

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY  
**ACADEMIC HANDBOOK**

2019–2020 ACADEMIC YEAR



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**MARANATHA**  
**CHRISTIAN ACADEMY**  
Academically Rigorous. Distinctly Christian.

Dear Parent and Student:

Think about those moments in school when something clicked or when your perspective changed or when you saw in a teacher something you wanted to emulate. Students, maybe these experiences are too close for you to recognize their value, and it will be years before you feel their significance. But parents, we've all had them—for better or for worse—moments in a school classroom that have made a difference in who we became or a field that we pursued—or didn't pursue. I recall an MCA parent telling me a couple of years after 9/11 that her daughter's view of that attack on our nation was forever galvanized by the wise, godly, and rational response of the classroom teacher who, in the moments after learning of the attacks and watching the news reports, demonstrated a calm assurance that God was in control and that our nation would be okay.

I remember some of my own significant moments as a student. On the day of a big snowstorm, Mrs. Murray, my sixth grade teacher, let me leave class to clean the snow off of cars at Riverside Elementary and sparked in me the pleasure of serving others. Mr. Ginn at Kennedy Senior High introduced me to woodworking and power tools and let me experience the satisfaction of building something beautiful and functional with my own hands. And Mrs. Luckfield, my twelfth grade English teacher, encouraged my love of the English language and is the reason I pursued my degree in English education at Bethel College.

Education is powerful, and the academic offerings and policies described in the pages of this handbook represent a unique and extraordinary education available only at Maranatha, a school where Jesus Christ is the cornerstone, where caring and loving teachers have followed God's call to influence His kids, where biblical truths are integrated into every course of study, and where every aspect of the school experience is strategically designed to develop the whole person for God's glory.

Just imagine the impact of 2019–2020!

With Anticipation,

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Timothy Ford  
Upper School Principal

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Maranatha Christian Academy exists to provide students an academically rigorous college-preparatory education in a distinctly Christian environment of high values, character development, and exceptional student culture.

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men. (Luke 2:52)*

## **PURPOSE STATEMENT**

To fulfill our mission, Maranatha Christian Academy purposes to:

1. Assist in the development of the “whole” person—spirit, soul, and body—in each of our students.
2. Assist each student in establishing a real and unshakable relationship with Jesus Christ by (1) presenting the Gospel, (2) training them to use the Word of God with authority, and (3) promoting the development of a truly biblical worldview and value system.
3. Produce students who are academically qualified: well educated, self-directed, and lifelong learners.
4. Act as an extension of the home and church by instilling Christian values and thus, together, equip the next generation to live godly lives in an increasingly ungodly world.
5. Train young people to be positive role models and influential leaders who will carry out the “Great Commission” (Matthew 28:19-20).
6. Lead students by way of example and instruction into a lifestyle that places the needs of others above their own needs and wants.

## **ACCREDITATIONS**

International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA)

North Central Association Commission of Accreditation and School Improvement/Division of AdvancED

## **MEMBERSHIPS**

College Board

National Honor Society (NHS)

National Association of Student Councils

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)

Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL)

Independent School Management (ISM)

Minnesota Independent School Forum (MISF)

Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF)

North American Coalition for Christian Admissions Professionals

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Welcome Letter.....	3
Mission and Purpose Statements .....	4
Academic and College Counseling Program .....	6
Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS).....	7
New England Prep .....	8
ACT/SAT Incentive Program.....	8
TOEFL Incentive Program .....	8
Requirements for Graduation.....	9
Upper School Coursework Schedule .....	10
Requirements for Valedictorian and Salutatorian.....	11
College Entrance Requirements .....	11
School Year/Marking System .....	11
Grade Point Average (GPA) and Weighting of Classes .....	12
MCA Grading Scale .....	12
Grade Reports.....	12
First Semester Failure in an All-Year Course.....	12
College At MCA .....	13–15
National Honor Society/National Junior Honor Society .....	15–16
Honor Recognition.....	16
Academic Lettering.....	16
NCAA Initial Academic Eligibility .....	17
Learning Support Services .....	18
Fee Based Classes and Phy. Ed. Uniform Purchases .....	18
Academic Intervention.....	18
Summer School.....	19
Community Service Program .....	19
Middle School Courses and Electives .....	20–23

### **HIGH SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS BY DEPARTMENT**

Art.....	24–25
Bible.....	25–26
Business.....	26
Engineering Studies .....	27
Foreign Language.....	27–28
Language Arts.....	28–29
Mathematics .....	29–30
Music .....	30
Physical Education/Health .....	31
Science .....	31–32
Social Studies.....	32–34
Technology.....	34
Theater.....	34
Additional Courses .....	34–35

# Academic and College Counseling Program

It is our goal to assist students and parents in their academic journey from lower school through upper school, ultimately to a post-secondary decision. The following chart illustrates that process at each grade level.

	<b>FALL</b>	<b>WINTER</b>	<b>SPRING</b>	<b>SUMMER</b>
<b>GRADE 6</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 7</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 8</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Aspire (December)</li> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transition to High School Meeting (April)</li> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 9</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Information Night (October)</li> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Aid Information Night (November)</li> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MAP Test</li> <li>• MCIS Resume Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 10</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Information Night (October)</li> <li>• Optional PSAT (October)</li> <li>• MAP Test</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Aid Information Night (November)</li> <li>• ACT Aspire (December)</li> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Day (May)</li> <li>• AP/PSEO Applications due (March/April)</li> <li>• ACT Prep Course</li> <li>• MAP Test</li> <li>• MCIS Resume Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 11</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Information Night (October)</li> <li>• PSAT (October)</li> <li>• ACT Prep Course</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Aid Information Night (November)</li> <li>• Sophomore Information Night (February)</li> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Career Day (May)</li> <li>• ACT Prep Course</li> <li>• MCIS Resume Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Back to School Night (August)</li> <li>• Apply for Scholarships</li> </ul>
<b>GRADE 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• College Information Night (October)</li> <li>• Apply to College</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial Aid Information Night (November)</li> <li>• MCIS Career Inventory</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Commit to College (by May 1)</li> <li>• MCIS Resume Building</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply for Scholarships</li> <li>• Start College!</li> </ul>

# Minnesota Career Information System (MCIS)

MCIS is an online site which can be used by our students and parents for a variety of purposes including interest evaluation, career searches, college searches, financial aid opportunities, and more. To utilize this system, log on to <http://mncis.intocareers.org> and enter user name maranatha and password postsecondary. The site is very user friendly and it includes tutorials if you need assistance. Below is an example of some of the tools this system offers:

## MY CAREER PLAN

This includes planning activities and reflection fields for users to learn more about themselves.

**My Work Values**—Understanding your values will help users better consider future plans and what choices fit them. – Work Importance Locator

**My Career Interests**—Find out what you love to do. Interest inventories help you link your interests to occupations. – IDEAS or Interest Profiler

**Occupations Feature**—Compare occupations that are featured in the results of your Interest Profiler. – O\*Net Interest Profiler

- Users can search for occupations by cluster and use a “filter” feature to get more specific results.
- This includes a Green Jobs feature for those users looking to make an impact on the environment.

## SCHOOL SORT

This portion of the program uses your preferences to find schools that interest you. Multiple lists can be created based on different criteria. Users answer as few or as many of the sort questions as they like and the results will give them the school name, state, type of school, admissions information, and size. Schools can then be saved and compared.

## PAYING FOR SCHOOL

In this section users can explore the cost of a school, the amount you would likely pay, what a typical financial aid package might look like, tips on applying for financial aid, and tips and scams concerning scholarships.

## FINANCIAL AID SORT

By selecting characteristics that match your educational plans, abilities, and background, you can locate potential local and national scholarship opportunities.

## MY SKILLS

SKILLS helps you evaluate your next steps by identifying occupations that use the skills you know you like from your high school years and various experiences outside of school. You can identify skills that transfer between occupations. You can use SKILLS to select occupations to explore, identify ways to direct your career, develop a resume, and prepare for a job interview.

## PRACTICE TESTS

MCIS offers multiple opportunities to practice for the exams students will encounter in their high school and post-secondary experience. The practice exams offered are:

**PSAT**—Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test

**ACT**—American College Testing

**SAT**—Scholastic Aptitude Test

**CLEP**—College Level Examination Program

**DSST**—Dantes Subject Standardized Test

**TOEFL**—The Test of English as a Foreign Language

**ASVAB**—Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery

## New England Prep

MCA has partnered with New England Prep to provide the best PSAT, SAT, and ACT test preparation for our students. Using high-definition video lessons incorporated weekly into our math and English curriculum for Grades 9–12, students will receive more than 60 hours of instruction spread over their high school years, which is three times the amount of traditional test prep courses. This test prep program also includes quizzes and practice tests to monitor progress. This type of training is very expensive when pursued individually at various institutions; however, this program is included in tuition, saving families hundreds and perhaps thousands of dollars.

## ACT/SAT Scholarship Program

High test scores on the ACT and/or SAT are important to your student's ability to gain acceptance into top colleges, as well as to receive scholarship dollars for college. These scores are also important to us, as the quality and rigor of MCA is often evaluated by our average ACT or SAT score.

Students in the graduating classes of 2020 can receive a scholarship their senior year for earning ACT scores of 30 and above (or the SAT equivalent).

ACT 30	SAT 1390-1410	\$ 200	ACT 34	SAT 1520-1550	\$1000
ACT 31	SAT 1420-1440	\$ 400	ACT 35	SAT 1560-1590	\$1200
ACT 32	SAT 1450-1480	\$ 600	ACT 36	SAT 1600	\$1400
ACT 33	SAT 1490-1510	\$ 800			

## TOEFL Incentive Program

In addition to the ACT or SAT, many colleges and universities require international students to take the TOEFL exam for admission. They evaluate each student's writing, speaking, listening, and reading ability to determine if they are at a level acceptable for higher education. Colleges and Universities have their minimum expectations for TOEFL scores when considering international students for admission. Students who do well on the TOEFL their senior year will be awarded an incentive by the Head of School at the annual Awards Program per the following sliding scale:

95–104	\$300	105–115	\$400	116–120	\$500
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Seniors who take the MCA TOEFL prep class and score 105 or higher will receive reimbursement for the class up to \$300.

# Requirements for Graduation

Graduates of MCA have met requirements as set by the school, the Minnesota Board of Education, and the State of Minnesota. Students must satisfactorily complete 30 credits during Grades 9–12 to be eligible for graduation. Occasionally, exceptions may be made in the case of transfer students who successfully passed previous coursework but came from institutions not offering as many credit opportunities as MCA. The dean of academics will determine the required and elective courses a transfer student must take and will seek final approval from the principal.

