2017 – 2018 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE
Our Bible curriculum is designed to ensure that our students know God, know they are loved by God, love God and love others. A practical way for our students to demonstrate their love of God is serving others. Each semester, our students participate in community service.

Graduation Requirement: 4 years of Bible

Bible 1 – Survey: This course focuses on an overview of the Bible. Students will learn the overarching themes within the Bible, especially, the story of Redemption. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None

Bible 1 – Bible Studies: This course focuses on how to study the Bible and apply its truths to live out the Christian faith. Prerequisites: foundational understanding of the Bible; Fees: None

Bible 2 – Understanding the Faith: This course focuses on laying the foundation for a Christian worldview by showing how the Bible is both authoritative and true. The course utilizes Understanding the Faith: A Survey of Christian Apologetics by Jeff Meyers. Students have the opportunity for dual credit for college, by submitting key assignments and paying a registration fee with the college. Prerequisites: Bible 1 course or pre-approval of administration; Fees: None (unless applying for dual credit)

Bible 3 – Understanding the Times (New for 2018-2019): This course focuses on understanding the ideas and forces shaping our times and offers a fascinating, comprehensive look at how the tenets of the Christian worldview compares with the five major competing worldviews of our day. This course is a systematic way to understand the ideas that rule our world, inviting our students to discover the truths of God. Students have the opportunity for dual credit for college, by submitting key assignments and paying a registration fee with the college. Prerequisites: Bible 2; Fees: None (unless applying for dual credit)

Bible 4 – Understanding the Culture (Offered starting in 2019-2020): This course focuses on addressing the questions: What is culture? Why does our culture matter? This course provides practical ways to engage and understand the culture we live in. Students have the opportunity for dual credit for college, by submitting key assignments and paying a registration fee with the college. Prerequisites: Bible 3; Fees: None (unless applying for dual credit)

Biblical Leadership (ASB): This course focuses on the principles of biblical leadership, as evidenced by the servant leadership of Jesus Christ. This course also organizes student activities. Prerequisites: Junior/Senior standing; Selection into ASB; Fees: Cost of Bible study material (2017-2018 cost: $20)

Worship: This course focuses on the principles of entering into fellowship with God through musical worship. Prerequisites: Junior/Senior standing; Application/Audition only; Fees: None.
ENGLISH

Our English curriculum prepares our students to communicate effectively, read strategically, and write clearly. The students will use a Christian worldview to read and analyze American, British, and World literature. Our entering freshmen students will be given a placement assessment exam. Placement for our freshmen students will be either (a) Foundations of English CP (b) Advanced Foundations of English (c) Advanced World Literature. Freshmen students who are invited to participate in the Advanced World Literature course and continue in the advanced track will take an advanced British Literature Seminar during their senior year.

Graduation Requirement: 4 years of English

Foundations of English CP: This course focuses on the foundational elements of literary analysis, writing composition, and grammar usage appropriate for the high school sequence. Vocabulary building is an ongoing component of the course. Students should expect to read at least six novels and write at least six formal papers during the year. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $50 novel fee

Advanced Foundations of English: This course focuses on the same general content as Foundations of English CP, but reading level for novels and writing expectations are more rigorous. Prerequisites: Appropriate score on English Placement Test; Fees: $50 novel fee

World Literature CP: This course focuses on literature representing European, Asian, African, and Latin American cultures across various periods of history. Writing composition moves beyond foundations and into skills with specific writing styles. Students should expect to read at least six novels and write at least six formal papers during the year. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $50 novel fee

Advanced World Literature: This course focuses on the same general content as World Literature CP, but reading level for novels and writing expectations are more rigorous. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Prerequisites: For Freshmen - Appropriate score on English Placement Test; For Sophomores - A or better in English I CP or B or better in English I H and teacher approval; Fees: $50 novel fee

American Literature CP: This course focuses on literature representing various time periods in American history, beginning with the colonial days and culminating in the modern era. Additional writing styles are introduced. Students should expect to read at least six novels and write at least six formal papers during the year. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $50 novel fee

Advanced American Literature: This course focuses on the same general content as American Literature CP, but reading level for novels and writing expectations are more rigorous. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Prerequisites: A or better in English II CP or B or better in English II H and teacher approval; Fees: $50 novel fee

British Literature CP: This course focuses on the literature of England, starting with Beowulf, focusing on Shakespeare, and culminating with writings from Tolkien, Lewis, Chesterton and other recent British authors. Additional writing styles are introduced. Students should expect to read at least six novels and write at least six formal papers during the year. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $50 novel fee

