



# MARYVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2023-24  
Course Handbook

## High School Graduation Requirements

In order to graduate from Maryville Christian High School, students must meet the following required guidelines:

	<u>MCHS Diploma</u>	<u>MCHS Honors Diploma</u>
English	4 credits	4 credits
Math	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits
Social Science*	3 credits	3 credits
Foreign Language	2 credits	3 credits
Bible	4 credits	4 credits
PE**	1.5 credits	1.5 credits
Health	.5 credits	.5 credits
Electives	4 credits	4 credits
Total Credits	25.00	26.00/Minimum GPA of 4.0

\*All students must take one year of U.S. History, one semester of Government/Civics, and one semester of Consumer Education. In addition, students must pass tests on the United States Constitution and the Illinois State Constitution.

\*\*PE is considered a non-academic course, and it is not calculated in a student's GPA.

NOTE: Students in the 9th and 10th grades take a predetermined course schedule. Students in the 11th and 12th grade will have the opportunity to enroll in elective courses, but they must enroll in all courses necessary to meet graduation requirements.

## **Biblical Studies Department**

*Students **must** take the following classes, pending their time of enrollment at MCS: Old Testament Survey, New Testament Survey, and Comparative Religions and Biblical Studies Methods, which are offered on a rotational basis. .*

### **Old Testament Survey**

This course will cover the overarching story of the Old Testament. Key components of the class include an understanding of the timeline of Old Testament history, the recognition of geographic locations of Old Testament events, memorization of scripture, and the completion of a devotional journal. (Quarterly Focus: The Pentateuch; Historical Books; Wisdom and Poetic Literature; The Prophets).

### **New Testament Survey**

This course will cover the overarching story of the New Testament. Key components of the class include an understanding of the timeline of New Testament history, the recognition of geographic locations of New Testament events, memorization of scripture, and the completion of a devotional journal. (First Semester Focus: Jesus and the Gospels. Second Semester Focus: Acts and the Early Church, Several Epistles, and Revelation).

### **Comparative Religions**

This course is a guide to understanding the ideas and the forces that are shaping our times. The curriculum offers a fascinating, comprehensive look at how the tenets of the Christian worldview compare with the five major competing worldviews of our day: Islam, Secular Humanism, Marxism, New Age, and Postmodernism. This is a dual-credit course through Bryan College. Upon successful completion students earn 3 credit hours of Philosophy.

## **English Department**

*Students **must** take the following classes: Expository Writing, World Literature, American Literature, and either British Literature or AP Language & Composition.*

### **English I: Expository Writing**

This course is arranged to introduce and equip students for the writing they will do during their time in high school. The class instructs students in an array of essay models, including narrative, expository, argumentative, persuasive, descriptive, literary analysis, and letters and reviews. Students will probe the diverse forms of essays, learn what those forms involve, and receive guidance as to how to write clearly and coherently so as to best communicate their ideas for the glory of God. Some focus will be placed on vocabulary quizzes and grammar exercises.

### **English II: World Literature**

This course explores major literary topics and themes of world literature through a Christian lens, with special focus on what it truly means to live heroically. By the application of effective reading strategies in the genres of novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and nonfiction, students will learn how to synthesize ideas and present them in a manner that demonstrates an understanding of themes as well as rhetoric. Students are expected to participate with in-class discussions, as well as through formal and informal presentations. Students will continue to expand their vocabulary and become more grammatically proficient.

### **English III: American Literature**

This course focuses on American Literature and ideas pertinent to the American Dream. Students will read from plays, poetry, short stories, memoirs, and novels as part of an exploration of ideas and themes that have shaped the American landscape. Throughout the year, intensive writing assessments will coincide with in-depth readings as students examine the values expressed by various authors and reflect on how those values impact them as individuals. The exploration within this course involves students reimagining the American Dream through a Christological perspective while researching the direction they might take beyond their high school years. The course will continue to place an emphasis on expanding students' vocabulary and grammatical proficiency.

