



**ROSSVILLE**

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

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LOVING ♦ NURTURING ♦ CHALLENGING

**2018-2019**  
**PROGRAM OF STUDIES**

**High School**  
**GRADES 9-12**

# ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

Strong academics are a major emphasis at RCA. We desire that all of our students reach their full potential. Our Administration, Faculty, and Staff are committed to maintaining academic excellence through quality teaching, as well as setting high standards and holding students accountable.

## **Graduation guidelines for those graduating in 2017-2019:**

A minimum of (22) credits

- (4) credits of English (one per year required)
- (3) credits of math – must include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry
- (3) credits of science – (2) units must be lab based courses, one of which must be Chemistry or Physics
- (3) credits of social studies – must include American History and Government/Economics
- (2) credits of foreign language
- (1) credit in fine arts
- (1) credit in Bible
- (5) credits in electives

\*It is strongly recommended that all seniors are enrolled in a Math or Science course.

## **Graduation guidelines for those graduating in 2020 and after:**

A minimum of (23) credits

- (4) credits of English –one English class per year of high school required
- (4) credits of math – must include Algebra I, Algebra II, and Geometry; one math class per year of high school required
- (3) credits of science – (2) units must be lab-based courses, one of which must be Chemistry or Physics
- (3) credits of social studies – must include American History and Government/Economics
- (2) credits of foreign language
- (1) credit in fine arts
- (2) credits in Bible
- (4) credits in electives

## **Grading Scale**

The following grading system is used for students grades nine through twelve.

Score	Letter Grade	Point Average
93-100	A	4.0
85-92	B	3.0
75-84	C	2.0
70-74	D	1.0
69 and below	F	0.0

\*Honors courses will be weighted at a rate of 1.05. A student must have a base average of 85 during a nine week period in order to receive the weighted grade. Advanced Placement courses will be weighted at a rate of 1.10. A student must have a base average of 80 during a nine week period in order to receive the weighted grade.

## Course Credits

Students earn one-half credit for each semester course passed with a 70 or above. Students earn one credit for each year course passed with a 70 or above. Students must be enrolled in at least four high school classes to remain full-time. Students playing sports must be enrolled in and passing at least five classes per semester.

## Honors & Advanced Placement Level Courses

Consideration for acceptance into Honors and AP courses is determined by the following:

1. Standardized test scores including, but not limited to ACT
2. Grades attained in previous relevant classes
3. Recommendations from prerequisite course instructors
4. Conduct
5. Approval by the Director of Education

## Dual Enrollment

*Students must be a junior or senior and have a 3.0 high school GPA, unless approved by School Counselor and Director of Education. These college level courses must be conducted at times other than the regular school day.*

Dual Enrollment courses provide students the opportunity to accumulate college credit while also earning the high school credit necessary for graduation. Upon passing an approved dual enrollment course, the student will receive credit at RCA. If a student wishes to take a dual enrollment course, it is the responsibility of the parent to contact the RCA School Counselor to determine if the course is accepted for credit at RCA, and then the parent communicates with the college/university regarding the application/enrollment process. Tuition and university fees may be incurred with these courses. \*TSAC Dual Enrollment Grant is available to cover funds for a course, but must be applied for prior to the TSAC semester deadline.

## Schedule Change Procedures

Add/Drop Policy: After the first two weeks of school, students are not allow to add or drop any classes. Students taking an AP class will have an additional week beyond the initial two weeks to drop the class.

## Exam Exemption Policy

Any student who has a final numerical average of 93 or above at the end of the second semester, a conduct grade of "E" or "S" average, and no more than ten absences from the class, may be exempt from the final exam. School related absences only will not count toward the ten. The student has the right to take the exam if he/she so desires. There will be no exemptions at the end of the first semester or for a one semester course.

