simply Shakespeare Macbeth

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Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): Homework will rarely be given, but the teacher will have due dates for reading and writing assignments that the teacher would expect to take significant time to complete. Within this course the teacher expects students to be able to manage their time so that they can complete assignments on time, even if that requires several nights and edits to complete. On average, each week may require three to six hours of reading, studying, writing or editing.

Major concepts covered: Instead of covering the novels and writings of the American literary tradition, this course approaches writing through nonfiction and major rhetorical modes - argument, classification, definition, synthesis, analysis and others. The course will focus on the nuance and detailed structures of sentences, paragraphs and arguments.

Insider information for students: Students must be comfortable with reading and writing large amounts and sharing their writings and opinions publicly for critique. A successful student will enjoy writing and possess a desire to develop a wide range of writing styles with a high level of personal responsibility. Assignments may be more abstract and holistically graded than in literature courses.

Insider information for parents: Grades will not come as quickly as in the honors course, and students do not receive study guides or review sheets for tests. The instructor is available for student writing conferences. As this course is a college-level course that can earn college credit, student initiative and responsibility are essential.

Significant course changes: New summer reading.

Purchases students are required to make for the course: Several novels and writing books will be required; towards the end of this year, the instructor will provide a list and itemize all of those. AP exam fee.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
This course examines worldviews and philosophy present in literature. The curriculum covers the development of American thinking and writing styles from the Puritans to the Postmoderns through novels, short stories, plays and poetry. Students will make arguments and present evidence of analysis and focus on a literary approach to readings, discussions and assessments.

Insider information for students:
This would be a good class for those who have done well in the literature of an English classroom. The course moves at a faster pace and the instructor requires a good amount of reading to be done in a shorter amount of time. The instructor teaches this course with an expectation that students are able to read and analyze literature without study guides or external sources for aid. This would be the best course for readers and those who prefer fiction and discussion to analysis of nonfiction writing.

Insider information for parents:
This course is NOT for those who “can’t cut it” in AP. Although there are writing assignments, this course is for both critical and pleasure readers more than a course for the technical analysis of writing style and structure.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Students will need to purchase novels and plays in digital or paperback format.
American Literature
Grade: 11

Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
Less than 30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
The movement of American thought and attitudes from the Puritans to the Postmoderns through novels, short stories, plays and poetry.

Insider information for students:
This would be a good class for those who have sometimes struggled in an English classroom. The course moves at a very reasonable pace and the instructor teaches this course in such a way to bridge the divide between contemporary students and classic literature.

Insider information for parents:
This course will be the most direct approach to literature and will be a good place for students who have not liked English courses or who have had to work very hard to keep up.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Students will need to purchase novels and plays in digital or paperback format.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 1 - 2 hours on average

Major concepts covered: Critical reading of literature; writing literary analyses; poetry and poetry analysis;

Insider information for students: The class requires a lot of reading and writing. Students who like to read and discuss literature will enjoy the variety and depth of the reading. A syllabus is provided for each unit with a calendar of due dates and assignments so students may plan or work ahead on their assignments.

Insider information for parents: This class will be time-consuming for slow readers or students who struggle with reading.

Significant course changes: None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Books: Paradise Lost; Hamlet; Crime and Punishment; Heart of Darkness; notebooks for critical reading journals. AP exam fee.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 1/2 - 1 hour

Major concepts covered:
British Literature covers the chronological history of British literature. The course starts with the Anglo-Saxon period and goes through the modern era. Students learn about major writers and their works. They study poetry, drama, and short stories. This course will also complete a research paper.

Insider information for students: None

Insider information for parents: None

Significant course changes: None known at this time

Books: Once and Future King; Beowulf; Hamlet; Great Expectations
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

**Homework estimate (per night):**
30 minutes

What major concepts are covered in your class?
Literature - British literature from the very beginning of English literature to the present; Vocabulary; Persuasive writing and speaking; Research project; College essays

Insider information for students:
None

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

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$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Books: *Beowulf; Hamlet* (or another Shakespearean play); *Once & Future King*
*Silas Marner*, Eliot
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30-40 minutes

Major concepts covered:
In the first semester, Honors Geometry will address concepts on essentials of geometry, reasoning and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, and relationships within triangles. The second semester will cover similarity, right triangles, trigonometry, quadrilaterals, properties of circles, area of polygons, area and sector of circles, surface area and volume of solids.

Insider information for students:
Honors Geometry is a very thought-provoking math class. Students will be asked to think out of the box. Advanced algebra skills will be used daily to solve problems dealing with shapes. Honors Geometry will stretch students’ spatial knowledge.

Insider information for parents:
Honors Geometry is a different kind of math course and will challenge students to think and apply the knowledge they have learned.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): Less than one hour

Major concepts covered:
This course covers essentials of geometry, reasoning and proofs, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships within triangles, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, quadrilaterals, properties of circles, measuring length and area, surface area and volume of solids.

Insider information for students: None

Insider information for parents: None

Significant course changes: None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Compass, graphing calculator (TI-83 or TI-84)
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 20-30 minutes for the average honors student

Major concepts covered: Linear, Quadratic, Polynomial, Exponential, Logarithmic and Rational Functions

Insider information for students: This is an honors-level course. Excellent algebra skills are required for success. Students will need to practice the skills taught by doing homework nightly. Studying by practicing skills learned in class and practiced while completing homework assignments will be necessary to score well on tests and quizzes.

Insider information for parents: Struggling students should attend help class on a regular basis or seek the assistance of a tutor. Any student who is moving from a CP-level course to honors level for this course will likely find the transition smoother with the help of a tutor. Outside help will be essential for high-level performance in this course as students transition from CP to honors.

Significant course changes: None known at this time
**Special purchases recommended but not required:**
None

**Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:**
None

**Homework estimate (per night):**
20-30 minutes for the average student

**Major concepts covered:**
Linear, Quadratic, Polynomial, Exponential, Logarithmic and Rational Functions.

**Insider information for students:**
This is a college preparatory course. In order to be successful, homework must be completed each night. Students must prepare for quizzes and tests by practicing the concepts learned in class and material covered in homework assignments.

**Insider information for parents:**
Struggling students should attend help class on a regular basis or seek the assistance of a tutor.

**Significant course changes:**
None known at this time

**Purchases students are required to make for the course:**
TI-84 graphing calculator
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30-45 minutes

Major concepts covered:
The majority of the time is spent on trigonometry. Students also study functions and their graphs—linear, polynomial, rational, exponential, and logarithmic. The course also covers sequences, series and probability. The last topic is conic sections.