.5 credit = one semester	1 credit = one year																												
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">SUBJECT</th> <th style="text-align: center;">CREDITS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Language Arts</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Science<sup>2</sup></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bible</td> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Health</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Personal Finance</td> <td style="text-align: center;">.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SUBJECT	CREDITS	Language Arts	4	Science <sup>2</sup>	3	Bible	4	Health	.5	Personal Finance	.5	<b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>30</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">SUBJECT</th> <th style="text-align: center;">CREDITS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Math<sup>1</sup></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Social Studies<sup>3</sup></td> <td style="text-align: center;">3.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Phy. Ed.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fine Arts</td> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electives</td> <td style="text-align: center;">9.5</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED</b></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><b>30</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SUBJECT	CREDITS	Math <sup>1</sup>	3	Social Studies <sup>3</sup>	3.5	Phy. Ed.	1	Fine Arts	1	Electives	9.5	<b>TOTAL CREDITS REQUIRED</b>	<b>30</b>
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<sup>123</sup> see next page

Students are required to take eight credits per year. A Bible credit is required for each year of attendance at MCA. Recorded through their Bible classes, all students in Grades 9–12 must annually perform 35 hours of community service.

Students who satisfactorily complete the graduation requirements of MCA must also bring their financial accounts to a zero balance by the end of May in order to participate in commencement and receive their final transcript and diploma. A student must be enrolled at MCA for a minimum period of one school year (two semesters) in order to be granted a diploma from MCA.

The high school experience is intended to be a four-year process in which students complete an extensive curriculum in preparation for undergraduate studies or work careers; we do not have a program or provision for early graduation. If a student at MCA has enough credits to graduate earlier than anticipated, the student will be scheduled for more coursework which will better equip each student for the post-secondary experience.

A senior who has not met the above conditions by the end of the final marking period may be allowed to participate in the commencement exercises but will not receive a signed diploma. Any senior needing more than two additional credits to meet graduation requirements will not be allowed to participate in commencement. Participation in commencement exercises is a privilege. Seniors involved in major disciplinary incidents during the second semester of the year may adversely affect their participation in the graduation ceremony.

The diploma will be awarded at the time the student, in the judgment of the administration, has satisfactorily completed all program requirements.

The Executive Committee will hear situations which, according to the parent, are “unusual circumstances.” The Executive Committee consists of the head of school, upper school principal, dean of academics, dean of students, and one upper school teacher.

Students participating in the AA Degree Program can fulfill Bible credits in their junior and senior year with Bible classes within the AA Program. The college classes work as dual enrollment, so they fulfill both high school and college requirements.

# Upper School Coursework Schedule\*

Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grades 11-12
Bible 6	Bible 7	Bible 8	NT Survey	OT Survey	Apologetics/ Advanced Bible Studies/ AA Program Requirements
English 6	English 7	English 8	English 9	American Lit./ Honors English 10	British Lit./World Lit./AP English
Math	Math	Math	Math	Math	Math
General Science	Life Science	Earth/Physical Science	Biology	Chemistry/ AP Chemistry	Physics/ AP Biology/ AP Chemistry/ Science Electives
MN History	Global Studies	American History	Economics/ Geography	US History/AP US History	World History/ Government/ Social Studies Electives
Phy. Ed.	Phy. Ed./Health	Phy. Ed./Health		Phy. Ed./Fitness	Health
Art/Design Modeling	Art/Automation		Spanish 1	Spanish 2	Spanish 3 and 4
Band/Choir	1 Elective	2 Electives	2 Electives	Multiple Electives	Multiple Electives

<sup>1</sup> Algebra 1 does not count as one of the three math credits. Algebra 2 and Geometry are required credits.

<sup>2</sup> Science must include Biology and Chemistry.

<sup>3</sup> Social Studies must include American History, Geography, World History, Economics, and Government.

\* For those students pursuing the AA Degree Program, a full two-year course outline will be provided.

# Requirements for Valedictorian & Salutatorian



Valedictorian and salutatorian determinations are based on the cumulative GPA of seven semesters of work and consistent Christian citizenship. To be considered for valedictorian or salutatorian, a student must attend MCA Grades 9 through 12. Only MCA grades will be considered. In the case of multiple students having the same cumulative GPA, quality points will be taken into account. Quality points are the percentage grade students are given for their classes. These points are totaled and divided by the number of classes. This number will give the student's quality point average. The grade percentage for student interning is not included. Valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined from this quality point average. Determination of these honors is made at the end of the first semester of the senior year.

## College Entrance Requirements

We recommend that students contact the admissions office of their chosen college to determine particular entrance requirements; the MCA dean of academics can assist with this. The following are guidelines only.

### **BASIC COLLEGE ENTRANCE (STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES)**

- Language Arts 4 credits
- Math\* 3 credits (must include Algebra 2 and Geometry)
- Science 3 credits (must include Physical Science, Biology, and Chemistry)
- Social Studies 3 credits (must include one year of American History)
- World Language 2 credits of the same language

\* The U of M has declared that four years of math will be required of all applicants.

### **SELECTIVE COLLEGE ENTRANCE (PRIVATE LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGES)**

- Language Arts 4 credits
- Math 4 credits (must include Algebra 2 and Geometry)
- Science 3–4 credits (must include Physical Science, Biology, and another “lab” science)
- Social Studies 3–4 credits (must include American History)
- World Language 3 credits of the same language

### **STUDENTS PURSUING ENGINEERING OR PRE-MED**

Students pursuing engineering or pre-med must advance to Calculus by senior year, which may include taking two math classes concurrently. It is also necessary to take Physics and AP Chemistry if pursuing engineering.

## School Year/Marking System

MCA operates on a semester system. The school year consists of two semesters, each approximately eighteen weeks in length. Many courses are offered for only one semester while others, such as math, English, most sciences, Bible, and foreign languages are year-long courses.

## Grade Point Average (GPA) & Weighting of Classes

Grade Point Averages (GPA) are used by educational institutions to rank student academic performance to determine admission to a school, and to award high academic achievement (honor roll, National Honor Society, academic lettering, etc.) To calculate GPA, the point totals for all classes are added together and divided by the number of courses taken (student intern grades are not calculated into the GPA). To see the value of each percentage score/grade, refer to the MCA Grading Scale. MCA offers several college-level classes through Advanced Placement (AP), Post Secondary Enrollment Option (PSEO), and PSEO On-Site (PSOS), which receive more value in the calculation of the cumulative GPA. These weighted values are represented on the MCA Grading Scale chart.

## MCA Grading Scale

GRADE	PERCENTAGE	GPA VALUE	WEIGHTED GPA VALUE
A	92.5 – 100	4.0	5.0
A-	89.5 – 92.49	3.67	4.67
B+	86.5 – 89.49	3.33	4.33
B	82.5 – 86.49	3.0	4.0
B-	79.5 – 82.49	2.67	3.67
C+	76.5 – 79.49	2.33	3.33
C	72.5 – 76.49	2.0	3.0
C-	69.5 – 72.49	1.67	2.67
D+	66.5 – 69.49	1.33	2.33
D	62.5 – 66.49	1.0	2.0
D-	59.5 – 62.49	0.67	1.67
F	00.0 – 59.49	0.0	0.0

## Grade Reports

At the conclusion of a quarter/semester, report cards are uploaded to Plus Portals. The grades issued as semester grades are entered on the student's official school transcript. Grade-point averages are based on the final grade.

## First-Semester Failure in a Year-Long Course

In a year-long course (mathematics, English, most sciences, Bible, Spanish, etc.), a first-semester failing grade (F) may be recovered with a compensating second-semester grade. The semester grade and averaged final grade will appear on the student's transcript.

# College at MCA

## ASSOCIATE OF ARTS DEGREE PROGRAM



In what has been referred to as “ground-breaking,” “cutting-edge,” and “ahead of its time” in the area of high school and post-secondary education, Maranatha is proud of the Associate of Arts degree program. It is literally a one-of-a-kind opportunity for high school students to not only graduate from high school, but also earn an Associate of Arts degree from one of the best Christian universities in the midwest, effectively completing up to two years of college! Do you want to learn more? We encourage you to read on.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2018, students can complete an Associate of Arts degree (60 credits) from the University of Northwestern-Saint Paul on the campus of Maranatha Christian Academy. MCA students can accomplish this via the use of our in-house PSEO program in the junior and senior year. All students who successfully complete the program will be awarded an Associate of Arts degree and Bible from the University of Northwestern-St. Paul, in addition to their high school diploma, at commencement. Students will need to apply spring semester of their sophomore year and meet all PSEO program requirements to participate.

### On-site PSEO Partnerships

MCA has partnered with the University of Northwestern (UNW) and North Central University (NCU) to offer college classes on our campus. One of the major advantages of this program over traditional PSEO programs is that MCA will have adjunct instructors from both UNW and NCU teach these college classes right here in the safety and security of our campus. In addition to on-site PSEO classes, students can choose online courses. A portion of the AA degree will be completed with NCU and these classes will transfer to UNW to fulfill needed requirements for the AA Degree program.

### Program Requirements

Students need to have a minimum 3.2 cumulative GPA. In addition, they must have a minimum 18 PLAN composite score. We encourage students to appeal if they don't meet the minimum requirements and are interested in entering the program. The administration at MCA will evaluate each student's academic profile to determine if the program will be a good fit.

### Coursework

The Associate of Arts Degree program is split up into two categories which are the Core Curriculum (45 credits) and the Specialization (15 credits) for a total of 60 credits.

**Core Curriculum** (45 credits), in which the following areas of study are covered:

Foundations of Biblical Worldview (6 credits)

Foundations of Communications (9 credits)

Examining the Human Condition (8 credits)

Reflecting God's image/Engaging Communities and Cultures (6 credits)

Understanding the Natural World: Science and Mathematics (8 credits)

Biblical Worldview: Texts and Application (8 credits)

**Specialization** (15 credits)

The specialization should consist of courses in related areas and may be designed with specific discipline majors in mind, or it may be broader in scope in preparation for careers in other areas. Courses are to be chosen in consultation with the Dean of Academics.

### AA Degree/MCA Schedule

Each college course a student takes will take the place of a high school course in a student's schedule. The college classes are incorporated into our modified block schedule. PSEO classes serve as dual enrollment, so the classes fulfill both high school and college requirements. Students will need to complete the following MCA courses while in the program: English (in the first year of the program), Personal Finance, and World History I or II. In the first year of this program students can take two MCA elective classes each semester. In the second year of the program students can take three elective classes per semester. There are Bible classes incorporated into the AA program that students will take each semester, therefore they will not be required to take any MCA Bible classes.