### **English IV: British Literature**

This course examines a broad range of British literature, including dramas, novels, poetry, short stories, and other contemporary non-fiction texts. Thematically, the class seeks to explore characteristics that best define a Christian. Students will continue developing their close reading skills to provide a smooth transition to college-level literature. Written assignments will focus primarily on narratives,

research papers, and argumentative essays. Students will hone their research skills by synthesizing information and demonstrating a working knowledge of proper formatting, documentation, and citations.

### **AP Language and Composition**

This is an Advanced Placement course in the study of composition primarily through the analysis of nonfiction writings. The course is issue-oriented, focusing on rhetorical modes, principles of leadership, individual pursuits in the search for success, current cultural topics, and the development of a biblical worldview. Students should independently engage in close readings of texts, demonstrating a comprehension of the readings through multiple choice assessment measures and through the writing of three types of essays: synthesis, rhetorical analysis, and argumentative. Also, the course considers elements of rhetoric from other media, including visual and digital sources. An intensive course, the goal is for students to succeed on the AP Language exam and to mature as Christian thinkers ready to speak into issues of an ever-changing society. .

### **\*Journalism I**

This is a semester-long *elective* course that introduces students to basic journalistic techniques, including conducting interviews, researching and writing stories, and creating a basic layout. Different genres of journalism will be explored, ranging from general news to sports to opinion writing. Students will also learn about different mediums of journalism, including print, broadcast, and online styles. A prominent goal is for students to gain an introductory understanding of how journalism seeks to pursue and report on what is true and noble within God's economy.

### **\*Journalism II**

This semester-long *elective* course requires students to apply the journalistic techniques studied and developed during Journalism 1 to produce a weekly, printed newspaper for the student body. This course expands on the implementation of various preliminary skills through the production of various genres of journalism, which includes final editing from a Christ-honoring perspective. Journalism I serves as a prerequisite to this class.

### **\*Public Speaking**

This semester-long *elective* speaking course stresses the importance of oral communication skills. It seeks to aid students who are apprehensive about public speaking situations as well as to further advance the skills of those who excel in this arena. Students will learn how to write and deliver effective informative, persuasive, and motivational speeches, which will include the processes involved in leading effective Bible studies.

## **Foreign Language Department**

Students must take Spanish I and Spanish II.

### **Spanish I**

This is an introductory course designed to expose students to the language and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Students will develop basic proficiency through listening, speaking, reading, and writing. They will have hands-on experiences to include a variety of traditions that Spanish-speaking people groups practice. The students will interact with their peers and the instructor in Spanish to develop their skills in this foreign language, recognizing how the ability to engage with others cross-culturally is a necessary skill for the gospel's advancement.

### **Spanish II**

This course is designed to further develop grammar and vocabulary in order to improve listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills. Students will work to comprehend the language at a conversational speed, write using everyday expressions about ordinary activities, and read from a variety of sources. Special emphasis will be placed on interpersonal communication and the ways in which language and culture interact so that students can effectively and sensitively engage with those from diverse backgrounds in biblically sound ways.

### **Honors Spanish III**

This course is designed for students to continue developing their language proficiency through the use of comprehensible input, cultural studies, and project-based learning. The students will grow toward Intermediate-High proficiency level, using present, past, future, and subjunctive tenses in their communication. In this class, the students will develop greater accuracy in their language usage and will acquire language through increased peer interaction, autonomous reading choices, and investigative projects. They will receive consistent comprehensible input consistent to and with a Christian worldview. This class has increased rigor based on the completion of at least 2 years of previous instruction in Spanish and is intended to develop students' abilities for use in real-world situations as well as the collegiate level.

### **Honors Spanish IV**

This course refines the skills of students in reading, writing, listening, and speaking Spanish through the use of authentic written materials and cultural experiences. The class builds upon the previous three years of intensive Spanish acquisition, and from a distinct Christian perspective. Activities and assessments will include academic papers, literary analysis, a creative presentation, and weekly conversation hours. An advanced course, it intends to prepare students for college Spanish programs.