Advanced British Literature: This course focuses on the same general content as British Literature CP, but reading level for novels and writing expectations are more rigorous. This course involves a summer reading assignment. Completion of the advanced track in English prepares students to take the AP English Language exam. Prerequisites: A or better in English III CP or B or better in English III H and teacher approval; Fees: $50 novel fee, potential AP exam fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)
Modern British Mythopoeia (Offered starting in 2019-2020): This honors senior seminar is open to students who have completed our advanced English track by the end of their junior year. Students will focus on works by British authors of the 20th Century who wrote excellent books from a Christian worldview. Authors such as C.S. Lewis, J.R.R. Tolkien, Dorothy Sayers, and George MacDonald will be included. The class will include extensive reading, writing and discussion, as well as a summer reading assignment. Students who have completed this class are prepared to take the AP English Literature exam. **Prerequisites:** None; **Fees:** $50 novel fee, potential AP exam fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

English as a Second Language (ESL): This course introduces students to basic structures and vocabulary of the English language through the skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn strategies to advance their reading, listening, and pronunciation skills. They expand oral skills and write complete sentences, a standard paragraph, and short content-based essays. They utilize level-appropriate conventions of grammar and punctuation with a minimum of errors. **Prerequisites:** Instructor approval; **Fees:** None

MATHEMATICS

Our Mathematics curriculum prepares our students to think critically as they tackle complex mathematical concepts. Cross-curricular applications to science are emphasized throughout the curriculum. Courses are developed with a direct focus on expectations in future math courses, so that students are prepared to progress through the math sequence.

**Graduation Requirement:** 3 years of Math, with a minimum level of Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II

**Pre-Algebra:** This course focuses on number theory, fractions, inequalities, basic linear algebra, graphing, statistics, and basic geometry. Please note: starting with the Class of 2020, this course no longer satisfies high school graduation requirements. **Prerequisites:** None; **Fees:** None

**Algebra I:** This course focuses on one- and two-variable linear equations, one- and two-variable linear inequalities, graphing, functions, sequences, absolute value equations, rational equations, radical and exponential equations, quadratic equations and factoring. **Prerequisites:** For freshmen - satisfactory score on placement exam; For other HS students - C or better in Pre-Algebra; **Fees:** None

**Geometry:** This course focuses on properties of various geometric figures, congruence and similarity between figures, right triangles and trigonometry, three-dimensional solids, analytic geometry, circles and proofs. **Prerequisites:** For freshmen - satisfactory score on placement exam; For other HS students - C or better in Algebra I; **Fees:** None

**Algebra II:** This course focuses on function notation, polynomials, rational equations, radical equations, logarithmic equations, trigonometric equations, conic sections, graphing, sequences and series, and matrices. **Prerequisites:** For freshman - satisfactory score on placement exam; For other HS students - C or better in Geometry; **Fees:** None, but students are expected to provide a graphing calculator

**Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus:** This course focuses on trigonometric relationships, trigonometric identities, trigonometric modeling, unit circles, identifying zeros of functions, translations, sequences and series, limits, and continuity. **Prerequisites:** C or better in Algebra II; **Fees:** None, but students are expected to provide a graphing calculator
AP Calculus AB: This course focuses on limits, continuity, rates of change, Mean-Value-Theorem, derivative techniques, related rates, extrema, concavity, accumulation, integration techniques, transcendental functions, numerical analysis, graphical analysis, and descriptive analysis. Prerequisites: C or better in Trig/Precalc; Fees: AP exam fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year); students are expected to provide a graphing calculator

AP Calculus BC: This course covers topics in differential and integral calculus, including concepts and skills of limits, derivatives, definite integrals, the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus, and series. The course teaches students to approach calculus concepts and problems when they are represented graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally, and to make connections amongst these representations. Students learn how to use technology to help solve problems, experiment, interpret results, and support conclusions. Prerequisites: C or better in Trig/Precalc Honors, or C or better in Calculus AB; Fees: AP exam fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year); students are expected to provide a graphing calculator

AP Statistics: This course focuses on data collection, types of data, methods of analyzing data, statistical tests, outliers, probability, and survey generation. Prerequisites: B or better in Algebra II OR C or better in Trig/Precalc; Fees: AP exam fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year); students are expected to provide a graphing calculator