### **Transferability of Credit**

University of Northwestern and North Central University are accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. This means credits earned at Northwestern and North Central are recognized by other colleges and universities. We strongly encourage all students in the program to seek advising from the Director of Counseling and UNW Advisor to determine the applicability of the credits at your college or university of choice after high school. The Associate of Arts Degree is designed to fulfill a core curriculum that most colleges and universities require in a bachelors degree program in the first two years. For that reason, the credits will not only be transferable, but applicable to a student's major degree program.

### **IN-HOUSE PSEO PROGRAM**

We have a PSEO program on the Maranatha campus that provides students the opportunity to take classes with the University of Northwestern-St. Paul (UNW) and North Central University (NCU), all at no charge to the student. Below are details and specific requirements for participation in the program:

- The program is offered solely to juniors and seniors.
- Students must have a cumulative GPA of 3.20 or higher to participate.
- Due to our limited ability to monitor student progress in PSEO classes, students will not be allowed to take more PSEO credits than they can afford to lose without placing graduation at risk. This will be monitored by the dean of academics.
- Students may take up to two online PSEO classes per semester in addition to their on-site PSEO selections.
- There is no guarantee that the courses a student chooses will fit within his/her selected college degree program or that those credits will transfer seamlessly to other colleges. However, UNW and NCU are nationally accredited and their credits are generally transferable. They have developed classes for their PSEO program that have high transferability.
- Students will have a scheduled class period during which to work on the online class in the upper school LMC.
- Students who successfully complete a PSEO class will receive college credit at UNW or NCU and .5 high school credits on their Maranatha transcript.
- The grade earned in the PSEO course will be calculated as part of the cumulative MCA GPA based on the weighted GPA value for college courses.
- The start and end dates for the UNW and NCU classes do not coincide with the MCA semester dates. The student will be required to begin the class outside of school time and fulfill all deadlines set by UNW or NCU. The final weeks of school at the conclusion of the class will be designated for study hall.

- Students will be required to sign a release to permit MCA faculty access to their progress in the online class.
- Students will be required to provide their own hardware (laptop, tablet, iPad, or similar device) from which to access the online coursework; school computers will not be available. Minimally, the device must be able to wirelessly connect to the school's public wi-fi.
- Transfer students who were unable to earn PSEO credits at their previous school will need to appeal to the academic council and may be allowed to take PSEO classes.

## **EARLY COLLEGE COURSES FOR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS**

MCA will pay for one Early College Course (PSEO, PSOS or edX) per semester for 11th and 12th grade students who have graduated from ELS class. Classes must be approved by the Director of International Student Academics. Students who are receiving scholarships are not automatically eligible but may petition for special consideration. Students who have not graduated from ELS are ineligible.

## **ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP)**

In the College Board booklet titled *The Value of AP Courses and Exams*, it states, "AP courses give you a head start on college while you're still in the supportive environment of a high school classroom. Taking the end-of-course AP exam sends a powerful message to colleges and universities that you're ready for them, and can enable you to gain admission, college credit, and placement into advanced courses."

Advanced Placement courses offer sophomores, juniors, and seniors opportunities to earn college credit while still in high school. AP courses feature college-level curriculum and are monitored by the College Board to insure the syllabi for the classes meet the high standards of college. In the month of May, national exams are administered to AP students who desire to take them; the exams are then scored by specially trained college professors and high school AP instructors. Scores are represented by a number from 1 to 5, and most colleges accept a grade of 3 or higher for credit, placement, or both credit and placement.

Maranatha offers six AP courses to juniors and seniors who have a cumulative GPA of 3.2 or above: Biology, Calculus, Language and Composition, Literature and Composition, United States History, and Physics. In addition to the potential for earning college credit, these courses prepare students for the rigors of a college academic experience and expose students to advanced curriculum appropriate to their need for additional challenge. Students wishing to pursue AP classes should contact the dean of academics for additional information.

## **COLLEGE LEVEL EXAMINATION PROGRAM (CLEP)**

The official study guide from College Board explains CLEP exams as follows: "CLEP exams cover material directly related to specific undergraduate courses taught during a student's first two years in college. The courses may be offered for three, four, six, or eight semester hours in general areas such as mathematics, history, social sciences, English composition, natural sciences, and humanities. Institutions will either grant credit for a specific course based on a satisfactory score on the related exam, or in the general area in which a satisfactory score is earned. The credit is equal to the credit awarded to students who successfully complete the course."

Further information regarding CLEP exams is available from the dean of academics; however, it is important to remember that the awarding of credits is determined by the receiving school. It is always good practice to check with your intended college to establish how CLEP credits are handled.

# **National Honor Society**

Tenth through twelfth grade students with a cumulative grade point average of 3.5 or higher who have attended MCA for at least one semester are eligible for membership in the National Honor Society. Additional qualifications for acceptance are leadership, service, and character. Information about the selection process is distributed to qualified students in the fall. Students are selected for membership by a faculty council and are inducted each fall.

# National Junior Honor Society

The National Junior Honor Society is the nation's premier organization established to recognize outstanding middle level students. More than just an honor roll, NJHS serves to honor those students who have demonstrated excellence in the areas of scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. These characteristics have been associated with membership in the organization since its beginning in 1929. Students must have a 3.5+ GPA, and demonstrate strength in areas of: service, leadership and character.

## Honor Recognition

Academic Honor Roll recognition is awarded each quarter. Students who receive a "D" or "F" in any course become ineligible for honor roll during that quarter. There are three honors categories for high school students:

- Principal's Club: grade point average of 3.8–4.0 or above
- High Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.5–3.79
- Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.0–3.49

There are two honors categories for middle school students:

- High Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.5–4.0
- Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.0–3.49

Honor roll certificates are awarded with report cards and the honor roll lists are posted in the school. *Note: grades for student interns do not count toward honor roll.*



## Academic Lettering

Academic letters are awarded for consistent high academic achievement while a student is attending grades 9–12 at MCA. Students qualify for an academic letter by achieving an average grade point over one or more consecutive years as follows:

- 1 year: average grade point of 4.0 for 1 year
- 2 years: average grade point of 3.8 for 2 consecutive years
- 3 years: average grade point of 3.6 for 3 consecutive years
- 4 years: average grade point of 3.4 for 4 consecutive years

The average grade point for consecutive years should not be confused with cumulative GPA. The cumulative GPA is the average grade point beginning with the freshman year for a student's entire high school career. The average grade point for consecutive years may or may not include a student's full high school career. For example, a student could have a GPA of 2.9 for his freshman year, 3.7 for his sophomore year, and 3.9 for his junior year. The cumulative GPA for the three years might be 3.5, but the average grade point for the two consecutive sophomore and junior years would be 3.8, thus qualifying the student for an academic letter at the end of his junior year. Student intern grades are not included in the average grade point.

Academic letter consideration excludes transfer grades and students entering MCA after the school year has started. Academic letters are awarded at the Spring Awards Ceremony, which is held the last week of school. Since the school year is not complete at that point, grade points for the current year are based on the student's mid-term fourth quarter grades.

# NCAA Initial Academic Eligibility



Students who want to participate in intercollegiate athletics on a Division I or Division II level must abide by NCAA guidelines. Students must register and be certified by the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Information about the process can be obtained from the dean of academics. Students should be aware that there are some courses offered at MCA that do not meet NCAA core course guidelines.

To be certified by the NCAA Clearinghouse, you must meet the following requirements:

1. Graduate from high school.
  - a. You should apply for certification before graduation if you wish to participate in athletics as a freshman at the college to which you will be admitted. The Clearinghouse will issue a preliminary certification report when you have had all your materials submitted. After you graduate, the Clearinghouse will review your final transcript to make a final certification decision according to NCAA standards.
2. Earn a grade point average of at least 2.3 (on a 4.0 scale) in a core curriculum of at least sixteen academic courses that were successfully completed during Grades 9 through 12. The following chart shows what your minimum core courses must include.

CORE UNITS REQUIRED FOR NCAA CERTIFICATION	DIVISION I	DIVISION II
English Core	4 years	3 years
Math Core (Algebra 1 or higher)	3 years	2 years
Science Core	2 years	2 years
Social Studies Core	2 years	2 years
Additional English, Math, or Science	1 year	3 years
Additional Core (from any area listed above, Foreign Language, Non-Doctrinal Religion/Philosophy)	4 years	4 years
<b>Total Core Units Required</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>

For more detailed information, visit [ncaa.org](http://ncaa.org).

## Learning Support Services

In accordance with our school's mission statement, the Learning Support Services (LSS) exists to equip students to excel academically, spiritually, physically, and socially. It is our mission to provide all children with the right tools for optimal learning so they may be successful in and out of the classroom, working up to their fullest potential. We are committed to identifying and meeting the distinctive educational needs of each student through individualized educational programming by partnering with parents and teachers.

Following are services currently provided by the Learning Support Services:

- Academic support for the lower school and upper school
- Small group pull-out instruction for students in grades 1–6 in reading and math
- Two 30-minute sessions per week for math and/or reading during the last part of each subject
- Extra support for students showing academic need in either of these subjects
- Write and manage student academic plans and contracts in the upper school for students needing extra academic support
- Liaison between Osseo and Maranatha in regards to students receiving special education services through the Osseo school district
- Assist students needing organizational support in the upper school
- Facilitate tutoring in both the upper school and lower school

## Fee-Based Classes & Phy. Ed. Uniforms

All fees for fee-based classes are billed through TADS.

For students in Phy. Ed., clothing will be available for purchase beginning at Back to School Night through the Identity Store. Please note the expectation for all Phy. Ed. classes is that students must be dressed in MCA Phy. Ed. attire. This will be part of their participation grade and students who do not have the required clothing will lose participation points.

Note that students are also allowed to wear black athletic pants (no yoga type pants) instead of shorts, and these pants may be obtained by the student independent of the school clothing. The pants may have red and white trim but no other colors.

## Academic Intervention

Academic Intervention is a program designed to hold students accountable for missing assignments, tests, and poor academic performance. It is the goal of the school to see students achieve their full academic potential.

Teachers may require students to attend a helps session to make up missing or incomplete work. In the event that a student is failing a class a student will be required to attend helps. In addition, students may be placed on an academic growth plan with their administrator, advisor, and/or LSS..

Academic intervention takes place in coordination with each specific teacher's help sessions and is assigned based upon the following:

- The student has two late assignments in one class OR
- The student is two class periods late on an assignment OR
- The student has an incomplete test OR
- The student demonstrates poor/failing grades or generally poor academic performance (based on teacher discretion)

# Summer School

Students who fail a course during the school year may make up the resulting loss of credit by satisfactorily completing summer school. Credits received in summer school are not accepted in lieu of MCA required courses unless previous clearance has been given by the administration. Students may make up one credit during summer school. Additional makeup credit must have prior approval from the dean of academics. See the Parent and Student Manual for more details on summer school.