## **Math Department**

*Students **must** take the following classes: Algebra I, Geometry, and at least one more full-year credit.*

### **Algebra I**

This course is designed to develop the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. It requires students to apply concepts and skills in a wide range of problem-solving situations; by which, such critical thinking skills can carry forward in their day-to-day Christian interactions. Topics covered in the class include relations and functions, linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, statistics, and an in-depth focus on quadratics.

### **Geometry**

This course provides a comprehensive look at the study of geometric concepts and how they help us to see the grand design of God through shapes and patterns. Topics covered include the study of the properties of two and three dimensional figures; deductive methods of reasoning and use of logic; building a framework of postulates and theorems for problem solving and formal proofs; concepts of congruence, similarity, parallelism, perpendicularity, and proportion; and the rules of angle measurement in triangles.

### **Algebra II**

This course builds on specific topics from Geometry and extends the content of Algebra I, demonstrating further how life did not happen by accident and that humanity was created with logical minds. Advanced topics include conic sections, algebraic fractions, matrices, logarithmic and exponential functions, sequences and series, and counting principles and probability. The key concepts and theories introduced in this course increase students' mathematical literacy, problem solving, and critical thinking skills.

### **Honors Trigonometry (1 semester)**

Trigonometry is the branch of mathematics that deals with the relations between the sides and angles of plane or spherical triangles and the calculations based on them. Topics include graphing, analyzing and applying the six trigonometric functions, pythagorean relationships, right triangle trigonometry, and trigonometric formulas and identities. As this discipline is used to set directions such as north, south, east, and west, it also serves as a reminder to how God has set all things into motion and determines how His creation functions. All of mathematics is a way of recording and expressing the laws and relationships that God has made, revealing His faithful and powerful design all around us.

### **Honors Pre-Calculus (1 semester)**

Pre-Calculus prepares students for the rigors of calculus through the study of properties and graphs of trigonometric, polynomial, rational, inverse, exponential, and logarithmic functions. Other focus areas include complex numbers, conic sections, matrices, sequences, series, and limits. Pre-calculus, as well as AP Calculus, shows that the Lord is a God of system, order, and accuracy, who can be depended upon. In teaching the discipline of Calculus, students should realize how our logical thoughts are patterned after God.

### **AP Calculus**

This advanced math course is designed for students intending to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM). Although the material is covered at a slower pace, the expectations and rigor are the same as a college course. Topics covered are limits, derivatives (and their applications), integrals (and their applications), inverse and exponential functions. AP Calculus shows that the Lord is a God of system, order, and accuracy, who can be depended upon. In teaching the discipline of Calculus, students should realize how our logical thoughts are patterned after God.

### **Mathematics for Business and Personal Finance**

This course is designed to teach students the principles of mathematical functions related to the use of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percentages in the context of business and personal finances. Students will develop skills necessary to solve mathematical problems, analyze and interpret data, and apply Christ-honoring decision-making skills in the field of business. Basic concepts and processes of mathematics applied to ethical business situations include: income, purchases, taxation, insurance, investments, purchasing and inventory, and loans and accounting.

# **Physical Education Department**

## **Health**

This course is designed to educate students in their spiritual, mental, physical, and social health. Topics covered include the life cycle of growth, development, heredity, environmental health issues, diseases, substance abuse, safety, fitness, nutrition, and sexual abstinence. This class is taught from a Christian perspective to inspire students to live a lifestyle pleasing to God.

## **Physical Education (9th and 10th Grade)**

This course is designed with the understanding that, "God created us to move." It focuses specifically on increasing student awareness of how God created our bodies to exercise in many different ways. Each class period involves an introductory activity, fitness development, a lesson focus, and a closing activity. All students are expected to dress for class unless excused by a doctor. Grades are based on attendance, participation, skill, and written tests.