Insider information for students:
Students who easily make an A/B in Honors Algebra 2 will do well in this course. Students who come from Algebra 2 CP or AFM will have to work very hard and may find this course very difficult. Students will use iPads almost every day.

Insider information for parents:
This class may be difficult for your student. It moves at a fast pace. This class will prepare students for the SAT and for calculus.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): Less than one hour

Major concepts covered:
The course covers the following topics: data analysis, linear regression, systems of equations, linear programming, curve sketching, exponents and exponential functions, logarithms, right triangle trigonometry, oblique triangles, circular motion, probability.

Insider information for students:
This course is a majority review of Algebra 1, Algebra 2 and geometry. Students take concepts they have already learned in high school and go more in depth with them by using real world applications (word problems).

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
The instructor plans modifications in the curriculum guide, so the units listed above may be changed, omitted, or in a different order.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
One hour

Major concepts covered:
The course covers the following: limits, derivatives, integrals, sequences and series, parametric equations, polar functions.

Insider information for students:
This course starts out as a repeat of AP Calculus AB at a very fast pace. Then students tackle some very hard topics that require them to make connections to various topics in math, along with calculus. These last few chapters are difficult. Students also have an online homework assignment every week.

Insider information for parents:
Students will need to be self-motivated to do well in this class. If the students did well in AB, they should be okay in BC.

Significant course changes:
The College Board has added a few more topics to BC.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
One hour

Major concepts covered:
The course covers the following: limits, derivatives and integrals.

Insider information for students:
This is a difficult math course. Few students make an A in this class. These are brand new topics and require students to make connections between different concepts quickly. This course requires lots of time. Students do an online homework assignment every week.

Insider information for parents:
This course may be the first time a student has not made an A in a math course, but it will prepare them to do well in the college equivalent.

Significant course changes:
The College Board has added a few more concepts to the course.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30 minutes

Major concepts covered: This course covers the following: statistics; college-level algebra; college-level pre-calculus; budgeting.

Insider information for students: Students need a strong foundation in Honors Algebra 2 and Honors Pre-Calculus in order to be successful in the college algebra and college pre-calculus units. There are two projects during the course of the year. The first project is in the statistics unit and it is based upon college costs. The second project is in the college pre-calculus unit and it is based upon sine waves.

Insider information for parents: Honors College Math fully prepares students for the following college classes: statistics, college-level algebra and college-level pre-calculus. Upon completion of the pre-calculus unit, students will have the prerequisite to tackle Business Calculus and Calculus I.

Significant course changes: None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

TI-84+ calculator
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
15-30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
Statistics

Insider information for students:
Statistics is a good fit for students planning to major in business or nursing in college. The class uses basic mathematical computations throughout the year. The second half of the year requires the ability to follow a flow chart in order to make decisions. Each test begins with a section of vocabulary pertinent to the current unit of statistics.

Insider information for parents:
Students who have not been successful in their math classes in high school can excel in Statistics if they put forth the effort.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

TI-84+ calculator
History

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Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): Less than one hour

Major concepts covered: The course covers history from creation to September 11, 2001. The main goal of the class is to teach students how God has moved in history and express what man has done with the time God has given him.

Insider information for students: Pay attention, read the book, and take good notes.

Insider information for parents: If the student stays on task with homework, quizzes, and tests, they should do well.

Significant course changes: No significant changes at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
To be well-prepared to assume all the duties and responsibilities of citizens living in the United States and North Carolina, students will develop a line-by-line understanding of the country’s founding documents, with a focus on the Constitution. Students will also examine the roles of the legislative and executive branches and will put their understanding into practice as they assume the roles of Supreme Court justices, Presidents, and lawmakers in class mock trials and other simulation activities.

Insider information for students:
Honors Constitution requires a considerable amount of difficult reading and comprehension. The assessments for the class consist of multiple choice, short answers and document-based essays.

Insider information for parents:
Students may need to learn some different study methods to do well in this class.

Significant course changes:
The course will continue to incorporate more analysis of charts, graphs and primary source documents.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 20 minutes

Major concepts covered:
Students will examine and develop an understanding of the Constitution by analyzing the role of the federal government, the role of state government, and the duties and responsibilities of citizens. Students will study current events in order to understand real world application of the Constitution. A focus on analyzing and evaluating primary source documents, maps, graphs, and charts will be included in order to master these skills.

Insider information for students: Constitution may be a class that has many unfamiliar topics. It will take some effort to understand all the information that is new.

Insider information for parents: Constitution will be a class that will give parents an opportunity to discuss real world topics with students.

Significant course changes: No significant changes at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): One hour per night (five nights per week)

Major concepts covered:
APUSH covers the following: nine periods of US History from 1492 to the present; key concepts of American history; thematic development--US identity, work, exchange, technology, peopling, politics, America and the world, environment, beliefs; historical essay writing; and analysis of primary documents, maps, political cartoons, graphs, charts.

Insider information for students:
Prerequisite: Students must have taken Honors Constitution and have an A to be eligible for this course. APUSH is a cumulative course which means that after material is studied for a test, it is also needed for future tests as well. Writing is an integral part of this course and those with weak writing skills should consider if they are willing to put forth the work needed in order to be successful in this course. Also, there is a summer reading project with a book report.

Insider information for parents:
APUSH gets increasingly more difficult as the year progresses due to the cumulative nature of remembering historical facts. Also, essay-writing increases significantly the second semester.

Significant course changes:
none
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
15-30 minutes per night

Major concepts covered:
This in-depth course will examine themes and topics in United States history from the Colonial Era through the present. Students will study topics and themes including, but not limited to, the development of the US Constitution, the Early Republic period, Jacksonian democracy, westward expansion, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction era, industrialization and immigration, imperialism, WWI, the “Roaring Twenties,” the Great Depression, WWII, the Cold War America, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Liberal/Conservative Movements from 1960s-present. Honors US History requires more at-home preparation and outside reading, emphasizes the greater higher order thinking skills, and demands a higher level of classroom participation than does the College Preparatory US History course.

Insider information for students:
Prerequisite: Students must earn an A/B in Honors Constitution or A in Constitution. Students will have a section of the history book to read each night and questions to answer about the section. They will need to be familiar with the material from class discussions. This class will also have times of debate on issues where students will have to defend their arguments with historical facts. Some writing skills are needed for some assigned essays and for test answers that involve writing answers in paragraphs not just multiple choice answers.

