



— VALOR —
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL INTERNATIONAL

2017-2018

High School Course Catalog

[Type the author name]

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English

VCSI English classes are built around primary source material. Our emphasis will be on reading and comprehension skills which will support a student's ability to articulate and write concepts not only in English class, but across their instruction. We will review notable Christian philosophers and authors. In addition, there will be works that challenge us to think and reflect on our assumptions and given understandings. Students will strengthen fundamental basic skill sets in the middle school, and expand with a global perspective, 21st century skill set in the high school. The English learner will then be prepared for college requirements during their AP Literature class and AP Language class for 11th and 12th graders.

Pre-AP English

This class acts as the bridge between a middle school English curriculum to preparation for AP English classes. Students will be spending time working on their literature analysis, grammar, vocabulary, and writing skills. This class will use stories to support student literature analysis and writing. Students will spend time building and developing writing skills through writing workshops and skill building.

Advanced English Literature and Composition (Every other year)

Students will be prepared to take the AP English Literature and Composition Exam. This class will focus on using primary literature from the last 500 years to support learning from different cultures, genres, and periods. Students will read primary literature and collaborate through discussions and writing prompts. Big ideas and themes include poetry, drama, fiction, culture and essays. Students will explore these topics in great detail while engaging in analysis of amazing authors like Shakespeare, Hemingway, and Orwell.

Advanced English Language and Composition (Offered in 2017-2018)

Students will be prepared to take the AP English Language and Composition Exam. The class will examine non-fiction prose, and analyze writing structure, and relationships. This class will support students learning and understanding in studying and writing analytic and persuasive essays on non-literary topics.

Foreign Language

Spanish 1

Students are provided an opportunity to immerse in both the Spanish language as well as cultural heritage of the Hispanic community. Students will demonstrate understanding of basic and useful Spanish vocabulary, present tense verb conjugation, as well as, cultural and historical background that makes the language so dynamic. The class will culminate with numerous opportunities to engage in communication in bilingual and Spanish only conversations, as well as, student demonstration of written vocabulary. At the conclusion of your course you will be well on your way to becoming a true hispanohablante!

Spanish 2

In Spanish 2 we get to build on the foundation learning acquired through Spanish 1. Over the course of the year we will work to expand our vocabularies, learn how to speak in the past tense, and become more adept with the fluent expression of our own ideas. Along the way we will make the world our classroom, and engage with high school students in the Spanish city of Salamanca as pen pals, practicing our written Spanish, and learning about similarities and differences between each of our cultures.

Mathematics

Saxon Math is used in middle school instruction up through 8th grade Pre-Algebra. This builds on the work that will be done through Saxon in the elementary. Saxon has an emphasis on building skills and math vocabulary which we find is excellent preparation for the high school math classes. In the Algebra through Calculus sequence we will be using a combination of Prentice Hall and Engage New York. The material is fundamental and well recognized for its emphasis on next steps. The math sequence will culminate for a student in an AP Calculus class.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is the first step in the college prep math sequence. Students will be introduced to real world opportunities to engage their new found math skills. In Pre-Algebra, students work on algebraic equations and relationships, building problem solving skills, and numbers and operations. This class will focus on skill building and working through problems with support. The math skills in this class will continue on with the students as they prepare for more advanced math later on.

Algebra

The Algebra class will build students skills in logic, reasoning, problem solving, and algebraic relationships. Students will be introduced to real world opportunities to engage their new found math skills. Algebra will expand on student's knowledge and build skills in exponents, solving equations, linear equations and graphs. Algebra will also support growth in factorings, solving inequalities, and systems of equations. These skills will be valuable for future math classes and build a foundation for their science classes.

Geometry

In Geometry we get to think outside the box, exploring problem that deal with shapes, lines, and relative positions in space. A field of mathematics practiced by the Ancient Greeks, geometry challenges us to think in innovative and creative ways. During this course we will be covering the topics of surface area, volume, angles, ratios, and trigonometry. Students will be introduced to real world opportunities to engage their new found math skills.

Algebra 2

Algebra 2 is an exercise in careful systematic thinking to solve complex problems. Advanced Algebra will aid in the development of mental discipline which will serve students well in their adult lives. This course will hone problem solving skills and develop computational competency. Algebra 2 will cover advanced math topics including exponential, logarithmic functions, as well as, introduce the important concept of trigonometry. Trigonometry is used in a variety of fields from science and engineering to art and videogame design.

Pre-Calculus

Pre-Calculus is the gateway course to advanced mathematics which are important for careers in science, engineering, medicine and computer science. The major goal of this course is to ensure that students have a rock solid understanding of algebra topics which will form the foundation for studying advanced mathematics. Pre-Calculus will also provide an introduction to the idea of the limit and the derivative which form the foundation for the study of Calculus.

Advanced Calculus (Offered through PCC 2017-2018)

Students will develop their concepts of the derivative and the integral form are the central concepts of Calculus. These concepts have important application in Science, Engineering, Economics and a variety of other fields. Calculus offers students an introduction to these concepts and prepares them for further study in advanced mathematics required in a variety of fields.