## Community Service Program

This program provides every student in grades 6–12 the opportunity to experience Acts 1:8 in ministering to the community through service projects on a local, national, and international level. Upper school students are required to participate in the program each year.

Service outreach offers an intensive learning experience for each student ministry volunteer, allowing the opportunity to try on various roles of responsibility while providing vital services for the community and ministry.

### AREAS OF MINISTRY

1. Direct community service (e.g., hospital visitation, etc.)
2. Home church involvement
3. In-school ministry (e.g., evangelism, worship team, etc.)
4. Missions



### REQUIREMENTS

1. Middle school students (Grades 6–8) must complete twenty-five hours of service outreach per school year.
2. High school students (Grades 9–12) must complete thirty-five hours of service outreach per school year.
3. Students must complete and submit the Community Service Form to their Bible teacher according to published quarterly due dates.
4. Community Service Forms are available from the Bible teachers and on the MCA website.
5. Forms must be signed by the supervisor of the event or by the parent/guardian.
6. Students not adhering to these due dates may be issued a detention.
7. Students may begin earning hours the first day of summer vacation to be applied to the upcoming school year.
8. Students may continue to earn community service hours beyond the required twenty-five to thirty-five hours.
9. Students in upper school may earn a school letter by contributing 300 hours to the Community Service Program in a single year.

### SPECIFIC LIMITATIONS

1. Hours cannot be carried over from year to year.
2. Students cannot include hours that were compensated monetarily, academically, etc.
3. MCA reserves the options to do the following:
  - Find mandatory service hours for students not fulfilling required hours.
  - Find mandatory service hours for students having a history of not fulfilling required hours.
  - Withhold the diploma and/or school records of graduating seniors not fulfilling required hours.
  - Decline hours that are not “pure ministry” (e.g. family business or chores).

# COURSES

## MIDDLE SCHOOL



### BIBLE

#### 6th Bible

##### **Building on the Rock: World of Worldviews (Yr)**

This class is an introduction to biblical and unbiblical beliefs about God, the universe, human beings, truth, and value. Students will memorize scripture, identify main points, creatively apply concepts, reflect on important ideas, and participate in class discussions surrounding biblical Christianity as the true view of God and the world. Our ultimate goal is to build their confidence in their knowledge of scriptural truths and encourage students in their personal relationship with the Lord.

Homework: 30 minutes

Service Hours: 25

#### 7th Bible

##### **Building on the Rock: God's New Family (Yr)**

Building upon the biblical foundations learned in 6th grade, this class explores the plans that God had for both His Old Testament and New Testament families. Students will explore the people of Israel, chosen by God, who established covenant relationships that can be ultimately fulfilled through the redemption by Jesus Christ

and God's new family of Christian believers. Our ultimate goal is to build their confidence in their knowledge of scriptural truths and encourage students in their personal relationship with the Lord.

Homework: 30 minutes

Service Hours: 25

##### **New Testament Survey (8th Grade) (Yr)**

Spiritual growth is a lifelong process. Working in conjunction with parents and various churches, this class has three goals. First, students will develop a closer relationship with God; second, students will learn biblical facts; and third, students will apply what they learn to everyday life. This course uses the NIV Study Bible and a variety of other materials.

Service Hours: 25

### LANGUAGE ARTS

#### English 6

(Yr)

Incorporating literature, writing, and grammar, English 6 teaches the basics of literary analysis, expository writing, creative writing, and poetry analysis. It includes extensive vocabulary development and an opportunity to write an MLA research paper. This course focuses on proper mechanics and grammar through a variety of activities. Further, students will read and explore a variety of literature that encompasses different genres and literary devices.

#### English 7

(Yr)

Incorporating literature and grammar, English 7 teaches the basics of literary analysis, expository writing, and creative writing. In addition, English 7 includes extensive vocabulary development through the study of Greek and Latin roots. An in-class reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* also introduces students to the medium of plays and gives them the opportunity to work on their speaking skills in front of others.

#### English 8

(Yr)

Incorporating literature and grammar, English 8 continues to build upon the basics of literary analysis and expository, creative, and persuasive writing while including extensive vocabulary development. Students will be introduced to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* with an opportunity to write an MLA research paper in conjunction with Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. Students will also write a speech with a digital slide/media presentation in conjunction with Frances Goodrich and Albert Hackett's play "The Diary of Anne Frank".

### **Middle School Speech (Sem)**

This introductory course in public speaking will give students opportunities to develop skills in preparing speeches and delivering them with confidence. Students will be exposed to a variety of speech types including: impromptu, informative and persuasive. This class will also equip students with the presentation skills needed to succeed in high school courses.

### **Fantasy Literature and Writing (Sem)**

This course is focused on both the study of “fantasy” as a genre and how to write our own fantasy stories. The main novel that we will be reading throughout the course of the semester is Alice in Wonderland, but we will also be reading/studying many excerpts from other books such as: The Return of the King, Fantastic Mr. Fox and Catching Fire just to name a few. This course covers everything from early fantasy tales found throughout Greek mythology and the legend of King Arthur up to modern-day fantasy written by well-known authors such as Brandon Sanderson and Rick Riordan. This course is open to any and all interested in the “fantasy” genre.

Available to grades: 8–10  
Homework 30–60 Minutes/Week

## **MATH**

### **Course One (Yr)**

Students are introduced to basic algebraic concepts, and will build upon previous math knowledge as well as increase in new skills to prepare for pre-algebra. Concepts are taught through a spiralized approach and will be seen throughout the year to ensure success. Main concepts include multiplying, dividing, adding, problems, and solving ratio and rate problems.

### **Course Two (Yr)**

Students are introduced to fundamental arithmetic concepts, which are built upon to prepare students for Algebra 1. Topics are developed in small steps and spread over time in an incremental approach. Main concepts include basic operations and numeration; properties of numbers and operations; ratio and proportional reasoning; patterns, relations, and functions; variables, expressions, equations, and inequalities; probability; and work with geometry concepts and measurement.

### **Algebra 1 (Yr)**

Students are given a review of fundamental arithmetic concepts and are then introduced to various algebraic concepts. These concepts include solving basic equations and inequalities; power properties; factoring, graphing and writing linear equations; simplifying rational expressions; and solving equations involving direct and inverse variation. Students will also be introduced to the study of polynomials.

### **Geometry (Yr)**

This course will introduce students to basic geometric concepts such as point, line, plane, and congruence, followed by instruction on postulates and theorems in a formal proof setting, with special attention devoted to critical thinking skills.

Available to Grade 8–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra 1  
Homework: 40 minutes

## **PHYS. ED./HEALTH**

### **Physical Education (6/7/8th Grades) (Yr)**

Physical Education is focused on lifetime sports, sports education, fitness, and sportsmanship. It involves strategic learning relating to overall lifetime health, fitness, sports, sports competitions, and conduct, keeping in mind that we are all to be fit, active, and Christ-minded in all we do. Units covered include volleyball, badminton, pickle ball, playground games, golf, softball/baseball, tennis, hockey, soccer, basketball, skateboarding, and more. Classes are divided by gender and grade; uniform is a gym shirt purchased from the online store in the fall of each year.

### **7th Grade Health (Yr)**

This class focuses on health and wellness: taking charge of your health, achieving mental and emotional health, managing stress, and coping with loss. This class will also emphasize relationships: healthy relationships; family, peer, and dating relationships; resolving conflict; Project Alert (drug, alcohol, and cigarettes) and preventing violence. Class is divided by gender to allow for gender-specific content and discussion.

### **8th Grade Health (Yr)**

This class focuses on living a healthy life through proper nutrition, managing weight, eating behaviors, physical activity, and fitness. Other units covered will include personal care and body systems, Project Alert (substance resistance), and growth and development. This class also includes a dating/abstinence unit and a CPR class. Class is divided by gender to allow for gender-specific content and discussion.

## **SCIENCE**

### **6th Grade General Science (Yr)**

Introduction to Technology, Matter & Energy, Motion, Forces & Energy, and Sound & Light. Students study the engineering design process to explore the field of innovation and product design. This includes study of kinetic and potential energy, velocity and acceleration, forces and gravitational forces, simple machines, sound, and light. To more deeply explore these topics, students will complete hands-on laboratory experiments.

### **7th Grade Life Science** (Yr)

Cells, Heredity, Diversity of Living Things, The Human Body, Ecology and the Environment—Students study different types, parts, and functions of cells. Students will explore heredity. In addition, this course also explores characteristics of bacteria, viruses, and animals. Students will also study population dynamics in communities, Earth's ecosystems and resources, and the human impact on our environment. The unit on the human body details the structures and functions of each body system and how the systems work together. To more deeply explore these topics, students will complete hands-on laboratory experiments.

### **8th Grade Earth and Physical Science** (Yr)

This course is a study of energy and matter, with an overview of chemistry, physics, and earth/space sciences. The student will develop and use problem-solving skills: observation, classification, sequencing, measuring, and comparing/contrasting. We will be delving into space exploration and discussing origin theories.

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **6th Grade Minnesota History** (Yr)

This class explores Minnesota's long and interesting history, beginning with the area's earliest inhabitants, highlighting historical markers in our state's history, and continuing to present day. Study includes Native American settlement, early European settlement and influence, and Minnesota's role in the Civil and World Wars. We'll explore how Minnesota's people and ideas helped shape our state and impact our nation; along with citizenship, economics, and the government of the United States.

### **7th Grade Global Studies** (Yr)

This course covers world regions, cultures, and global issues. Students will use skills such as civic participation, economic reasoning, geographic inquiry, historical inquiry as they explore the world around them. Students will explore the relationships between diverse cultures and the world in which they live. They will read, write, discuss, analyze, and take positions on multiple topics. Students will use a variety of print and non-print sources to analyze and suggest solutions to real-world problems and to analyze global and societal issues. Course goal is to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of major geography and cultural areas of the world.

### **8th Grade American History** (Yr)

This course will examine American history from the middle of the 15th century to Reconstruction. There are approximately five units that will follow the five eras listed in the National Standards for United State History. These

will encompass First Americans, Explorers, Colonization, American Revolution, Founding a New Government, and Territorial Expansion, including wars and treaties with foreign nations, Civil War, and Reconstruction. The social studies program is organized to help students connect to the content, but also develop skills such as listening, taking notes, reading comprehension, recall, reading maps and charts, critical thinking, and problem solving.