Life Skills: This junior/senior math elective focuses on budgeting, personal finances, credit cards, and retirement planning. In addition to mathematical life skills, students will learn other important skills, such as resume preparation, interview skills, and home economics. Students will also discuss the impact of life choices regarding relationships and drug use. Please note that this class is not considered a college-preparatory class, and it will not satisfy college admission requirements. Prerequisites: Junior/Senior standing; Fees: None, although some purchases may be necessary as part of the home economics portion of the course

SCIENCE
Our science program focuses on developing a deep understanding of the interactions, principles and laws that govern the orderly functioning of God’s creation. Where appropriate, science courses address rigorous mathematical concepts that underpin scientific concepts. Science is taught as a journey of discovery, helping students see the astonishingly complex and beautiful design inherent in the universe.

Graduation Requirements: 2 years of Science, including at least 1 year of a life science (Biology, A&P) and 1 year of a physical science (Environmental, Chemistry, Physics)

Environmental Science: This course provides an introduction to chemistry and physics, with a focus on applications to the world around us. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None

Biology: This course focuses on living systems, animal and plant cells, organization of cells into organs, genetics, DNA and RNA, taxonomy, ecology, Microorganisms and Fungi, importance of exercise for health and the Human Body. Prerequisites: Freshmen - satisfactory placement on English placement exam; none for other HS students; Fees: None

Anatomy and Physiology CP: This course introduces kinesiology, the study of anatomy and motion of living systems. Muscle and skeletal structures for multiple animals and humans will be studied, and the function of each of these structures will be explored. Prerequisites: C or better in Biology; Fees: None

Anatomy and Physiology Honors: This course explores all the topics of biomechanics, and includes the study of physiology - the chemical processes in living systems. Prerequisites: Completion of Chemistry; Fees: None
**Chemistry**: This course focuses on atomic structure, properties of elements, compounds and molecules, the mole concept, stoichiometry, properties of solids, liquids and gases, acid/base chemistry, equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics, and nuclear chemistry. **Prerequisites**: Concurrent enrollment (or completion of) Algebra II; C or better in Biology; **Fees**: None

**Chemistry Honors**: This course assumes a stronger math focus for students, allowing for less time on stoichiometry and a deeper focus on equilibrium, kinetics, and thermodynamics. **Prerequisites**: Concurrent enrollment (or completion of) Algebra II; C or better in Biology; **Fees**: None

**Physics Honors**: This course explores Newtonian mechanics, including vectors, force diagrams, velocity, acceleration, friction and work. Electricity and magnetism are also explored. **Prerequisites**: Concurrent enrollment in Trig/Precalc (completion of Trig/Precalc recommended); **Fees**: None

**AP Biology**: This course focuses on molecular biology and taxonomy. Students explore the chemical processes in cells, genetics, categories of animals, biochemistry, cellular respiration and fermentation. **Prerequisites**: B or better in Biology; C or better in Chemistry; **Fees**: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

**AP Chemistry**: This course focuses on advanced topics in chemistry, including equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics, quantum mechanics, nuclear chemistry and organic chemistry. Foundational topics such as atomic structure, atomic bonding, and stoichiometry are reviewed and are used throughout this course. **Prerequisites**: B or better in Chemistry; **Fees**: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

**SOCIAL STUDIES**

Social studies focuses on the history and impact of people and cultures over human history. God gave people the responsibility to subdue the earth, a task with which we have both amazing successes and tragic failures. We explore the scope of human involvement on the earth, honestly looking at the good and the bad of our history, and how we can learn from our past experiences.

**Graduation Requirements**: 4 years of Social Studies, including 1 year each of geography, world history, US history, and Government/Economics

**Geography**: This year-long course focuses on the culture of various people groups and the impact that location has on those cultures. Students explore the religious, economic, and political climate in countries around the world. **Prerequisites**: None; **Fees**: None

**AP Human Geography**: This course focuses on the influence of location in analyzing the culture, economy, stability, and religions of various people groups throughout history. **Prerequisites**: Freshmen - appropriate score on English placement exam; other HS students - none; **Fees**: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

**World Cultures**: This course focuses on the major historical events and people throughout the history of civilization. Emphasis includes culture, world religious systems, and major stages of human civilization development. **Prerequisites**: None; **Fees**: None