Science

Our science classes will build upon students scientific understanding of the world while integrating a Christian perspective. VCSI will use curriculum from Holt-McDougal. There will be an emphasis placed on hands-on learning with an integration of global perspective. Students will participate on field trips which will connect their learning to real world concepts. Qualified students in the Biology will have an opportunity to receive college credit from Portland Community College. VCSI also offers an Engineer Your World Science class and college credit is available through University of Texas. This class equips students to utilize thinking skills required of engineers to solve real world problems. The projects will directly support our global education emphasis while earning students college credit.

Physical Science

This class covers an introduction to both chemistry and physics. Students will discover the world of atoms, molecules, and basic thermodynamics in hands on science labs. Topics will include forces and motion, magnetism, electricity, and heat. The culminating project will begin with the creation of student companies where they will design and construct cardboard boats. Students will participate in a cardboard boat race at Hagg Lake. The final class field trip is to Oaks Park where students will engage in theme park physics.

Biology (Bio 101-College Credit)

Biology covers topics related to the study of life. We will start with the study of molecular and cell biology before moving on to the topics of environmental science, animal behavior, and taxonomy. The class will incorporate these concepts through an integrated scientific biblical lens which will develop an understanding of God's creation. This class will culminate in a field trip to the Oregon Zoo to study animal behavior. Students will have the option to take the class for college credit through Portland Community College.

Environmental Chemistry (ESR 172-College Credit)

Chemistry is the study of matter and its properties, structure, and most importantly what happens when it changes. This class will reveal the beautiful complexity of the world God has created for us. The class will cover atomic structure, matter interactions, acids-bases, and more. Students will complete hands-on chemistry labs where they learn lab techniques. **Requirements: Students must have taken Biology to take this class.**

Environmental Biology (ESR 171-College Credit) Upper Classman Only

Environmental Science will look at the biogeochemical cycles in the world around us. Students will develop an understanding of environmental topics that are primarily biological in nature. Includes human population issues, matter and energy resources, ecosystems, environmental ethics, and food and land resources. **Requirements: Students must have taken Biology to take this class.**

Human Anatomy and Physiology (Bio 121-College Credit) Upper Classman Only

Surveys anatomical terminology, basic chemistry, cell structure and function, tissues, and the following systems: integumentary, skeletal, muscular, and nervous. Involves lecture discussions complemented by

physiological laboratory exercises, dissections, microscopy, and multimedia. **Requirements: Students must have taken Biology to take this class.**

Engineer your World (University of Texas-Austin College Credit, offered every other year)

Engineer your world is a course developed by the University of Texas at Austin, in partnership with the National science foundation. Engineer Your World focuses on teaching students to use engineering strategies to think through the design process and solve complex problems. In addition our students will be exposed to a wide range of engineering fields and professions. **Requirements: Students must have taken Biology to take this class.**

Through this course students will discover how:

- Engineers design products with users in mind;
- Engineered solutions evolve over time;
- Engineers use data to improve lives;
- Engineers design the products of our everyday lives;
- Engineers use computation and programming skills to solve fun and important challenges;
- Engineers work in teams to solve complex, system-level design challenges.

Social Studies

History should be a foundational topic for any school and for most a western perspective is offered. At Valor, we will seek to look through history with an unfiltered global perspective. Students will be introduced to Ancient Civilizations, Western Civilizations and United States history in the middle school. In the high school, we will build on these foundations with Geography through our global educational missions, Western Civilizations, and United States Government. The history strand will culminate in Advanced US History and Advanced Government.

Geography

Geography will act as a foundation class for understanding world dynamics and interactions. Students will analyze global relationships and the impact of globalization. Students will evaluate political and cultural geography as a foundation for our educational missions trips. Students will learn how to read and effectively use maps and GPS. Students will explore and study global issues and apply Design Thinking strategies to create innovative solutions for the world around them.

High School Western Civilization

Students will examine western civilization from prehistory to the early modern era. Greece, Students will analyze cause and effect relationships of Rome, and the Christian institutions of the middle ages which led to the development of national monarchies in western Europe. Upon completion, students will have evaluated significant political, socioeconomic, and cultural developments in early western civilization.

Advanced United States History Offered 2017-2018

Advanced United States History will prepare students to take the AP exam at the conclusion of the year. Students will create an appraisal American history and how historic events helped to create the nation we are today. Students will develop their critical reading and writing skills. Primary literature will be used to strengthen critical comprehension and analysis skills. Students will explore topics from the 1600's through modern day.

Advanced Government (Offered every other year)

Advanced Government will prepare students to take the AP Government exam at the conclusion of the year. Students will identify and evaluate key events in the creation of the US government with an in depth analysis on the nature and experience of the American government in relationship to global economics. Students will explore the foundation, establishment, and the function of the US government. Students will critique global interactions and influences. This college preparation class will use primary literature to support student learning and critical understanding.