Insider information for parents:
This class is a good fit for students who are ready to study an overview of US history and sharpen their writing, thinking, and debating skills while engaging in this class.

Significant course changes:
More focus on historical writing skills.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 15-30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
This course will examine themes and topics in United States history from the Colonial Era through the present and includes the development of the US Constitution, the Early Republic period, Jacksonian democracy, westward expansion, slavery, the Civil War and Reconstruction era, industrialization and immigration, imperialism, WWI, the “Roaring Twenties," the Great Depression, WWII, the Cold War America, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Liberal/Conservative Movements from the 1960s to the present.

Insider information for students:
This class has more in-class, hands-on projects than the honors course. Students will need to read the assigned section each night for their homework and not just skim it to find the answers to questions.

Insider information for parents:
This class is a good fit for students who want a general survey of US history which covers the major events using a variety of learning styles.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

There will be an end-of-year Decades Dinner Project which will involve minimal costs for food and decorations.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): Two hours

Major concepts covered:
This course offers an in-depth study of European History from 1450-present, preparing students for the AP exam.

Insider information for students:
The class requires the student to be dedicated to the material in preparation for the AP exam in May.

Insider information for parents:
This course has a heavy reading load.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Spark Chart
AP exam fee
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
This course is a study of microeconomics/macroeconomics and 20th-century history.

Insider information for students:
Students will learn about all aspects of economics and be well-prepared for college-level economics courses.

Insider information for parents:
Encourage students to take the class. This is one of the most practically applicable classes in high school. This class will introduce terms and concepts needed for college microeconomics/macroeconomics classes. The students that will read the text book will ensure success.

Significant course changes:
None at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
On occasion, there may be need to finish an aspect of a lab during lunch or after school.

Homework estimate (per night):
Expect about 20-30 minutes of studying and preparation per night.

Major concepts covered:
Honors Biology is an in-depth look at cell biology, genetics, origin of life, ecology, biotechnology, and classification of living organisms.

Insider information for students:
Honors Biology will require students to read and analyze material prior to coming to class. Students are expected to contribute to class discussions and activities. It is the teacher’s expectation that students will be diligent in their preparation and work as directed by the course syllabus / website.

Insider information for parents:
This course will require significant analysis on the part of the student as this may be their first experience with an honors high school course. Students should perform at a higher level than they may be used to in middle school.

Significant course changes:
None at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 15 minutes; most work can be completed in class

Major concepts covered: The major topics covered include cell structure, genetics, biotechnology, microbiology, creation, and evolution.

Insider information for students: None

Insider information for parents: None

Significant course changes: None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Safety goggles for labs; gloves for dissection; necessary materials for Science Fair project (display board, etc.)
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
On occasion, labs may require work outside of the allotted class time.

Homework estimate (per night):  
To be successful in this course, a student should expect 45-75 minutes of work on a nightly basis.

Major concepts covered:
AP Biology follows the course framework of the College Board Advanced Placement program. Topics include the following: origin of life, bioenergetics, genetics, biochemistry, animal structure and function, plant structure and function, ecology, and cellular biology.

Insider information for students:
This course requires significant work on the part of the student to stay current in their reading, notations, and workbook assignments. It is the expectation of the teacher that students be prepared to contribute to class discussions with questions, explanations, and analysis of the material under review. Both grading standards and out-of-class work will be more stringent than in previous courses.

Insider information for parents:
AP Biology requires a commitment on the part of the student. Enrollment in this course demonstrates a willingness to complete all course expectations to the best of their ability, regardless of any extracurricular activities.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Barron’s AP Biology Flashcards 3rd Ed.; Barron’s AP Biology Review book 5th Ed. or above; Lab Safety goggles; Nitrile gloves (40 ct)
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30-45 minutes

Major concepts covered:
This course covers anatomy and physiology for all the major body systems with an emphasis on medical application, including case studies.

Insider information for students:
The tests involve a lot of critical thinking rather than memorization. The students should expect honors-level material and independent research on diseases and disorders.

Insider information for parents:
Students interested in pursuing a medical career may benefit from this class.

Significant course changes:
Introduction of additional labs and activities

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Safety goggles, bookcover
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 15 minutes, on average (Most work can be completed during class.)

Major concepts covered: The major concepts covered include anatomical terminology, chemistry, and each of the eleven organ systems of the human body.

Insider information for students: The goal of this course is to encourage you to use basic facts about the human body to discover the possible causes of different physiological responses to environmental and lifestyle conditions.

Insider information for parents: None

Significant course changes: None known at this time.

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Students will need the following: lab safety goggles and gloves for dissection.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30 minutes, approximately

Major concepts covered:
Honors Chemistry is an in-depth study of energy, atomic structure and function, the periodic table, chemical formulas, reaction stoichiometry, gases, thermodynamics, solution chemistry, equilibrium, and acid-base chemistry. In addition to lecture, the course includes laboratories to emphasize concepts learned in class and improve basic laboratory skills. The course requires that each student be proficient in basic algebra as well as problem solving. To be eligible for Honors Chemistry, a student must have had an A in their previous science class. Students who are behind in math will find this course very challenging.

Insider information for students:
Honors Chemistry is a science class with a great deal of math. Logic and reasoning skills are utilized and fine-tuned throughout the course. Typically those students who have taken Honors Algebra II with an A or B are successful in Honors Chemistry, as long as they stay on top of assignments, ask questions in class, and follow teacher recommendations for knowledge development. Some students take Honors Chemistry along with Algebra II. Most of the time these students find the course more challenging than most others and many times need extra tutor assistance to do well.

Insider information for parents:
See comments above.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Calculator

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
15-20 minutes, one to two times per week

Major concepts covered:
Basic chemistry concepts are covered, including states of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonding, and the balancing of chemical equations.

Insider information for students:
This course is designed for the student who is interested in a basic understanding of chemistry. Course concepts build upon each other as students progress throughout the year. The course is not overly math-intensive, although students will use algebraic concepts for problem solving.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: Students will have a physics lab one morning a week at 7:00.

Homework estimate (per night): One hour

Major concepts covered: Mechanics—which includes vectors, displacement, velocity, acceleration, forces, energy, momentum, rotational motion—is the major component. We also study waves, sound, and electricity.

Insider information for students: This is a very difficult course which requires a student to use critical thinking skills to connect different ideas in the course. Students solve word problems all year long. The tests require students to analyze new situations that they have not been exposed to in advance. The students also do an online homework assignment every week. We use an online book. Students will need a computer at home to install the program. Then the program can be transferred to the iPad.