## Conduct Grades

Teachers evaluate the conduct of students each 9 weeks. These grades are indicated on the report card by use of the following letters:

- |                                |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| ▪ <b>E</b> (Excellent)         | Prepared for class, participates voluntarily, self-controlled |
| ▪ <b>S</b> (Satisfactory)      | Requires very little correction, prepared most of the time    |
| ▪ <b>N</b> (Needs Improvement) | Requires correction and attention to task                     |
| ▪ <b>U</b> (Unsatisfactory)    | Uncooperative, disturbs classroom progress                    |

# PROGRAM OF STUDIES

## **BIBLE DEPARTMENT**

Two Bible credits are required for graduating class of 2020 and after. One Bible credit is required for graduating class of 2019 and before. Students have the option of taking two semesters of Bible for two years or one semester of Bible for four years.

### TWO SUGGESTED BIBLE SEQUENCES:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Biblical Foundations (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Apologetics (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Christian Worldview (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: The Gospel and Contemporary Issues (1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Biblical Foundations (1<sup>st</sup> Semester) & Apologetics (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Christian Worldview (1<sup>st</sup> Semester) & The Gospel and Contemporary Issues (2<sup>nd</sup> Semester)

### **Biblical Foundations** – ½ Credit

This course is a study of fundamental biblical themes such the doctrine of God, the Bible, man, love, sin, salvation, faith, forgiveness, and the deity of Christ.

### **Apologetics** – ½ Credit

This course will introduce students to a biblical worldview. The emphasis of the course will be an apologetic approach on how to defend the faith on issues like origins, authority of scripture, and the nature of God.

### **Christian Worldview** – ½ Credit

The course outlines the differences between Christianity and other prominent worldviews including Islam, Postmodernism, Secularism, and New Age Spirituality. Students will learn how these other beliefs influence our thinking and decision making.

### **The Gospel and Contemporary Issues** – ½ Credit

Students will study current, life issues like poverty, morality, suffering, and relativism from a biblical worldview.

## **ELECTIVES**

### **ACT Prep** – ½ Credit

ACT Prep is an intensive one semester course focused on covering the specific skills needed for success on each of the sub-tests of the ACT: English, Reading, Math, and Science. Students will have direct instruction on content and skills, as well as effective test-taking strategies. Efforts will be made to tailor instruction and practice to address the most crucial areas of improvement for individuals and groups of students. All students taking ACT prep are required to take the ACT at least one time while enrolled in the course in order to receive the credit for the class.

### **Creative Writing** – ½ Credit

Creative Writing will entail one semester of students learning and practicing writing techniques in the literary genres of personal essays, short stories, and poetry. The goal of this course is for students to improve his/her imagination and writing ability, while also overcoming common writing challenges and mistakes.

### **Personal Finance** – ½ Credit

Personal Finance is taught by engaging students in real-life scenarios. The curriculum reinforces 21<sup>st</sup> century learning skills through activities requiring students to analyze, integrate, and apply new information to real-life problems. Material is presented in an interactive format, offering students a hands-on approach to situations they will encounter as they navigate college and adulthood. Our goal is to equip students with the skills and knowledge needed to make sound, Biblically-based financial decisions in life.

### **Wellness** – 1 Credit

Emphasis in this course will be on studying the whole person. This class will help students understand what it means to live well and how humans are to best live in the community. By equipping students with knowledge of physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual development, Wellness will help promote wise lifestyle decisions within the context of the Biblical truth found in 1 Corinthians 6:19: our bodies are indeed temples for the Holy Spirit, and we can honor God not only with how we develop our academic minds, but also by how we choose to live.

**Multi-media/Yearbook – 1 Credit**

The course is designed to provide students with an understanding of the steps for creating a school yearbook. Students will be hands-on participants in the photography, layout design, editing, and fundraising processes necessary to publish a quality yearbook. \*This course can be counted as a Fine Arts credit.

**ENGLISH/LANGUAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

Four credits of English are required for graduation. All high school English classes must be taken in sequential order; no student is allowed to take two English classes in the same year.