Bible

Our Bible classes will be the foundation of our learning. These classes will incorporate servant leadership, being a person on mission, and discovering purpose in Christ. Our missions curriculum equips students with the essential skill set of global leadership. In middle school, VCSI emphasizes deeper knowledge and understanding biblical content and context, biblical history, surrounding the time of Christ. In high school we will unpack and discover topics together like *The Life of Christ*, *Scripture and Canon*, *The Book of Hebrews*, and more. All of our Bible classes will incorporate our global missions' emphasis.

High School Bible Topics

In high school students will be offered four different topical Bible classes. Each one trimester class will dive deep into unique biblical topics that will help develop students' biblical understanding, knowledge and application of the Bible. The classes will include an academic biblical text on the selected topic and supported by historical and modern literature. All classes will include a focus on our global missions.

High School Electives

High School Physical Education

Physical Education at the High School level is required for one year, and is an elective for additional years. We will incorporate various professionals into our physical education class. Some opportunities students will participate in will be Cross Fit, Tae Kwon Do, etc. We will build on team and individual sports. In addition, students will engage in Circle of Champions, and weight lifting. At the end of each unit students will be given written assessments or oral assessments to demonstrate proficiency.

Advanced PE

Advanced physical education class will be for upper class students only. Students will use weight room facilities to learn about proper techniques and form. Student will work a variety of body areas through different individual programs. **Requirements: Must be 16 years old.**

Health

One year of Health is required at the High School level. Students will gain understanding about the different systems in the body, personal hygiene, nutrition, fitness, drugs and alcohol. All topics will be presented from a Biblical worldview and parents will be notified in advance when sensitive units are being taught with an outline or overview of how it is being presented. The Health class will prepare students to better understand nutrition and how food choices affect their development and growth. Students will investigate disease pathways, environmental hazards, and some first aid.

Yearbook

Our yearbook team will be a fun focused group of students which will be responsible for taking the photos and organizing our school's yearbook. Students will develop their graphic design skills and photography abilities. This class will be responsible for putting together the memories for the whole school. Students will develop leadership and art skills.

High School Mock Trials

Students will be introduced to the National Mock Trials Competition as part of the Classroom Law Project. Students will explore the appellate court system. Students will then prepare for court procedure by researching facts and legal arguments. Students will assume the roles of attorneys and witnesses in a fictional criminal or civil trial and will go through a complete procedure in a real courtroom with a real judge. Students will develop public speaking skills and efficient critical thinking skills to create compelling dialogues. **Requirements: Instructor Approval**

High School Science Team

Our competitive science team competes in several different competitions including E-Cybermission, MATE-Underwater Robotics, Envirothon, and LEAF. E-cybermission: Students participate in an online science and engineering fair. Students complete the task at school and submit a write-up for the national competition where they can win individual saving bonds. MATE: Students collaborate as teams to create an underwater robot. Each team will participate in the MATE competition to complete assigned robotic tasks. Students will work on programming, marketing, speaking, and graphic design skills. LEAF: Students build a light-weight electric plane to contend for which plane can carry the most

weight with the lightest frame. This fun competition happens in December in Seattle. Students will collaborate as a team while acquiring valuable tool skills and science concepts. Envirothon: The Oregon Envirothon is an exciting, fun way for high school-aged students to learn about the environment through hands-on field experiences that demonstrate knowledge of natural resources.

Student Government

Our student government is formed of students selected by their peers to support student activities and school culture throughout the school year. Students will meet weekly as part of the leadership team to create and support student activities and cultivate student culture which is reflective of the school mission. Elections will be held yearly for these positions. **Requirements: Elections**

High School Internship Program

Our high school internship program will be open to students following the completion of their sophomore year. As students start the process of looking into colleges and plans beyond high school, having an opportunity to learn skills and apply classroom knowledge is a vital foundational piece. An internship is an opportunity to apply what you as a student have learned in the classroom to a professional setting. Most junior students will elect to do an internship over the summer, but there are opportunities for internships during the academic year for those students who can fit it into their schedule. Students can participate in a formal internship program through an organization or create their own internship experience with the help of an advisor. To receive high school credit internship classes must be set-up prior to the start of the internship and will require additional documentation.

Requirements: Instructor Approval

High School Music Performance

Students will engage in intermediate music theory and performance. Students will discover and explore introductory concepts used in music sequencing, notation and recording. No prior musical experience is needed. However, prior training on an instrument or voice is helpful. This is an instructional class in the development of lifelong performance skills. The class provides a unique opportunity to participate with other students in concerts throughout the year. The class provides useful instruction in vocal technique. Class diction, tone quality, and interpretation of the music are stressed. Students will have an opportunity to play a musical instrument or participate in a vocal performance.

High School Worship Band

This morning class will be perform weekly as the worship band for our secondary chapels. Students will develop their performance skills and then use them as worship leaders during chapel. This class will provide a Godly foundation in performance and the worship arts.