Insider information for parents: Parents should expect their students to spend a lot of time on the class. Only about half of the class makes A’s.

Significant course changes: None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
One early morning lab (7:00 a.m.) each week.

Homework estimate (per night):
One hour

Major concepts covered:
AP Chemistry is designed as an introductory, college-level course. Concepts learned in Honors Chemistry are further developed. Through laboratory experiences and lecture, students explore microscopic as well as macroscopic chemistry, electronic structure and bonding, speed and extent of chemical reactions, equilibrium, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, and acid-base chemistry. In order to take AP Chemistry, students must have an A in Honors Chemistry.

Insider information for students:
If students enjoyed Honors Chemistry they are going to love AP. The class takes each concept learned in Honors and develops it to a higher level through labs and hands-on experiences. Active participation is required to profit from the experience. Attendance for early morning labs is not optional. If students think they might need to take chemistry in college as a science or engineering major, they should strongly consider taking AP Chemistry or AP Physics. This course will make college chemistry much easier.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Goggles; calculator; old closed-toed shoes to be kept in lab (girls only); AP Chemistry Crash Course book by Adrian Dingle; AP exam fee
Honors Ecology
Grade: 12

Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate:
30 minutes, approximately 2-3 times per week

Major concepts covered:

Insider information for students:
If students want to learn more about the incredible interactions among God's creation, then this is the perfect class. Students will learn what environmental stewardship is and what they can do personally to be a better steward. Honors students are required to do a quarterly project and a weekly current environmental event.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Lab goggles
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate: 15-30 minutes, 2 times per week

Major concepts covered:
This course covers the following: energy flow, Community and Population Ecology, sustainability, water quality, and Creation Care/Environmental Stewardship.

Insider information for students:
If students want to learn more about the incredible interactions among God's creation, then this is the place. Students will learn what environmental stewardship is and what they can do personally to be a better steward.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Lab goggles
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Apple Pencil or another stylus for iPad

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
Expect about 15-20 minutes per night to study vocabulary and complete assignments.

Major concepts covered:
This course is designed for students to begin to learn how to communicate in Spanish as a second language. We will learn how to understand, read, write, and speak the language through a variety of activities.

Insider information for students:
Learning Spanish can be both challenging and fun at the same time! Expect to speak and write Spanish through individual and group projects throughout the year with the goal of being able to communicate in the language.

Insider information for parents:
Students will learn language structures and functions throughout the year which will allow them to hold conversations about a variety of everyday topics. They are encouraged to use the language outside the classroom to increase their proficiency.

Significant course changes:
None

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
3-ring binder
Binder dividers
Notebook (or notebook paper)
3x5 notecards
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
Less than one hour

Major concepts covered:
This course will review grammar and vocabulary from Spanish I and expand vocabulary. Students will be able to read, write, and speak in the present, past, and future tenses.

Insider information for students:
The class is interactive and engaging. Students will need to study each night and review vocabulary and grammar topics. Student participation is expected and will be graded each quarter. You will be graded on your listening, reading, writing and speaking skills.

Insider information for parents:
Students need to have a good foundation from Spanish I to be successful in Spanish II. Students will need to study new vocabulary each night.

Significant course changes:
New curriculum: ¡Qué chévere! 2 EMC World Languages
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Verb workbook, title to be determined

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
No

Homework estimate (per night):
One hour

Major concepts covered:
This class builds on the grammar and vocabulary from Spanish I and II and assumes that the student has mastered the former basic grammatical constructs as the class moves toward Spanish language proficiency, including the subjunctive mood. This class also emphasizes awareness and appreciation for the entire Spanish-speaking world through research, reading, writing, speaking, and listening comprehension. Students are expected to make presentations to the class in Spanish.

Insider information for students:
Students should have an A in Spanish II to move into this honors-level class. Students should be willing to spend significant time studying vocabulary daily, in addition to doing the nightly homework for this class. Also, students should be prepared to speak Spanish daily, and be willing to make mistakes and not always feel like they have perfect grammar or pronunciation in class. Students will work hard but have fun too.

Insider information for parents:
This class is a pre-AP class, designed to move the student toward Spanish language proficiency. It will require dedication and diligence to be successful enough to proceed to AP level. Expect speaking and listening evaluations in addition to written exams.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time.
Special purchases recommended but not required: A Spanish grammar and verb workbook

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 30 minutes of written homework; additional vocabulary study time as necessary for individual student success

Major concepts covered: This is an intermediate-skills course designed to expand upon the grammatical concepts mastered in Spanish I and II; therefore students should be prepared to implement these basic structures such as the present, preterit, and the imperfect tenses, as well as to master new structures using the future and conditional. Emphasis will be placed upon speaking in addition to writing and reading in Spanish. Students will also research cultural patterns in greater depth and are expected to give presentations on such topics.

Insider information for students: If students finish with lower than a C in Spanish II or if students feel that they lack a grasp of any of the prior grammar from Spanish I and II or if a student’s schedule prohibits them from spending additional time beyond written homework to study vocabulary, students will likely struggle to succeed in the course. This class builds on what students have already mastered in Spanish I and II, so if students feel even a little weak in any area but feel they can handle the challenges in Spanish III and want to move forward, the instructor suggests that students buy a workbook to complete over the summer and sign up for a Duolingo account online for added practice.

Insider information for parents: The instructor suggests that if a student did not get at least a C in Spanish II (indicating a basic grasp of the language), this course will pose a significant challenge. This is a college preparatory class and success in the course requires additional study time.

Significant course changes: Students will have multiple speaking evaluations in addition to the normal written tests and quizzes.
Special purchases recommended but not required: Duolingo account online and a Spanish thesaurus

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: No

Homework estimate (per night): One hour

Major concepts covered: Advanced level grammar, including verbs, will be reviewed, but most class time is used for practice to improve speaking, reading, writing, and listening to authentic Spanish language resources. Vocabulary acquisition will be emphasized.

Insider information for students: Students will take the AP exam in May. Class time use of Spanish is of vital importance. Students should plan to also watch or listen to Spanish programming outside of class in order to achieve a higher score on the exam. Students must be willing to “play” with the language and not be worried about being perfect. Students in the course will work hard, but the topics they get to discuss are interesting, relevant, and even fun.

Insider information for parents: Students need to be speaking, writing, reading, and listening to authentic Spanish daily outside of school, not just in class.

Significant course changes: None known at this time.