### **Middle School Current Events Elective** (Sem)

Using current events, this elective course focuses on world and local issues that affect students' everyday lives, such as economics, government and conflict. This course uses newspapers, online media, cartoons, and newscasts to support class discussion. Additionally, students participate in projects, presentations and work with primary source materials and opinion pieces to better understand the world around them.

Available to grades: 7–8  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

## **ART & MUSIC**

### **MS Art I—Art Foundations** (Sem)

Art exploration emphasizes a variety of art media including architecture, graphic design, sculpture, and clay relief tiles. Lessons incorporate art history, art criticism, self-assessment, and monthly sketchbook entries. Students begin the year with step-by-step instruction on the basics of drawing and color theory, which leads into acrylic painting.

### **MS Art II—Art History** (Sem)

In this hands-on art class, students will learn about the different time periods in art history, from the hieroglyphics of Egyptian art to the pottery of ancient Greece to the Renaissance. Students will gain an appreciation for art with hands-on projects, studying each time period, and learning about famous artists. Each student will get experience working in various art mediums including drawing, painting, clay, printmaking, and more.

### **MS Art III—Design** (Sem)

This is a hands-on art class in which students will learn about the different elements of design: line, shape, color, space/form, and texture. The students will learn about each of these design elements in depth and will complete projects using each of these elements. Students will work with drawing, painting, sculpture, and many other fun materials.

### **6th Grade Choir** (Yr)

Students will develop their singing skills while preparing for performances. Vocal techniques, stage presence, sight-reading, musical terms, and basic theory will be taught.

Students will learn to sing in harmony. Performances include the Christmas Concert and our Spring concert during Experience Maranatha!.

### **6th Grade Band** (Yr)

Students continue to develop skills in performing on their instruments. Students are expected to participate in performances during the year including our Christmas Concert in December and our Spring concert during Experience Maranatha! in May.

### **MS Band** (Yr)

Students continue to develop performance skills in a large group setting, emphasizing instrumental performance technique and the development of a good overall band sound. Students are expected to participate in performances during the year, some of which include Fall Fest, Homecoming, and Spring Splash pep band; the Christmas and Experience Maranatha! concerts.

Available to grades: 7–8

Prerequisite: Participation in school band for at least one year

### **MS Choir** (Yr)

Students will develop their singing skills while preparing for performances. Vocal technique, stage presence, solfege/sight-reading, musical terms, and beginning theory will be taught. Students will learn to sing in two or three-part harmony. Performances include the Christmas Concert and the concert during Experience Maranatha!.

Available to grades: 7–8

Prerequisite: Must be able to sing independently on pitch

### **MS Textile Arts** (Sem)

Using the medium of textiles: threads, strings, cloth, etc., along with a possibility of dyes, paper, paint and other media, students will create two and three-dimensional works of art such as collages, soft sculptures, and functional pieces like backpacks, ties, vest, bracelets, string bags, weaves, Macrame hangings, bags, aprons, and totes. The students will also learn simple hand stitches, practical sewing skills, and following simple patterns to sew and make tie blankets to donate to homeless children in Minneapolis. In addition, students will incorporate used articles of clothing and other recyclables and upcycle them into new works of art for decoration and/or function. Students will also learn simple “fix it” projects to repair rips, holes, hems, etc. to clothing.

Available to grades: 7–8

Fee: \$45

Requirements: Additional materials for certain projects

### **MS Theater** (Sem)

Students learn the basics of stage terminology, stage movement, pantomime, voice quality, characterization,

and improvisation through the use of games, monologues, sketches, and scripts. In addition, they participate in a one-act play or variety show at the end of the semester to showcase the skills they have successfully acquired. If needed, they may be required to be involved in extracurricular MCA Thespian productions.

Available to grades: 7–8

Homework 0–30 Minutes

## **ENGINEERING STUDIES**

### **Design and Modeling (PLTW)** (Sem)

In Design and Modeling, students are introduced to Engineering through the lens of empathy. Students will learn about Cerebral Palsy and how it effects the human body. They will then create a foot orthosis and therapeutic toy for a child with CP. Along the way students will learn to create isometric and multiview sketches, take accurate measurements and convert measurements from US customary to metric units. Students also build their problem solving, communication and collaboration skills.

Available to grade: 6

Homework 0–30 Minutes

### **Automation (PLTW)** (Sem)

In Automation students trace the history, development, and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students use the VEX® platform to design, build, and program pull toys, race cars and an automated assembly line.

Available to grade: 7

Homework: 10–20 Minutes

### **MS Lego™ Robotics** (Sem)

Students will build and program a Lego robot. We will start a Mission learning the basic movements and test their knowledge with a maze. As we follow different mission objectives, we are introduced to a variety of different sensory inputs (touch sensor, ultrasonic, etc) that are added to the robot. More complexity and a variety of challenges are added through different Missions that test students' work in a collaborative environment to solve problems together.

Available to grades: 7–8

Homework: 0–10 Minutes

# COURSES

## HIGH SCHOOL



### ART

#### Ceramics I (Sem)

The primary focus of this class will be learning how to make pottery on the wheel. The student will also learn hand-building techniques, slab and coil construction, and glazing techniques.

Available to Grades 9-12

Homework: None

Class Fee: \$35 covers clay for pottery, use of pottery tools, glazes, and firing kiln. Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

#### Ceramics II & III (Sem)

This class builds upon Ceramics 1 and provides increased time on the potter's wheel. Students will develop throwing skills to include vases, bowls, and plates. Students will also develop more hand-building skills making slab platters, bird houses, pinch vases, and tiles.

Available to Grades 9-12

Prerequisites: Ceramics I

Homework: 0-30 minutes

Class Fee: \$35 covers clay and use of tools, glazes, and kiln. Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

#### Ceramics IV (Sem)

Students will have a more advanced, rigorous throwing schedule and work on multiple pieces. They will also work on improving hand building techniques. Students will also be able to make a melted glass piece.

Available to grades 10-12

Prerequisites: Ceramics I and II, teacher recommendation, and dean of academics approval

Homework: 0-30 minutes

Art/Lab Fee: \$35 covers clay and use of tools, glazes, and kiln. Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

#### Drawing I (Sem)

This class focuses on basic drawing techniques with an emphasis on line, perspective, and shading, to refine specific drawing and design skills. Students will work with pencil, charcoal, colored pencil, scratch art paper, and ink. Projects include drawing still lifes, portraits, art history lessons, and weekly drawing assignments.

Available to Grades 9-12

Homework: 0-30 minutes

Class Fee: \$20 covers pencils, ink, charcoal, chalks, erasers, papers, and blending tools. Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

## **Drawing II** (Sem)

This class advances basic drawing techniques, with emphasis on specific assignments. We'll focus on line, shading, focal point, dimension, figure drawing, and landscape. Mediums include pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, and soft and oil pastels.

Available to Grades 9–12

Prerequisites: Drawing I

Homework: Weekly drawings

Class Fee: \$20 covers pencils, ink, charcoal, chalks, erasers, papers, and blending tools. Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

## **Painting I** (Sem)

This course introduces the complexities of color and basic painting techniques. Instruction will include tempera, acrylic, watercolor, and oil paints. Course contains a weekly art history lesson, including Georgia O'Keefe and Winslow Homer.

Available to Grades 9–12

Homework: 0–30 minutes

Class Fee: \$30 covers paints, canvases, and use of brushes.

Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

## **Painting II** (Sem)

This course continues Painting I, further developing painting skills. Instruction will include tempera, acrylic, oil, and watercolor painting, as well as art history lessons.

Available to grades 10–12

Prerequisites: Painting I with grade of a "C" or better and teacher/dean of academics approval

Homework: 0–30 minutes

Class Fee: \$30 covers paints, canvases, and use of brushes.

Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid in full.

## **Photography** (Sem)

This course will immerse students in a basic understanding of digital and mobile photography. Students will develop the ability to creatively tell a story through an image while also gaining life experience. Students will complete a full photography portfolio at the end of the semester.

Available to Grades 9–12

## **Printmaking** (Sem)

This course introduces basic printing techniques, including wood block printing, screen printing a t-shirt design, nature, and Gyotaku fish prints. Works of significant artists will be related to assigned exercises. This course also contains art history including a study on Pop Art.

Available to Grades 9–12

Homework: 0–30 minutes

Class Fee: \$30 Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid.

## **Sculpture** (Sem)

This course introduces students to a variety of three-dimensional sculptures, focusing on construction, carving, modeling, and relief. The students may work with materials

such as wire, paper maché, clay, balsa foam, Sculpey, and soapstone. Students also create an assemblage sculpture using a chair. This course also contains art history lessons including Henry Moore, Deborah Butterfield, Claes Oldenburg; and a spring field trip to the Walker Art Center's Sculpture Garden.

Available to Grades 9–12

Homework: 0–30 minutes

Class Fee: \$30 Class credit will not be assigned until fee is paid.

## **Studio Art** (Yr)

This course is for the advanced art student who is developing a portfolio. Themes and mediums to be used by each student will be individually determined by student and teacher. Each student, along with parents and teacher, must sign a contract. Students must also prepare work for the senior show in the spring. Additional time, meetings, and work will be required for the event.

Available to Grade 12

Prerequisites: Four MCA art classes, teacher/dean of academics approval

Homework: Portfolio prep

Class Fee: \$35 with additional cost depending on course of study.

Class credit will not be assigned until fees are paid in full.

## **Graphic Design 1** (Sem)

This hands-on course teaches students about the principles, processes, and practices of graphic design. Students will develop their creative thinking and learn how to solve visual problems that persuade, inform, entertain, and engage the world around them. Utilizing professional design software, students will create posters, logos, mobile apps and more to develop a portfolio of work by the end of the semester.

Available to Grades: 10–12

Homework: 30–60 minutes

# BIBLE

## **Introduction to the Bible** (Yr)

Introduction to the Bible is for students who have little or no background in the Bible or Christianity. This class is typically for international students. It will provide an overview of the Bible including the books and groupings of the old and new testaments as well as key events, characters, and stories. We will examine the fundamental questions such as who God is, who Jesus is, and why we are here. The goal is to help students understand the Christian worldview and give them background information needed for subsequent Bible courses.

Homework: 0–30 minutes

Service Hours: 35

### **Old Testament Survey and Biblical World View Training (9th Grade) (Yr)**

The Old Testament is often neglected and/or misunderstood by Christians. This course will show that its study is not so difficult and is very valuable. Class covers historical background, chronology of events, near east culture, historical books, prophetic books, wisdom literature, biblical geography, and Judaism. Selected books of the Old Testament will be studied verse by verse. Students will realize that much of the Old Testament is applicable to the Christian's daily experience of life and can be very valuable in the development of a biblical/Christian worldview.

Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Service Hours: 35

### **Christian Apologetics I and Worldview I (10th Gr.) (Yr)**

1 Peter 3:15 commands believers to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them. This is a skill few Christians possess. This course will address many common questions Christians are asked by unbelievers, and covers, biblical archaeology, basic Christian doctrine, the inspiration and accuracy of the Bible, how to witness effectively, creation vs. evolution, Christian response to suffering, and miracles. Selected readings by C.S. Lewis, Bonhoeffer, Geisler, Zacharias will be used. The Worldview I course will contain units on Basic Concepts, Secularism, Islam, Theology and New Spirituality. These units will help students clarify their own belief system and empower them to effectively share it with others (evangelism). There will be ample opportunity for discussion.

Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Service Hours: 35

### **Christian Apologetics II and Worldview II (11th Gr.) (Yr)**

1 Peter 3:15 commands believers to be ready to give an answer for the hope that is in them. This is a skill few Christians possess. This course will address many common questions Christians are asked by unbelievers, and covers world views, biblical archaeology, basic Christian doctrine, the inspiration and accuracy of the Bible, major world religions, cults, how to witness effectively, creation vs. evolution, Christian response to suffering, miracles, the deity of Christ, faith vs. science, atheism, and other units tailored to the needs of the students. The worldview course will contain units on secularism, postmodernism, ethics, Islam, new spirituality, philosophy, etc. This course will help students clarify their own belief system and empower them to share it with others (evangelism). There will be ample opportunity for discussion.

Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Service Hours: 35

### **Advanced Bible Studies (11/12th Grades) (Yr)**

The Bible is the Christian standard for faith and doctrine.

We are to apply the principles taught in the Bible to our everyday lives. However, it is difficult to apply the Scriptures if we don't understand them as they were intended by God. This course is an intermediate class in how to study, interpret and apply the Bible. Students will study selected books of the Scriptures. There will also be some topical studies. Important principles of Hermeneutics will be used as we study the Word of God. The student will learn how to do basic Bible research with standard theological reference books and online. At the end of this course, the student will be able to study most books and passages in the Bible and reach accurate interpretations, building a greater interest and confidence in the Bible that will carry over into adult life.

Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Service Hours: 35

## **BUSINESS**

### **Accounting I (Sem)**

This basic course provides a thorough background in accounting principles and applications used to operate a sole proprietorship, serves as a foundation for employment in office jobs, and prepares students for college business coursework. By using an interactive companion website, students will read, understand, and create financial statements. Course requires a calculator.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 0–15 minutes

### **Accounting II (Sem)**

This class builds upon the accounting principles and applications used to operate a service business organized as a sole proprietorship. Students will examine a complete accounting cycle for a merchandising business organized as a corporation. Students will understand the conceptual framework, structure, and accounting practices relating to organizing a business as a corporation. All accounting concepts and procedures are described within the context of the accounting cycle so students can see how each procedure contributes to the overall financial picture of the corporation. Students will use a companion website with software to create, use, and understand financial statements.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisite: Accounting I  
Homework: 0–15 minutes

### **Design Thinking (Sem)**

Do you enjoy solving problems and making a difference? Do you want to be creative and change the world? If so, this class is for you! Design Thinking is a process that stimulates innovation, drawing on methods from engineering and design and combining them with ideas from the arts, social sciences, and the business world. Students will work together in a hands-on environment

to nurture radical collaboration and drive innovation and creativity. Students will tackle real problems, while using the processes of questioning, ideation, sketching, prototyping, and testing. Students will be better equipped to creatively problem solve in any area of interest.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: As needed

### **Personal Finance (Sem)**

When used poorly, money can be a source of anxiety and lead to financial problems. God's desire is for us to be good stewards of all He provides. Used wisely, money can be a tool to help achieve goals and dreams while providing for the family and doing God's work. In this hands-on financial planning program, students learn to take immediate control of their finances. Topics include financial planning, goal setting, personal budgets, smart shopping, saving and investing, using credit and credit cards wisely, the effects of debt, and keeping car insurance costs down. With knowledge and skill from this course, students can be in control of their finances and on their way to a lifetime of financial capability and healthy financial management.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### **Entrepreneurship and Business Consulting (Yr)**

This elective course will place students in real world business environments where they will not only study innovation, entrepreneurship and business, but also hone their soft skills and workplace professionalism. Guest instructors, site visits, real world business projects, entrepreneurship advisors and judges will become integral parts of the learning experience. This will enable students to excel in the collaborative and team-based work environment they will experience in their careers. Each semester students can expect to be off campus approximately three to four times.

Semester 1: Focuses on learning about innovation and entrepreneurship that culminates in a competition similar to the famous TV show "Shark Tank." Working in teams, students will learn from professionals about the innovation process, human centered design and new venture business development while creating their own business concept. Throughout the process, students will have access to professionals with specific experience in the various fields they are studying. This will culminate in each team presenting their business proposals to a panel of business entrepreneurship judges.

Semester 2: Focuses on teams of students working on real consulting projects for local companies where they will face a specific challenge from the organization. In the past, organizations such as Best Buy, General Mills, Medtronic, Medica, Fairview, Habitat for Humanity, Wells Fargo, Emerson Process Management have provided

us with real, problem based projects. Students will research, ideate, evaluate, recommend and formally present solutions they have developed and deliver those solutions to the client.

Prerequisite: Design Thinking (Ability to drive self is helpful)  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **ENGINEERING STUDIES**

### **Design Thinking (Sem)**

Do you enjoy solving problems and making a difference? Do you want to be creative and change the world? If so, this class is for you! Design Thinking is a process that stimulates innovation, drawing on methods from engineering and design and combining them with ideas from the arts, social sciences, and the business world. Students will work together in a hands-on environment to nurture radical collaboration and drive innovation and creativity. Students will tackle real problems, while using the processes of questioning, ideation, sketching, prototyping, and testing. Students will be better equipped to creatively problem solve in any area of interest.

Available to grades: 9–12  
Homework: As needed

### **Computer Science for Innovators (Sem)**

Students in this course will work to build and design their own devices. Students will work with Microbits and Arduinos to learn and practice programming. Students program these digital tools to create and invent objects in the physical world.

Available to grades: 10–12  
Prerequisite: Design Thinking  
Homework: As needed

### **Computer Design (Yr)**

Students work at their own pace to complete a series of projects that will guide them in learning design and modeling in SolidWorks™ (CAD) and be eligible to take an exam at the end of the year and get certified. Students in Computer Design will be working with rapid prototyping tools such as the 3D printer and Laser Engraver.

Available to grades: 10–12  
Prerequisite: Design Thinking  
Homework: 10–20 Minutes

### **Advanced Engineering (Sem)**

Students in advanced engineering are seriously considering engineering as a career. Students will experience several job shadowing experiences working in different fields of engineering. Students will manage a club and work on hands-on projects.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisite: Design Thinking and Computer Design  
Homework: As needed

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

### Spanish I (Yr)

Introductory course features integration of language skills with the culture of Spanish-speaking people in situational context. Course emphasis is on establishing communication skills by consistent comprehensible input.

Required for Grade 9 and possibly transfer students  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### Spanish II (Sem)

This course expands student knowledge and enhances skills in the areas of vocabulary, conversation, and culture. Further focus on the development of communication and conversational skills.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### Spanish III (Yr)

This course continues the focus on communication skills. More vocabulary is taught as well as additional tenses and their usage and meanings.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: Spanish II  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### Pre-AP Spanish (Yr)

This course enables students to develop a comfortable level of fluency with each of the verb tenses. This course expands the student's knowledge and strengthens the student's skills in communication. Course emphasis is on grammar, vocabulary, pronunciation, and cultural notes to prepare for AP or college level Spanish.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Spanish III  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## LANGUAGE ARTS

### English 9 (Yr)

This course is foundational to all other high school coursework. The class will emphasize grammar and sentence structure, vocabulary advancement, the form and development of the five-paragraph essay, and public speaking strategies. This course is also a study of several great books, including an introduction to Shakespeare.

Available to Grade 9  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### American Literature (Grade 10) (Yr)

This course is a survey of American literature from early New England writers to the modern day. The course will

emphasize writing skills such as analysis, synthesis, and critique. Exercises include critical reading, reasoning skills, and writing in response to various readings, as well as writing assignments that incorporate summary, paraphrase, quotation, and practice in argument and persuasion. The course will include an in-depth discussion of story elements and fiction as well as a review of the following: writing, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and diction.

Available to Grade 10  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### Honors English (Grade 10) (Yr)

Honors English 10 is an advanced language arts course which uses the Pre-AP 10 framework along with state standards. It is highly recommended for sophomores who intend to pursue the AA program or take AP Literature and Composition (junior year) or AP Language and Composition (senior year). The emphasis will be placed on literary analysis of mostly fiction texts, as well as various forms of writing. Students will read several major fiction works, while analyzing their literary force and value. There will be continual instruction and practice in developing a personal analytical and writing style.

Pre-requisites: 9th grade English, summer reading with accompanying assignment, and a completed application.  
Homework: 60–90 minutes

### British Literature (Grades 11/12) (Yr)

Offered 2018–2019

This course contains traces of British literature from the epic *Beowulf* to the present with a focus on how the historical events in England influenced the literature. Major British authors of poetry, short stories, essays, and novels will be read. The course will also include practice in the mechanics of writing, including grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and word choice. Several British classic novels will be required reading for the class, as well as a major research paper on a British author's work and life.

Available to Grades 11  
Prerequisites: Summer novel reading assignment  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### World Literature (Grades 12) (Yr)

(Offered 2019–2020)

This course is a study of selected authors, themes, and trends representing literature outside of the American and British realms. The study will emphasize modern literatures of Continental Europe, Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of literary study by analytical writing and discussion of the texts. The study will target aesthetic, thematic, and cultural concerns that are dominant in these literatures. Students will demonstrate analysis, synthesis,

and evaluation through writing and discussion. This class also includes a review of basic writing and grammar. Students will present their papers orally and lead the class in discussion. The class also includes a review of basic writing, grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, and word choice.

Available to Grades 12  
Prerequisites: Summer novel reading assignment  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### **AP Language and Composition** (Yr)

Offered 2018–2019

This is a college-level language arts course designed for college-bound juniors and seniors to develop the specific writing skills needed for college. The emphasis will be on rhetorical analysis of mostly nonfiction texts. The students will read several nonfiction works, analyzing linguistic force and expository value. There will be continual instruction and practice in developing a personal writing style. Class culminates with the College Board Advanced Placement test.