**AP World History (New for 2018-2019)**: Students explore the major historical events and people throughout the history of civilization, focusing on connections and differences between people groups and cultures. Significant discussion centers around cause and effect relationships in human history, and special focus is given to understanding the motivations of societies to act the way they have. **Prerequisites**: None; **Fees**: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)
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**AP Art History (New for 2018-2019):** Students study world history through the lens of artistic expression across cultures. The relationship between art and current events is analyzed, as is the connection between artistic style and technological advancement. Students explore the ways in which culture influences art, and the ways in which art influences culture. AP Art History may be taken to satisfy the World History requirement for graduation. 
*Prerequisites: None; Fees: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)*

**US History:** This course focuses on the history of the United States, with a particular emphasis on the time period from the Civil War through the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: None*

**AP US History:** This course takes an in depth look at the history of the United States. Students are expected to write extensively about past events, drawing connections between events from various time periods in American history. 
*Prerequisites: None; Fees: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)*

**Government/Economics:** This course is two one semester courses - US Government, and Economics. Government focuses on the development of the American Government system, the various components of our system, the intended purposes of each component, and ongoing debates about how to best implement the American government system. Economics focuses on economic thinking - cost-benefit analyses, opportunity cost, and best allocation of resources. Major economic systems will be studied, and the US economic system will be analyzed. 
*Prerequisites: None; Fees: None*

**AP US Government (Offered starting in 2019-2020):** Students study the American government system in depth, looking at the philosophical underpinnings of our government structure. Significant readings of original documents, such as the Federalist Papers and our key constitutional documents, will be included. Our economic system is also discussed, as it is intricately linked to our system of government. This is a year-long course, and it may be used to satisfy the Government/Economics graduation requirement. 
*Prerequisites: None; Fees: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)*

**SPANISH**

Our Spanish courses are designed for students to learn to communicate with others, specifically in Spanish. Not only do we desire that our students be able to achieve academic fluency in Spanish, we also desire that our students be able to communicate with native Spanish speakers the truth of who God is.

**Graduation Requirements:** Students must complete the second level of Spanish II (or other language, if taken elsewhere)

**Spanish I:** This course introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. Topics include learning the Spanish alphabet, pronunciation, important site words, common verb tenses, standard conjugation, common irregular verbs, and gender for nouns. Spanish culture is explored as an ongoing part of the curriculum. 
*Prerequisites: None, although freshmen are encouraged to have a strong English placement score; Fees: None*

**Spanish II:** This course builds on the foundations of Spanish I, focusing on extensive vocabulary acquisition. Many irregular verbs are introduced as well, and additional parts of speech are included. Spanish culture is explored as an ongoing part of the curriculum. 
*Prerequisites: C or above in Spanish I; Fees: None*

**Spanish III:** This course builds on the foundations of Spanish I and II. Less common verb tenses are introduced. The focus of this course is to establish conversational fluency in the language. Spanish culture is explored as an ongoing part of the curriculum. 
*Prerequisites: C or above in Spanish II; Fees: None*
Spanish IV: This course moves towards academic fluency, as Spanish literature is now introduced. Students are expected to communicate solely in Spanish in this class, as conversational fluency has been established. Students learn to write at an academic level in Spanish as well. Spanish culture is explored as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: C or above in Spanish III; Fees: None

AP Spanish: This course leads students to full academic fluency in the language. All expectations of Spanish IV apply, but students work toward a higher level of mastery of the language. Spanish culture is explored as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: C or above in Spanish IV OR completion of Spanish III and instructor approval; Fees: AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS
Our Visual and Performing Arts courses are designed for our students to learn to love God with all their soul. They learn different art media to creatively express their understanding of who God is and this world that He created.

Graduation Requirements: 1 year of Visual and Performing Arts Classes

Art I: This course introduces students to the foundations of art, including color, lines, perspective, shading, various media, and proportions. Art history is taught as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $100 art fee

Art II: This course builds on the foundations of Art I. New techniques are introduced, and students are encouraged to begin to develop their voice in art. Art history is taught as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: C or better in Art I; Fees: $120 art fee

Art II Honors: In addition to the expectations of Art II, students will begin work on developing their personal portfolio, focusing on the expectations of the AP Studio Art exam. Prerequisites: B or better in Art I and instructor approval; Fees: $120 art fee

Art III: This course builds on the foundations of Art I and II. New techniques are introduced, and students are encouraged to further develop their voice in art. Art history is taught as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: C or better in Art II; Fees: $120 art fee