Purchases students are required to make for the course: Verb and grammar workbook, title to be determined; AP exam fee
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): 15-30 minutes

Major concepts covered: Bible study methods

Insider information for students: None

Insider information for parents: None

Significant course changes: None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course: None
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Notebook

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
Approximately 20-30 minutes

Major concepts covered:
The course covers the principles and skills needed to do Biblical interpretation which include the three main points of history, literature, and theology. The primary text to teach these principles is *For the Love of God’s Word*. The course will also cover the metanarrative (grand story) of the Bible by working through a textbook called *The Drama of Scripture*. This section shows how all the smaller (66 books) stories makeup the larger story of Scripture.

Insider information for students:
If the students will learn the principles and skills of Biblical interpretation, they will come away from the class with a basic ability of knowing how to study and interpret the Bible for themselves. Also, they will obtain a greater appreciation for God's eternal plan and how and where they fit into it. The course requires a healthy amount of reading, writing, and practicing the skills of Biblical interpretation.

Insider information for parents:
This class is foundational and a prerequisite to the junior and senior Bible classes, but one that will produce benefits throughout life. This course is also a dual enrollment class where the student can obtain college credit with some extra required work.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Book: 40 Questions About Interpreting the Bible by Robert L. Plummer (Paperback or Kindle)
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Major concepts covered:
Students will study ten main doctrines in the Bible and how they apply personally: the doctrine of God, the Bible, man and sin, salvation, the Person and work of Christ, the Holy Spirit, Christian living, angels, Satan and demons, future events. This course will study the creeds, councils, and heretics of the church history, and look at concepts in philosophical theology related to the ten major doctrines.

Insider information for students:
Students ought to discover what it is they believe as they study the Bible. Students will need to be ready for cultural, critical engagement.

Insider information for parents:
Please be familiar with Canvas. The home page for the course explains the instructor’s philosophy and expectations, and the assignments and study guides are found in the modules. Please monitor the student’s activity and progress and feel free to contact the instructor any time.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

*Know the Creeds and Councils*, Justin S. Holcomb

*Know the Heretics*, Justin S. Holcomb
**Christian Apologetics and Ethics**
Grade: 12

- **Special purchases recommended but not required:** None
- **Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:** None
- **Homework estimate (per night):** Two to three hours per week
- **Major concepts covered:**
  This course covers primary issues of Theology, Christ and culture, and Ethics.
- **Insider information for students:**
  This is a Bible class that will seek to challenge students.
- **Insider information for parents:**
  This class is meant to prepare students for the world they will occupy next year. Most students will be attending public universities, and with this change comes the public square. Christians should be equipped thinkers, able to engage with their culture. It is to this end that the twelfth-grade Bible class exists.
- **Significant course changes:**
  None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
None
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
1-2 hours

Major concepts covered:
AP Computer Science Principles introduces students to the foundational concepts of computer science and challenges them to explore how computing and technology can impact the world. With a unique focus on creative problem solving and real-world applications, AP Computer Science Principles prepares students for college and career. The course will introduce students to the creative aspects of programming, abstractions, algorithms, large data sets, the Internet, cybersecurity concerns, and computing impacts. AP Computer Science Principles will give students the opportunity to use technology to address real-world problems and build relevant solutions.

Insider information for students:
Students need to be prepared to think critically and solve hard problems. Although this is an elective course, this is an AP course, so students should expect a challenging course that will require significant work.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Barron’s AP Music Theory text

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30-60 minutes

Major concepts covered:
AP Music Theory is not a course that can be exhausted in one year. In college this course is usually spread over four semesters. In AP Music Theory, participants work to give the student who may want to major or minor in music a head start in what they will be required to study, as well as an understanding of the content so that they can successfully take the AP Music Theory exam.

Insider information for students:
AP Music Theory is a college-level course, and it is best if students have some practical experience in music prior to taking it, either instrumental or vocal study.

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
Teoria subscription will be required, not optional.

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Music manuscript paper; Teoria music software subscription - $20 annually; AP exam fee
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
30-60 minutes

Major concepts covered:
Concepts covered in the course are the following: history of psychology, research methods, biological foundations of behavior, human development, sensation and perception, states of consciousness, learning, memory, thinking and intelligence, motivation and emotion, personality, psychological disorders, therapies, stress and health, and social psychology.

Insider information for students:
Studying psychology can help students better understand how they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God. Students should be prepared to work hard as they learn about how psychological research is conducted and develop their critical thinking skills as they cover a variety of fascinating topics that apply practically to many different aspects of life. Psychology relates to many other courses, such as philosophy and biology, and is applicable to a broad range of college majors and careers.

Insider information for parents:
Please note that in order for students to receive AP credit for the course, they must register for and take the AP exam in May.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Tools for sculpture (wood or stone carving), metal clays for jewelry, other extra materials depending on project requirements.

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
AP Studio Art class meets at 7:00 every morning; attendance is mandatory. This is a college-level course, and work outside of class is to be expected. Every art student is expected to participate in and attend the Art Extravaganza every year. Also, AP and some advanced students will be asked to teach workshops for ACSI Art Festival.

Homework estimate (per night):
Two hours is a projected time frame.

Major concepts covered:
This class is a performance class and is the culmination of all prior art instruction classes. Concepts are applied at a high level of critical thinking skills. Review is offered when necessary, but class time is better used for creation rather than instruction. The result of completing this class is to have a body of artwork to be used as a portfolio submission for college acceptance.

Insider information for students:
AP Studio Art students are expected to spend considerable time on their projects, as the level of expectation is extremely high. This class is a college-level course and requirements to complete it successfully are set and approved by the College Board. Self-motivation, working independently, and commitment to excellence is mandatory and expected. Prerequisites are High School Art I and Advanced Art studies classes, and acceptance into the class is by teacher invitation after portfolio of prior work is considered.

Insider information for parents:
As expressed to the student, this class has a commitment to excellence which will require a considerable amount of working independently outside of class. Supplies and materials are required from each student and attendance to a 7:00 a.m. class is mandatory.

Significant course changes:
The curriculum has been approved by the College Board, which oversees all AP courses and exams, and any changes need their approval. Unless instructed by the College Board, there will be no significant changes.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: Art extravaganza attendance and participation

Homework estimate (per night): None unless make up work

Major concepts covered: High school-level art concept basics

Insider information for students: This is a studio class and will require students to work on a variety of mediums and techniques.

Insider information for parents: Students need to have work current and may require some extra time after school if necessary.

Significant course changes: None known at this time

$95 supplies and materials fee
Black & White studies/Photography, Advanced Drawing/Sculpture  
2016-2017: Advanced Drawing (First Semester) and Sculpture (Second Semester)

Special purchases recommended but not required: Any extra types of supplies to enhance their work. Digital camera for photography.