Available to Grades 12  
Prerequisites: 3.5 English GPA, application process, and two summer books from reading list  
Homework: 60–120 minutes

### **AP Literature and Composition** (Yr)

(Offered 2019–2020)

This college-level language arts course is designed for juniors or seniors to develop specific writing skills needed in college. Emphasis is on literacy analysis of fiction prose and poetry. Students will read several major novels, analyzing their linguistic force and value. There will be continual instruction and practice in developing a personal writing style. This course culminates with the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

Available to Grades 11  
Prerequisites: 3.5 English GPA, application process, one assigned summer reading book  
Homework: 60–120 minutes

### **English Language Support** (Yr)

The English Language Support class is for students whose first language is not English. The class provides language support in reading, speaking, listening and writing. The primary focus is on reading comprehension, vocabulary and sentence structure. Students also participate in TOEFL practice lessons.

### **Business Writing and Communication** (Sem)

Business Writing and Communication is intended to prepare students for both written and verbal communication that they will encounter in various professions and professional interactions. Students will discuss and prepare for real-life situations based on feedback provided by professionals in an assortment of careers. Students will study grammar

and writing fundamentals, persuasion, and public speaking basics, as well as some tenets of leadership, goal setting, teamwork, and public relations. Regardless of post-secondary plans, this class is beneficial in preparing for a plethora of academic and professional encounters.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes (may vary)

### **Fantasy Literature and Writing** (Sem)

Fantasy Literature and Writing is a course focused on both the study of “fantasy” as a genre and how to write our own fantasy stories. The main novel that we will be reading throughout the course of the semester is Alice in Wonderland, but we will also be reading/studying many excerpts from other books such as: The Return of the King, Fantastic Mr. Fox and Catching Fire just to name a few. This course covers everything from early fantasy tales found throughout Greek mythology and the legend of King Arthur up to modern-day fantasy written by well-known authors such as Brandon Sanderson and Rick Riordan. This course is open to any and all interested in the “fantasy” genre.

Available to Grades 8–10  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

### **HS Speech** (Sem)

Students will develop speaking skills that will benefit them in the job market and as leaders in their communities. Speaking effectively and evaluating intelligently create the foundation for each assignment. From casual speaking to compelling communication, students will present impromptu, informative, persuasive, and demonstrative speeches. This class provides the foundation for junior and senior speeches.

Available to Grades 11–12; 9th can apply for exception  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### **Journalism** (Sem)

In this class you will learn to: brainstorm ideas for interviews, conduct interviews with teachers/students/etc. and turn your interviews into written articles that will be published both online and distributed throughout the school. This class requires a great deal of personal responsibility, determination, organization, and a love for writing.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### **Argumentation and Debate** (Sem)

This elective is designed for upperclassmen to develop speaking and argumentation skills that will benefit them in the job market and as leaders in their communities. Speaking effectively and evaluating intelligently create the foundation for each assignment. Students will participate in several formal and informal debates while exploring the techniques of rhetoric and persuasion. Students will

also present impromptu, informative, persuasive, and demonstrative speeches. Lastly, students will analyze and critique several well-known speeches in an effort to develop their own personal speaking style. This class provides the foundation for junior and senior speeches.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

## MATHEMATICS

### Intermediate Algebra (Yr)

This course is available to students who received a “C” or below in Algebra I or to any student who wants to build their foundation before tackling Algebra II or Geometry. Class reviews basic equations and inequalities, properties of powers, factoring, simplifying rational expressions, and solving equations involving direct and inverse variation. It also introduces the student to polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, trigonometric expressions, and probability and statistics. Fulfills MN State graduation requirement as a high school math credit.

Available to Grades 8–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and teacher recommendation  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

### Algebra 2 (Yr)

The major thrusts of this course are math systems, learning to solve types of open sentences, and the concept of function, as well as the study of polynomial, rational, exponential, logarithmic, and conic sections. This class is essential for college entrance and for careers in math, science, and certain technical fields.

Available to Grades 8–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra 1  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

### Geometry (Yr)

This course will introduce students to basic geometric concepts such as point, line, plane, and congruence, followed by instruction on postulates and theorems in a formal proof setting, with special attention devoted to critical thinking skills.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra 1  
Homework: 40 minutes

### Trigonometry (Yr)

This course will focus on the six trigonometric functions, along with radian measure, identities, graphing, complex numbers, polar coordinates, and logarithms. This course is designed for students planning to attend college and/or obtain careers in math-related fields.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisite: Algebra 2  
Homework: 40 minutes

### Probability and Statistics (Yr)

This basic course will make use of statistical methods in the real world. Emphasis will be on studying data from a statistical point of view. Elementary probability theory will be presented. This class will use basic Lean Six Sigma training to recognize a problem, design an experiment, collect and analyze data, and offer suggestions/solutions/improvements for the problem.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Two years of high school math  
Homework: 15 minutes

### Pre-Calculus (Yr)

Basic study of the real number system, functions, rational root theorem, complex number system, analytic geometry with conic section emphasis, systems of equations and inequalities, along with a study of sequences. Designed for students college-bound and/or pursuing careers in math-related fields.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra II, Geometry  
Homework: 30 minutes

### AP Calculus (Yr)

This college-level course contains an intensive review of algebra, trigonometry, and analytic geometry. There are lessons on limits, derivatives, integration, differentiation (implicit and explicit), logarithms, and partial fractions. The course is designed with an incremental approach in mind so that each lesson covers a bite size amount and yet that topic is reviewed throughout the entire year. This class culminates with the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

Available to Grade 12  
Prerequisites: Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and 3.2 GPA  
Homework: 45 minutes

## MUSIC

### Chapel Band (Sem)

A small group of singers, instrumentalists, and audio/video technicians will collaborate on and lead weekly contemporary chapel worship. Principles of worship leading, scriptural basis for worship, and team building will be discussed. Worship leaders are expected to display godly character in all areas of life and work to build and maintain a strong bond of unity among band members as leaders of the student body, modeling excellence in all areas. Chapel band members are expected to maintain a C average in each of their classes and may not be on any level of behavior probation. Falling below a C average in any class or being placed on behavior probation may be grounds for suspension from playing in chapels or removal from chapel band. There may be extracurricular

performance opportunities.

Available to Grades 10–12

Prerequisites: Spring audition and one semester of MCA attendance; students must provide their own electric, bass, and/or acoustic guitars.

Homework: 30–60 minutes/week

### **High School Band (Sem)**

Students will continue developing their performance skills in a large group setting with an emphasis on instrumental performance technique and the development of a good overall band sound. Students are expected to participate in performances throughout the year including pep band for Fall Fest, Homecoming, and Spring Splash, as well as the Upper School Christmas and Experience Maranatha concerts.

Available to Grades 9–12

Prerequisites: Must have participated in school band for at least two years.

Homework: Practice as needed

### **High School Choir (Sem)**

Students will develop their sight-reading and vocal performance skills while preparing a variety of concert pieces. As students learn to sing in three and four-part harmony, singing technique, music theory and musical terms will be discussed. Wardrobe requirements: Girls must purchase a dress from our choir vendor (approximately \$75) and provide their own black dress shoes. Boys must purchase a white shirt, black suit, black socks, black tie, and dress shoes on their own for wearing to performances. Performances include Homecoming and concerts at Christmas and in May. There may be extracurricular performance opportunities.

Available to Grades 9–12

Prerequisites: Audition in August/January

Homework: Practice as needed

Fees: Wordrobe costs

### **High School Jazz Band (Sem)**

Jazz band allows students to experience and learn about the basics of jazz music through performance. Students will play a wide variety of genres (blues, swing, funk, rock, Latin) and perform for many events, including Grandparent Day, Christmas Concert, and Experience Maranatha!. Jazz band is open to all instrumentalists, including piano, guitar, bass guitar, and drums. Placement is by audition, but no previous jazz experience is required.

Available to Grades 9–12

Prerequisites: Audition and must be a member of either the High School Band or Chapel Band.

Fees: \$35 and students must provide their own bass, electric, or acoustic guitar and basic equipment needed for their instruments

### **Hiptronic (Sem)**

Hiptronic is a music program where students will learn about ways to use the experience of making music as a

positive outlet for dealing with everyday life. This program is specifically designed for students who already have an interest in music. It presents an immediate alternative to artistic youth to focus so they can reach their full potential. Furthermore, it will allow them to learn more about making music. They will learn how to write, record, perform, and produce their own content in a studio setting while learning about all the career opportunities in music & the arts.

Available to Grades 10–12

Homework: 30–60 minutes

## **PHYS. ED./HEALTH**

### **Fitness–Group Strength (Co-Ed) (Sem)**

This class is designed to be fun while improving a student's fitness level and physical health, whether a beginner or well-trained athlete. The focus will be on toning and strengthening major muscle groups with emphasis on core strength. Various equipment will be used: dumbbells, ankle weights, steps, body balls, balance equipment, rubberized resistance, and weighted body bars. The ten minute warm-up will be a sampling of current classes in the fitness industry such as sports drill blasts, step aerobics, kick boxing, interval training, Pilates, Tae Bo, and Salsa. All fitness levels and body shapes are welcome.

Available to Grades 9–12 (must be at least 15 years old)

Class limit of 20 students. Students will need to purchase their own dumbbells and ankle weights from vendor of their choice.

### **Contemporary Health (Sem)**

This course introduces a variety of topics based in nutrition and wellness. We will go over different Health care models and explore how they work. Students explore mental and sexual health in a Christ-centered context. Students will be introduced and provided alternative foods that have a higher vitamin and mineral content than processed foods.

Available to Grade 10–12

Homework: 30–60 minutes

Fee: \$25

## **SCIENCE**

### **Biology (Yr)**

This course covers the scientific method, cellular chemistry, genetics, a survey of the six kingdoms, human anatomy and physiology, and look at theories of Creation and Evolution. Coursework includes note taking, lab investigations, dissection, observations, and microscopes.

Available to Grades 9–10

Homework: 30–45 minutes

### **Chemistry (Yr)**

This course reviews basic science and the physical and chemical properties of matter, including a survey of

chemical reactions, the atomic theory, and the periodic table. Students will work with formulas, equations, and quantitative calculations involving significant figures. This course prepares students for college and is essential for further training in a technical or science-related career. Lab work includes qualitative and quantitative analysis.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: Biology and Algebra 1  
Homework: 30–45 minutes

### **Anatomy and Physiology** (Yr)

This course introduces students to the organization of the body on chemical, cellular, tissue, and system levels. Students identify and integrate anatomical structures and their functions. Labs in this class include hands-on activities and dissections. This course would be great preparation for medical based career interests..