Art III Honors: In addition to the expectations of Art III, students will continue work on their personal portfolio, focusing on the expectations of the AP Studio Art exam. Prerequisites: B or better in Art II and instructor approval; Fees: $120 art fee

AP Studio Art: This course further refines and develops students’ techniques and voice in art. Students will develop their art pieces for their portfolio throughout the year. Art history is taught as an ongoing part of the curriculum. Prerequisites: B or better in Art III and instructor approval; Fees: $120 art fee; AP Exam Fee (subject to change, but $94 for 2017-2018 school year)

Digital Photography: This course focuses on many related aspects to Art I, but in an electronic format. Students will learn Photoshop, as they learn the art of graphic design. Prerequisites: None; Fees: $100 and a Personal subscription to Photoshop or Adobe Creative Suites (ACS is available with a student license for $20/month)

Theatre I: This course introduces students to the art of theatre and performance. Students will learn the history of theatre and the impact theatre has on culture, both as a shaper of culture and a reflection of culture. Students will perform several short skits in a variety of genres. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None (participation in the major school productions will involve a theatre performance fee)
Theatre II: This advanced course builds on the foundations of Theatre I and introduces students to the art of theatrical production. Students learn how to direct others and guide the development of short productions, one-acts, and ultimately a full-length theatre production. *Prerequisites: C or better in Theatre I and instructor approval; Fees: None (participation in the major school productions will involve a theatre performance fee)*

Concert Band: This group is for beginning and advanced players on all instruments. Students develop their mastery of their instrument, competency in reading music, and understanding of dynamics and musical styles. Students perform as a pep band for home football games, and as a concert band for the remainder of the school year. *Prerequisites: approval of instructor; Fees: $100 band fee*

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**
The Physical Education curriculum is designed to help our students learn self-discipline and be in the best physical condition to serve God wherever life takes them.

**Graduation Requirements:** 2 years of Physical Education

**Physical Education:** This freshman-level course introduces students to a variety of athletic activities, including team sports, personal fitness, and nutrition. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: None other than student must purchase PE clothes.*

**Athletic PE:** This course, required for students on the varsity football team, varsity girls basketball team, and varsity boys basketball team, meets year-round and allows for sport-specific conditioning and practice. Note: Students in this class who need to take 7 additional courses may do so without incurring an additional tuition charge. *Prerequisites: Selection to the varsity football or basketball teams; Fees: None*

**Sports:** Participation on any Modesto Christian Sports team for a complete season earns 5 units (half-year) of PE credit. *Prerequisites: Selection to a team; Fees: Sports fee (varies)*

**OTHER ELECTIVES**
**Yearbook:** Students learn the skills needed to develop the school yearbook. Lessons include photography, Photoshop, design layout, writing, and time management. Students are expected to attend a variety of events and take photographs for the yearbook. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: None*

**Speech and Debate:** Speech and Debate is an introductory course that covers a variety of styles of public speaking and formal debate. Students learn the skills needed to familiarize themselves with various styles of public speaking and competitive debate, including argument development, active questioning, research skills, and teamwork. Students are expected to participate in local speech and debate competition. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: Entry fees (varies, but estimated at $100 for the year).*

**Robotics:** Students learn to design and program a robot for competition. Skills include teamwork, strategy, coding, and design. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: $100*

**Modern Shop:** This course introduces students to structural, mechanical and electrical design. Students will learn to use various tools for construction, as well as computer aided design and 3-D printing. Projects throughout the year include set and lighting design for theatre productions and various maker-space projects. *Prerequisites: None; Fees: $150*
Teacher's Aide: Students may assist a teacher during one period of their schedule. Aide positions typically provide half-credit (5 units for the year instead of 10), and they typically only have a pass/fail grade. Certain aide positions may be considered for a letter grade and full credit, if the aide opportunity involves significant and intentional learning of skills. Grade-bearing aide positions must be approved by the principal. Aides are typically reserved for juniors and seniors. Exceptions must be approved. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None

Study Hall: Students may select a period to focus on completing homework and having additional study time. Students may not take more than one study hall in a year. Study halls are typically conducted in an existing class - you will be assigned to a room with another class occurring, and you will typically sit in the back to do your own studying. No credit towards graduation is earned by a study hall, and the course is assigned a pass/fail grade. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None

Unscheduled: Limited to seniors only. Seniors who have enough credits may take an unscheduled period. Students may not remain on campus during an unscheduled period. Prerequisites: None; Fees: None