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: All art students are required to enter the NRCA Art Extravaganza with a matted picture and are required to attend the Art Extravaganza to represent their artwork. Also, AP and some advanced students will be asked to teach workshops for ACSI Art Festival.

Homework estimate (per night): Students working at the Advanced Art level are expected to have outside work on their projects. Depending on the wise use of time in class and how fast or slow the student complete their drawings, homework could be as much as an hour a day.

Major concepts covered: Students at the Advanced Art level are expected to already know how to use and apply the Elements of Art and Principles of Design. Work at the advanced level is refining this knowledge and using more complex problem-solving skills to complete advanced concepts in their personal art statement.

Insider information for students: Advanced Art classes are a time to further skills as an artist. Students should be prepared to work hard and spend whatever time is needed to become the artist they desire. It is a time for them to begin to express their ideas artistically with mature and developed skills and concepts.

Insider information for parents: Art classes give students many skills necessary to compete in the professional world, and not just manual skills. Character issues are addressed and behavior is expected to be adhered to where copyright issues, deadlines, and time management are involved. To be successful in any academic or fine arts class, students must make personal dedication a necessary element of advanced classes.

Significant course changes: Advanced Art classes alternate each year to accommodate as many students as possible with experience in several different mediums.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Recommended listening, concert attendance to high level performances

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Wind Ensemble-Christmas Concert, ACSI Fine Arts Festival, Spring Concert, Disney World Festival every other year; Marching Band-Rehearsals (Wednesday evenings, 3:15-5:30; Tuesday, Thursday, Friday mornings 7:00-7:45); four to five home football games; three competitions

Homework estimate (per night):
Approximately 30 minutes, depending on the dedication and level of the musician

Insider information for students:
None

Insider information for parents:
Music is one of the few activities that we know of that people will do in heaven as well as on earth. It is not surprising that God would make this inherently worshipful activity unequalled in its benefits for the human brain. It should be understood, however, that those benefits will never be as pronounced or as easily attainable beyond the school years. Few, if any, would ever regret acquiring the skill of music. Unfortunately, many will regret for years to come missing the window of opportunity that is provided to your musicians. Now is the time for students to sow the seeds of musicianship that will allow them to reap blessings for years to come.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Concert attire: men - tuxedo, approximately $145; ladies - dress, approximately $65 (Attire can be used in Honors Jazz Band as well.); Marching Band fee, approximately $150-$200; P.E. attire; water bottle; sunscreen
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: There are often times when students will be required to film events at the school at various times. During production of the Knightly News, there will be weekly events that students will be expected to attend and must film.

Homework estimate (per night): Homework amount varies.

Major concepts covered: This course covers the background of television, how it works, why broadcasters work on things the way they do, composition, editing, how to use camera equipment, Mac OS basics, and how to produce a weekly news show.

Insider information for students: The class is a fun and exciting one. It takes a lot of work but is rewarding in the end as students will gain new skills and be able to see their work displayed in front of their peers on a weekly basis.

Insider information for parents: Since the class requires a lot of time outside school hours for filming, please support your student by helping them to get where they need to be.

Significant course changes: Having new students and returning students means an ever-changing cast for the news crew. Week-to-week the broadcast team is presented with challenges, so the class always feels new and challenging.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Choir uniform

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
All performances are mandatory (about 5-7 a year, some during school hours and others outside school hours) plus two Saturday dress rehearsals for the NRCA on-campus concerts in December and April; Spring choir tour during end of Spring Break is mandatory

Homework estimate (per night):
Weekly choir logs.

Major concepts covered:
This course covers the following: vocal production, part singing, sight-reading, and musical independence.

Insider information for students:
Concert Choir is open to anyone with a desire to sing. Students don’t have to have a strong voice or solo voice... they just have to want to make music with others in a group setting. The instructors work with each singer to help them develop confidence and vocal skills that they can share in their performances. There are opportunities for students to audition for All-Carolina Select Choir and NCMEA Honors Chorus and participate in NCMEA All-State Chorus, as well as perform the National Anthem for athletic events.

Insider information for parents:
Singing in a choir builds community, camaraderie, confidence and can be a lifelong love and hobby.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Ballet shoes or black jazz shoes

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
The end-of-the-year concert is mandatory. The day of the concert, there is a required dress rehearsal immediately after school.

Homework estimate (per night):
Up to one hour

Major concepts covered:
The high school dance class will explore various styles of dance including hip-hop, jazz, ballet, tap and contemporary, as well as some others. The class will also cover dance fundamentals, dance history, injury prevention and health, and creating choreography.

Insider information for students:
Even if a student has never danced before, it is a great class to take to explore a new art form. The class starts with the basics of each style and increases in difficulty as the year progresses. It is a really exciting way to learn a lot about dance and a great opportunity to perform at the end of the year. The end-of-the-year concert is mandatory.

Insider information for parents:
There will be various expenses, including the following: leotard and dance shoes and various costumes for the end-of-the-year concert. The end-of-the-year concert is mandatory.

Significant course changes:
Choreography will change year-to-year, but students will learn the same basic fundamentals of dance.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
There is no homework, but occasionally students will be asked to bring something in from home.

Major concepts covered:
We will cover the following topics in this course: personalities, hospitality, cooking, sewing, interior design, budgeting and babysitting.

Insider information for students:
This is a hands-on class and requires students to participate fully in class activities.

Insider information for parents:
This is not a hard class, but participation is required and all assignments must be completed in a timely manner.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:
There is a class fee for supplies. Also the students are required to buy some food items for cooking and material for sewing projects.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None for first-year students, but returning students will have some more advanced outside assignments.

Homework estimate (per night):
Very little - most will be done in class

Major concepts covered:
This course covers the basics of graphic design and photography and the programs that go with them, such as InDesign and Photoshop.

Insider information for students:
This class is taught online and designed to help students explore the field of graphic design to see if this might be an area they are interested in as a career. Even if a student is not planning to go into graphic design as a career, the things that they will learn will help in just about every field. Visual presentation is a part of every career in some way or another.

This class can be taken multiple years where you will be assisting in NRCA publications and have the opportunity to see your work published. Based on performance the student will have the opportunity to receive honors credit for their second, third or fourth year taking the class.

Insider information for parents:
This class is taught online in a controlled classroom lab and requires students to be self-motivated. Online teacher will make personal visits to the classroom once a month.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time.
Honors Advanced Acting

Grades: 9-12

Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
There will be two outside play requirements.