## **Team Sports Physical Education (11th and 12th Grade)**

These PE courses stress more advanced skill levels and higher game strategies for athletic activities. Some new games will be introduced as well as advanced physical fitness techniques. The expectation is for students to continue growing in a spirit of Christian sportsmanship with a heightened awareness of God's call upon their lives to lead by example. All students are expected to dress for class unless excused by a doctor. Grades are based on attendance, participation, skill, and written tests.

*NOTE: This PE course offering can be replaced during a semester in which a student has a proven track record of competing in a school-sponsored team sport, or if a student enrolls in a minimum of 6 academic courses that better align with the entry requirements for the college or university of his/her choice.*

## **Science Department**

*Students must take the following classes: Biology I and at least two more full-year credits.*

### **Biology I**

This general biology course introduces students to biological concepts spanning from the intricacies of macromolecules and cell functions to a broader scope of the relationships organisms have with the environment. Students are challenged to see the order and design of God's creation as it pertains to the functions of life. Inquiry-based laboratory experiences are an extension of classroom instruction and require students to implement problem solving strategies and critical thinking skills through the application of the scientific method.

### **Chemistry I**

This general chemistry course focuses on the composition and properties of matter. Topics include atomic structure, molecules, matter and energy relationships, and chemical reactions. Laboratory experiences serve as an extension of classroom instruction, as students work to develop observational skills, experimental methodology, and deductive reasoning. Above all, this class seeks to explore the interaction of Christianity and chemical science, as we seek to understand how the created world works and how that knowledge can best be used to benefit humanity.

### **Environmental Science**

This course investigates the physical, chemical, and biological conditions of the environment and their effect on organisms. It focuses on the interactions between earth's natural systems and the demands placed on them by the human population. Students will discuss the responsibilities we have to care for creation as God's stewards of our world. Further, this class explores the impact our utilization of these systems has, as well as potential solutions for the resulting consequences of resource mismanagement and exploitation. Concepts are explored through inquiry-based laboratory exercises, environmental health assessment techniques, student presentations, and projects.

### **Honors Biology II**

This course takes a deeper look at the complexity of living organisms and the intricacies of God's creation. The first semester is a laboratory course, emphasizing the fundamentals of organization, metabolism, photosynthesis, cell cycle and cancer,

genetics, gene expression, viruses, bacteria, and microevolution. The second semester focuses on the principles of human anatomy and physiology, including basic chemistry, microscopic investigation of cell and tissue samples, physiologic exercises, and an overview of the following body systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, nervous systems and senses, endocrine, blood, heart, and the circulatory system, lymphatic and immune, respiratory, digestive, urinary, and reproductive systems. Biology I (B or better) and Chemistry I (C or better) serve as a prerequisite.

## **Honors Chemistry II**

This course extends and deepens the topics covered in Chemistry 1, which serves as a prerequisite. The goal of the class is to familiarize students with the topics normally encountered in a first year college chemistry course, while acknowledging human limitations in the scientific endeavor and the student's need for divine help. We remind our students of the great many Christian scientists who depended upon God in their laboratory research and findings, all while properly acknowledging a God of order. A focus will thus be placed on independent laboratory skill development from a Christian point of view. Students will learn about stoichiometry, gas laws, acids and bases, thermochemistry, reaction kinetics, chemical reactions, atomic structure, and molecules. Applications of chemistry to other areas of science are also emphasized. Chemistry I (B or better) serves as a prerequisite.

## **Social Science Department**

Students must take the following classes: *Government and Civics, World History, U.S. History, and Consumer Education.*

### **World History**

This course provides an overview of the history of human society from early civilization to the time of the Christian Reformation. Students will develop historical thinking skills so as to interpret, analyze, evaluate, and contextualize how human interactions have shaped the development of religions, cultures, governments, economic systems, philosophy, the arts, and science and technology throughout history and in varying geographical locations. The class emphasizes how history has been influenced by obedience and disobedience to God's Word, how God sovereignly and providentially moved to influence all events, and what we should learn about the Lord's nature when we study the historical happenings in our world.