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

### **Biomedical Innovation** (Sem)

In Biomedical Innovation, students build on the knowledge and skills gained from previous courses to design innovative solutions for the most pressing health challenges of the 21st century. Students address topics ranging from public health and biomedical engineering to clinical medicine. They have the opportunity to work on an independent design project with a mentor or advisor from a university, medical facility, or research institution.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: Biology and Anatomy & Physiology  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

### **Physics** (Yr)

This course covers motion, forces, sound and light, heat, electricity, magnetism, and related topics, and is comprised of lecture, discussion, lab, and evaluation. Students will be expected to compute algebraic and numerical problems.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra 1 and Geometry  
Homework: 30–45 minutes

### **AP Biology** (Yr)

This college-level course covers cellular chemistry, energy, and genetics, including the function and structure of DNA and RNA. Evolutionary theories will be studied, along with evidence supporting evolution and possible mechanisms for it. A Christian viewpoint of evolution is also presented. The relationship of structure to function will be a major theme common with all organisms studied. Students will also study population dynamics in communities and ecosystems and discuss global issues. Lab work and field studies will be a major part of this course. This class culminates with the College Board Advanced Placement test.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Physical Science, Biology, Chemistry, and 3.2 GPA  
Homework: 60 minutes

### **AP Chemistry** (Yr)

This course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced coursework in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore topics such as atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Algebra II and HS Chemistry  
Homework: 60 minutes

## **SOCIAL STUDIES**

### **American History** (Yr)

This course will cover American history from the end of Reconstruction to the present, will be divided into time periods, and emphasize themes including America's economic growth, foreign policy, and our national identity. Critical thinking and writing skills will be honed with the analysis of primary documents along with the study of maps, charts, and graphs.

Available to Grade 11 (new track)  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### **U.S. Government** (Sem)

The focus of this class is to engage students in participating in the political process. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, and the importance of the rule of law; the United States Constitution; federal, state, and local government structure; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will actively investigate local, state, and national issues; read and participate in discussions; and develop informed opinions using a variety of writing forms.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: American History and 3.2 GPA  
Homework: 60–90 minutes

### **AP U.S. History** (Yr)

This intense course is designed for college-bound students who desire to complete a college-level history course. Material covered starts with the discovery and settlement of the New World (1492–1650) and continues into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The class is comprised of in-depth, frequent discussion and essay writing and culminates with the opportunity to take the College Board Advanced Placement test.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: American History and 3.2 GPA  
Homework: 60–90 minutes

## **Contemporary Issues (Sem)**

Contemporary Issues is devoted to studying the historical origins and development of domestic and foreign political and social problems that confront humanity today. Possibilities include regional studies (ex. AIDS in Africa or the state of affairs in the Middle East), as well as issues of global concern such as North South relations, environmental issues, the war on terror, world poverty, sustainable development and global economic development. Specific topics to explore will be developed in conjunction with the students according to their interests. Discussions, research projects, and current event analysis will all be undertaken with a biblical worldview.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **Economics (Sem)**

This is an introductory course that provides students with an understanding of the way in which society organizes its limited resources to satisfy unlimited wants. Students will develop an economic way of thinking through Christian understanding as we relate history and politics to the study of economics. At the end of the semester, students will apply their knowledge with a simulated Shark Tank presentation.

Available to Grades 9 (new track)  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **Latin American Studies (Sem)**

Latin America is a spectacularly diverse and dynamic region—culturally, historically, politically, and geographically. The region is also fundamentally interconnected with our own: through flows of commodities, money, natural resources, people, political thought, and culture. The course is designed to systematically introduce students to the lands and peoples of this region. As with any geography course with a regional focus, our emphasis is on understanding the historical processes through which places and regions are produced through their own characteristics and simultaneously through their interactions with other places at multiple scales. We use maps as well as other tools to understand these patterns and processes.

Available to Grade 9–12  
Homework: 30–60 minutes

## **Intro to African Studies (Sem)**

Due to this continent being a remarkable array of languages, societies and peoples, this course is designed to be a broad look at the extraordinary continent of Africa. You will examine the social, political, economic, and cultural history of Africa from the 19th century to present. This course will consist of film, lecture, readings, discussion and analysis.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **Psychology (Sem)**

This course serves as an introduction to the fundamental psychological theories and theorists. Students will explore a variety of theories on the how and why of human behaviors throughout multiple stages of life in order to gain a better understanding of how a society functions. Analysis and discussion of these theories will enable each student to become wiser and a more active participant in his/her community. The unique role of faith in psychology will be discussed regularly.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **World History I (Sem)**

This course gives students a perspective on the influence of ancient world cultures in the development of politics, philosophies, and religious beliefs. Class begins with the study of the beginnings of man, early river civilizations, the rise of empires and nations like Greece and Rome, and ends with the effects of the Crusades and European Middle Ages.

Available to Grade 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **World History II (Sem)**

This course begins with the Renaissance in Europe, followed by the Reformation. Students will examine changes in Christianity along with political changes. Students will also spend time looking at the impact of both the World Wars and how struggles for democracy and global interdependence shape our world today.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **World Geography (Sem)**

This course will cover physical, human, and economic geography of the countries of the world, with emphasis on countries, capitals, major landforms, and cultural and political issues. The socioeconomic repercussions of changing governments and the development of new countries will also be examined.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **Propaganda and Protest: Conflict & Pop Culture (Sem)**

Prior to the 20th Century images of conflicts were limited to black and white still images, posters, and the memories of those who participated in them. With the advent of film, 24-hour news coverage, and social media, people can now see the conflicts from the comfort of their own homes. Whether it was used to promote the government's ideals or used by an artist to criticize what they saw as injustice,

propaganda's influence reverberates throughout culture. Students will dive into the political, economic, military, and social history of events such as WWI, WWII, Vietnam, The Cold War, Arab Spring, and various cultural movements in the past 100 years. Utilizing the knowledge gained, students will critique and create a variety of pieces of propaganda while drawing conclusions about the purpose and effect on culture.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### **History of Sports in America (Sem)**

Before there were organized, spectator sports there were impromptu athletic activities. We will examine the ways that sports have transformed over the years. Covering topics such as sports heroes of the 20s and 30's, women's sports, racial segregation in sports, athletic rivalries in the Cold War, and the globalization of American sports you will examine important events and times within this field. This course will consist of films, lecture, readings, analysis, and discussions.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

## **TECHNOLOGY**

### **Television Production: (Sem)**

This class blends the technology commonly available to high school students with the advanced technology of the Living Word Christian Center television department to produce a regular TV show that features MCA people and events. Using the video cameras and editing software available on cell phones, point-and-shoot cameras, and tablets, students will shoot and edit short video segments that will be integrated into a program broadcast regularly to the student body. Students will also be trained on the use of LWCC TV equipment and will function as the TV crew for all MCA events requiring TV department support, as well as one Wednesday evening service per month. Students who excel in various aspects of television production may be offered opportunities to work in additional capacities in LWCC services and events.

Available to Grades 8–12

## **THEATER**

### **Acting (Spring Sem)**

Students will experiment with various acting exercises to explore their range as performers. They will focus on vocal styles, movement, improvisation, script analysis and projection/articulation. The class will encourage students to take risks in order to grow as performing

artists. Emphasis is on experimentation and overcoming inhibitions that hinder performing abilities. The class will prepare and perform a one-act play.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Fee: \$25

### **Competitive Acting and Production (Fall Sem)**

Students will experiment with various acting exercises to explore their range as performers. This class will also focus on design elements of theatre and implement this knowledge through technical elements in the class's production. Students will prepare a one-act play to compete. They will be encouraged and challenged to take risks in order to grow as performing artists.

Available to grades 9–12  
Prerequisites: Audition  
Homework: 0–30 minutes  
Fee: \$35

## **ADDITIONAL COURSES**

### **Film Studies I & II (Sem)**

Film Studies is designed to give students an awareness and understanding of motion pictures as a cultural art form. Students will be introduced to the basic aspects of history, theory, and aesthetics of the cinema as experienced throughout the world. The course will include discussion of the methods of filmmaking as well as the various formal structures contained within films. There will also be an emphasis on developing skills of critical analysis and applying a Christian worldview to the analysis of films in our culture. Students should be aware that we will watch films that do not fit the general school guidelines for movie viewing for the purpose of becoming critical consumers of popular media from a Christian worldview.

Available to Grades 11–12  
Prerequisites: Parental permission and an interest in film  
Homework: 0–60 minutes

### **Cultural Studies (Sem)**

This class will attempt to equip students to effectively and thoughtfully deal with topics including culture and identity. Knowing how to engage with the world around us can be challenging and it is critical to encounter that world with a Christian worldview. This class will include the study of literature (both fiction and non-fiction book excerpts, poetry, etc.), media (film, television, etc.), and current events (TED talks, podcasts, articles, essays, news). Much of the class will be discussion based, however students will also have various writing and speaking assignments as well. This class requires a willingness to participate and learn about the world around you, as well as an open

mind and maturity.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### **Yearbook** **(Yr)**

Students will work to produce the MCA yearbook. From the initial phases of theme development to selling and distributing the books at the end of the year, students will learn and use skills in photography, interviewing, writing, editing, desktop publishing, digital imaging, and marketing. Students should enter the class with mature writing skills and be familiar with the basics of using a digital camera. This course will require after-school time in the lab and at events.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: Application to advisor  
Homework: 0–60 minutes or more prior to yearbook deadlines

### **Life & Careers** **(Sem)**

Life and careers is a course designed to prepare you for life after high school. It may be hard to imagine now while you are still in school, but all MCA students will graduate and one day have a job. To prepare you for your next steps, this course will combine both college preparation and real-world workforce skills development into one program. This course will culminate with a fun service learning activity of your choice as we work together to make decisions, set goals and plan for the future.

Available to Grades 9–12  
Homework: 0–30 minutes

### **Teacher/Office/Lunch Intern** **(Sem)**

This opportunity provides practical experience for the student in office, classroom, or lunchroom settings. Duties may include filing, designing bulletin boards, correcting papers, data entry, teaching small groups, individual tutoring, or assisting in the lunchroom. Specific interning requests are not possible.

Available to Grades 10–12  
Prerequisites: Dean of academics approval  
Homework: None

### **Study Hall** **(Sem)**

A limited number of study hall slots will be available to students with one or more AP or PSEO On-Site classes. Students will receive priority based on the following criteria:

- 1) Students with more than two AP classes and one sport
- 2) Students with more than two AP classes
- 3) Students with two AP classes and one sport
- 4) Students with two AP classes
- 5) Students with one AP class and one sport

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