Homework estimate (per night):
15 minutes or less, on average

Major concepts covered:
Advanced Acting skills and exercises will be explored as well as short and long form improv techniques.

Insider information for students:
None

Insider information for parents:
None

Significant course changes:
None known at this time.

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Students will be responsible for the purchase of two texts and a workbook
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Stethoscope

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Clinicals, which are scheduled for one Wednesday from 3:30 p.m.-7:30 p.m. and four Saturdays from 6:45 a.m.-3:00 p.m. dates to be determined.

Homework estimate (per night):
This varies as the majority of the course is hands-on in the lab or lecture.

Major concepts covered:
This is a state-certified CNA course, which is required for entrance into schools of nursing. Students are required to complete the following: classroom, 56.25 hours; lab, 37.5 hours; and clinicals, 35 hours (for a total of 128.75 hours) to sit for the state exam. Absenteeism is not to exceed 20 hours, which is to be made up by the students.

Insider information for students:
This course will prepare students for entering a school of nursing and giving basic care to a patient/resident. Skills include the following: hand-washing; complete bath; oral care; bed-making; body mechanics; moving a person in bed or to a chair; taking temperature, pulse, respiration, and blood pressure; feeding; dressing; range of motion; Foley catheter care; restorative nursing; personal protective equipment; body systems and diseases; communication; ethical issues; patients rights; prevention of pressure ulcers; psychological effects of aging; and care of person actively dying.

Insider information for parents:
They are required to take the state exam, which is administered here. These students, upon completion of the course, will be Certified Nursing Assistants and are eligible to work as such.

Significant course changes:
The state curriculum and guidelines were changed in 2016 and NRCA is the only school in the area to offer the CNA program independent of a community college.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Two performances in the spring and mandatory dress rehearsals day of performances.

Homework estimate (per night):
Up to one hour

Major concepts covered:
This course covers the following concepts: choreographing for large groups, choreographing for small groups, inventing new/creative movement and improvisation.

Insider information for students:
This class is performance based. Technique is NOT taught during class. Because of that, students are required to attend a dance technique class at a dance studio outside of NRCA. The end-of-the-year performance is mandatory.

Insider information for parents:
The end-of-the-year performance is mandatory. There is a choreography fee of $50 per semester for guest choreographers to come set pieces on the students. T-shirts are done every year for this class and are an additional expense (normally $15-20).

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
A choreography fee of $50 per semester, t-shirts/apparel, a few costume items
Special purchases recommended but not required:
None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Class meets at 7:00 a.m. every day. Five to seven Saturdays (all day) are needed to participate in speech tournaments. Attendance at the ACSI Speech Meet is mandatory, as well as the springtime induction ceremony.

Homework estimate (per night):
This varies depending upon the debate schedule. Sometimes none, sometimes a lot. Students should plan and spread out their tournament preparation.

Major concepts covered:
This course covers the following: training in public speaking; enhancing and refining of reasoning abilities; analyzing arguments and articulating responses quickly; applying research skills to real-world situations; grappling with current events and responding to them, personally and corporately.

Insider information for students:
If a student is interested in current events, government and its functions, politics, or simply enjoys a good argument, this may be a perfect fit. One former student said, “My first debate was the hardest thing I ever did. It was also, without a doubt, the best thing I ever did.” This is a rigorous class (although often informal); it requires some weekend commitment. It is also a team, an academic team. Students on this team don’t play with sports equipment but with words. Because it is a team, team members also “bond” together. Yes, speech and debate “looks good” on a transcript, yet students will discover they will gain so much more.

Insider information for parents:
Encourage students to try out even if they are afraid or lack confidence. Everyone has to begin somewhere.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Tournament fees as well as food costs are paid by students. They must have “professional” clothing (suit, sports coat, tie, etc.) for tournaments. They also need a book titled Beyond Resolved: A Public Forum Debate Manual.
Special purchases recommended but not required:
Screenplay-formatting program access (ex. Celtx, Adobe
Story, Scrivener, etc.)

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
Less than 30 minutes on average, if students manage class
time well

Major concepts covered:
The course covers descriptive writing (including personal
essays), narrative writing (nonfiction and fiction),
expository writing (human interest features), drama
(screenplays) and poetry. Students must keep quarterly
online journals in addition to completing the writing style
exercises and major writing assignments.

Insider information for students:
While there is much room for personal creativity in this
course, there is also an intense amount of writing. The
course is structured in a workshop format, so students
have time in class to work on both daily writing exercises
and long-term writing assignments. Time management
skills are essential, or much of the work will extend to
homework.

Insider information for parents:
Good time management skills are essential for this course.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time.
Special purchases recommended but not required: Choir uniform

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: All performances are mandatory (about ten per year, some during school hours and others outside school hours) plus two Saturday dress rehearsals for the NRCA on-campus concerts in December and April; spring choir tour during end of Spring Break is mandatory

Homework estimate (per night): Choir logs (one hour per week)

Major concepts covered: This course covers the following: vocal production, part-singing, sight-reading, and musical independence.

Insider information for students: Honors Ensemble is for singers who already have a strong background in vocal musicianship and want to push themselves to the next level of excellence. Students work hard and fast to learn a wide variety of repertoire to perform for many events. Students need to be motivated and willing to work hard for the common good of the group.

Insider information for parents: Vocal warm-ups are an important part of the start to class, so students need to be able to arrive on time for a 7:00 a.m. class.

Significant course changes: None known at this time.
**Special purchases recommended but not required:**
Recommended listening, concert attendance to high level performances

**Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:**
Christmas Concert, ACSI Fine Arts Festival, and Spring Concert

**Homework estimate (per night):**
Approximately 30 minutes per day, depending on the dedication and skill level of the musician

**Insider information for students/parents:**
Music is one of the few activities that we know of that people will do in heaven as well as on earth. It is not surprising that God would make this inherently worshipful activity unequalled in its benefits for the human brain. It should be understood, however, that those benefits will never be as pronounced or as easily attainable beyond the school years. Few, if any, would ever regret acquiring the skill of music. Unfortunately, many will regret for years to come missing the window of opportunity that is provided to your musicians. Now is the time for students to sow the seeds of musicianship that will allow them to reap blessings for years to come.

**Significant course changes:**
None known at this time

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**Purchases students are required to make for the course:**

- Concert attire: men - tuxedo, approximately $145; ladies - dress, approximately $65
  (Students can use attire from Wind Ensemble.)
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): One hour, but may run more at certain times

Major concepts covered:
This course covers Western philosophy and the development of thought concerning metaphysics, epistemology, theology and ethics.