### **U.S. History**

This course provides students with a better understanding of the events that have shaped American society. Further, it requires students to analyze how international circumstances have historically affected the philosophy, politics, diplomacy, government, and religion within our nation. Students must also examine the transition of our nation throughout its history and then consider what role they will play as Christians in the nation's progression.

### **Consumer Education**

This is a semester-long course designed to teach high school students the fundamentals of personal finance. Topics covered include budgeting, saving, investing, insurance and taxes, and career and college planning. The course is taught from a biblical perspective with special emphasis placed on generosity and a God-first perspective of money.

### **\*Modern World History**

This full-year *elective* course provides an overview of the history of human society from the Renaissance to today. The class seeks to further develop historical thinking skills with an emphasis on the analysis of modern day events, and how they can be placed in the proper historical context. Students are challenged to identify where God was at work within each historical period.

## **Additional Offerings**

### **\*Computer Programming**

This year-long elective course introduces students to the process of coding, and it exposes them to demonstrations/exercises in C, Python, Java, Visual Basic, and PHP+JavaScript+HTML. The skills acquired in this course will provide a foundation in programming and thereby enable students to recognize how various programming languages are used to accomplish numerous and diverse functions. By teaching the intricacies of development and design associated with computer programming, the class reveals how students are able to mimic the beauty and elegance of God's grand design.

### **\*Creating Entrepreneurial Opportunities (CEO)**

This year-long *elective* course introduces students to entrepreneurship through a curriculum that includes visits to many area businesses. Students will develop skills for problem solving, critical thinking, communication, collaboration, flexibility, adaptability, creativity, and innovation as they engage with local business partners. They will write two or three business plans to present to local business investors with the goal of starting an ethical, God-honoring business and showcasing it to the community. Meeting for 90 minutes and beginning before the standard school day (7:00-8:30 a.m.), students must provide their own transportation to various business locations throughout the year to help them gain a greater appreciation for their area's professional work environments. This course is only open to senior students who apply for the program and gain acceptance.

### **\*Foods and Nutrition**

This is a semester-long elective course teaching students, who have little or no prior food preparation, the value of meeting nutritional needs through the process of properly preparing meals. Students will thus consider how foods play a role in honoring our bodies as the Lord's temple while they receive hands-on food preparation practice. Finally, the class introduces students to information about possible careers in the food industry.

### **\*Photography**

This semester-long elective course is designed to teach students the fundamentals of photography and how to operate a dslr camera in manual mode. Students will also learn the mechanics of the exposure triangle, compositional rules, and working with indoor and outdoor lighting. Hands-on learning will play a big role in this course, as students discover different genres of photography and study the work of various modern and historic photographers, while exploring and developing their own creative process behind the lens. Through various projects, students will become familiar with basic editing techniques and will be able to apply both photography

and graphic design skills to a variety of portfolio building opportunities. Most importantly, photography is a means to glorify God through what He has made, shedding light on His creation's beauty and order.

### **\*Visual Arts 1**

This semester-long *elective* course is designed to equip students to use the elements and principles of art and design as a means to strengthen their own artwork and further appreciate the work of others. Historical context, technical production, aesthetics, and art criticism will be of focus. A variety of skills and techniques will be utilized through drawing, painting, sculpting, printmaking, papermaking, ceramics, and crocheting with yarn. Students will be encouraged to draw correlations between the different production methods of creating art and their walk with Christ. Throughout the semester, many projects will highlight the roles that visual arts play in a variety of careers and professions.

### **\*Visual Arts 2**

This semester-long *elective* course provides a platform for students to utilize the elements and principles of art and design, while expressing ideas both visually and verbally. Historical context, technical production, aesthetics, and art criticism will be of focus. A variety of skills and techniques will be utilized through drawing, painting, sculpting, printmaking, calligraphy, bookbinding, ceramics, and knitting with yarn. Students will explore the possibilities that exist for sharing their faith through their creations, using art as a vehicle for communicating principles associated with the beauty and splendor of Christ.