Insider information for students:
It is a class for thinkers. Students who enjoy spending their time thinking about abstract concepts and are okay with the uncomfortable feeling one gets when they do not know everything about a topic will find the course highly beneficial.

Insider information for parents:
Philosophy is a subject that underlies all other subjects. In some ways, it is a class which unites the other disciplines that form a student’s educational experience.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time

Purchases students are required to make for the course:
Abolition of Man by CS Lewis; If Minds Had Toes by Lucy Eyre; Socrates Meets Jesus by Peter Kreeft
Special purchases recommended but not required:
An Apple laptop with Final Cut Pro installed is recommended but not required.

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
There are many events throughout the year that students will take part in filming. They will also have film projects that they will need to work on outside school hours.

Homework estimate (per night):
One hour or less

Major concepts covered:
The class takes part in film appreciation as well as more advanced learning in Final Cut Pro. The goal is to have a good eye for composition as well as the skills necessary for being a good editor.

Insider information for students:
Students should love film and video production and want to pursue it as a career if taking this class. After passing the Final Cut exam, students will have an industry standard certification that could land them jobs right out of high school, but it takes work and commitment.

Insider information for parents:
The class is early and the end-of-the-year short films take a lot of work and support.

Significant course changes:
Most changes are determined by Apple’s certified trainer program. It depends on the changes made to new versions of the software as to whether or not a new book and exam are released.
Special purchases recommended but not required: None

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: None

Homework estimate (per night): None

Major concepts covered:
Students design and build programmable EV3 LEGO robots using high quality motors, sensors, gears, wheels, axles, and other technical components. By using hands-on robotics and object-oriented programming, students will learn how technology works in real world applications. We look at how robots are used in mining, search and rescue, industry, transportation, medicine, space exploration, farming, military etc. According to research, computer and robotic jobs are set to increase greatly over the next decade.

Insider information for students:
This is a hands-on computer course. Almost every day, you will be programming your EV3 robot to complete a series of obstacles, tests and mazes. There is no homework and all the course material is completed within the period. Students work in pairs and teams of four.

Insider information for parents:
This course uses creativity, social skills, logic, reasoning, math, problem solving and team building skills. This course is very hands-on. The students are constantly testing and solving real life robot problems. There is no homework.

Significant course changes:
None
Special purchases recommended but not required:
AP Stylebook (digital or print)

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Students must produce 3-5 articles of varying lengths each quarter, depending on their experience with writing. Covering stories requires out-of-class interviews and event attendance.

Homework estimate (per night):
Depends on event coverage.

Major concepts covered:
News writing and feature writing are basic skills. Workshops on AP Style, headlines, captions, Search Engine Optimization, and other print and digital media topics are covered throughout the year. First semester focuses on writing and editing foundations. Second semester is project-based. First semester's main project is producing the Shield and maintaining the online news on NRCA's main website. Second semester adds special projects in addition to print and web news.

Insider information for students:
While the course begins with rigorous structure, as the year goes on, students must work independently, meeting individual deadlines. Excellent time management, initiative, and “teachability” are essential. The student writing staff is small, and each student's contribution is valuable. For experienced, skilled writers who show initiative and leadership ability, the opportunity to serve as an editor is available after a review process.

Insider information for parents:
This course is deadline-driven and students depend on collaboration with other students to move projects forward. Personal responsibility and initiative are essential.

Significant course changes:
None known at this time
Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
None

Homework estimate (per night):
None

Major concepts covered:
In-depth coverage of Microsoft Word and Microsoft Excel. Concepts include:
- Create and manage documents (Word)
- Format text, paragraphs and sections (Word)
- Create tables and lists (Word)
- Create and manage references (Word)
- Insert and format graphic elements (Word)
- Manage document options and settings (Word)
- Design advanced documents (Word)
- Create advanced references (Word)
- Create cutoff Word elements (Word)
- Create and manage worksheets and workbooks (Excel)
- Manage data cells and ranges (Excel)
- Create tables (Excel)
- Perform operations with formulas and functions (Excel)
- Create charts and object (Excel)

Insider information for students:
This course is self-paced. Students who cannot work at their own pace and stay on task should not sign-up for the course. Students are expected to work on their Microsoft assignments daily even though they are working at their own pace. There is no outside work in the course, all material can be completed in class. Work is completed on a PC in the computer lab, while the iPad is used for the student’s eTextbook.

Insider information for parents:
Certifications (while not required for the course) can be listed on college transcripts and job applications. Certification exams take place on campus during class time and are offered via Certiport. Certification exams are official Microsoft Certification Exams.

Significant course changes:
None
Special purchases recommended but not required:
A short list of consumable items are required.

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation:
Students are required to participate in some after-hours set build sessions, as well as serving as stage crew for Fall and Spring theatrical performances.

Homework estimate (per night):
None

Major concepts covered:
Students will become skilled in the use of hand and power tools while learning basic constructions skills. This is achieved primarily through designing and constructing sets and props for the high school theatrical performances.

Insider information for students:
This class is almost entirely hands-on in a cooperative team environment. For the student with an aptitude for designing, engineering and building, this class could be a good fit.

Insider information for parents:
Construction-trade power tools are used in this class. Candidates for this class should exhibit a high degree of self-control and self-discipline.

Significant course changes:
Each year’s plans are tailored to the needs of the high school stage productions that year.

$ Purchases students are required to make for the course:

Students are required to purchase basic hand tools and supplies, as well as safety glasses.
Special purchases recommended but not required: Students are not required to own their own cameras, but it is helpful.

Mandatory before-school or after-school participation: Photography assignments outside school are required each quarter. All students are also required to sell business advertisements to help fund the yearbook.

Homework estimate (per night): 30 minutes, varies weekly

Major concepts covered: The class will be producing a full-color yearbook containing more than 300 pages. Being on the yearbook staff involves writing and interviewing, photography and photo editing, coming up with theme and coverage ideas, learning design and computer skills, and more. Students will also learn time management and organizational skills, communication skills, and budgeting and marketing skills.

Insider information for students: Every staff member is actively involved in the yearbook production process from start to finish and is responsible for photographing events inside and outside school. Every staff member is also responsible for selling advertisements to members of the community to help fund the yearbook. Being on the yearbook staff is hard work, but it is also extremely rewarding to know you were part of creating something special that people will cherish forever.

Insider information for parents: In order for students to use a school camera, parents must sign a permission form.

Significant course changes: None known at this time