**Standard English 9 – 1 Credit**

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically, read actively and analytically, and to communicate effectively in both speech and writing, by utilizing proper grammar and vocabulary. Units taught include grammar, vocabulary, short stories, drama, research, novels, poetry, and classical literary works.

**Honors English 9 – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically, read actively and analytically, and to communicate effectively in both speech and writing, by utilizing proper grammar and vocabulary. Units taught include grammar, vocabulary, short stories, drama, research, novels, poetry, and classical literary works. Emphasis is placed on writing skills in preparation for higher learning.

**Standard English 10 – 1 Credit**

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically, read actively and analytically, and to communicate effectively in both speech and writing, by utilizing proper grammar and vocabulary. Units taught include: grammar, vocabulary, short stories, drama, research, novels, poetry, and classical literary works.

**Honors English 10 – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

This course is designed to develop the student's ability to think critically, read actively and analytically, and to communicate effectively in both speech and writing, by utilizing proper grammar and vocabulary. Units taught include: grammar, vocabulary, short stories, drama, research, novels, poetry, and classical literary works. Emphasis is placed on writing skills in preparation for higher learning.

**Standard English 11 – 1 Credit**

This course is a college-prep class designed for the student who is committed to being prepared for college and a professional career as well as understanding the importance of Christian life and values in the history of literature in America. Interpreting literature of the Americas, building vocabulary, improving writing skills, and improving test taking skills are major components of the course. Critical thinking skills are developed through reading and analysis of American literature, research projects, and presentations using communication technology and media forms.

**Honors English 11 – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

This course is an accelerated college-prep class designed for the student who has a serious interest in being prepared for college and a professional career as well as understanding the importance of Christian life and values in the history of literature in America. Interpreting literature of the Americas, building vocabulary, improving writing skills, and improving test-taking skills are major components of the course. Communication and critical thinking skills are developed through reading and analysis of American literature, research projects, and organizing and sharing ideas in presentations using communication technology and media forms.

**Standard English 12 – 1 Credit**

This course is a college-prep class designed for the student who is committed to succeed in college and/or a career of his/her own choosing. Students will study, interpret, and discuss British/World literature to develop critical thinking, communication skills, vocabulary, research, and test-taking skills. Various multi-media projects will be the products of these endeavors and will develop pride in accomplishment.

### **Honors English 12 – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

This course is an accelerated college-prep class designed for the student who is determined to succeed in college and/or a career of his/her own choosing. Students will study, interpret, discuss, and critique British/World literature to develop critical thinking, communication skills, vocabulary, research and test-taking skills. Various multi-media projects will be the products of these endeavors and will develop pride in accomplishment. Strong emphasis is placed on writing.

## **FINE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

One credit in fine arts is required for graduation.

### **Art I – 1 Credit**

The Art I curriculum is designed to introduce students to various forms of art, as well as different techniques. Examples of course content include Egyptian, Roman, and Renaissance art. Impressionism, surrealism, and abstract art will also be introduced. Students will be exposed to art history and will practice various techniques, in a relaxed setting, to create unique projects,

### **Art II – 1 Credit**

In Art II students will continue to explore various media and artistic styles from both historic and modern times that were introduced in Art I, and will also expand their depth and breadth of art knowledge. Further studies and practices with the principles of design will be a major focus of the class, while students in this advanced setting will have more opportunities for greater incorporation of self-expression and development of individual style.

### **Choir – 1 Credit**

Students will learn to use their vocal instrument to create a correct and pleasing singing sound. In addition to learning proper vocal production and technique, students will also learn music reading skills, sight-singing skills, and performance skills. Choir also offers opportunities for students to develop team building and leadership skills. This is a performance-based class. Participation in concert performances outside of regular class hours is required.

**Multi-media/Yearbook – 1 Credit** –see Electives p. 5

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT**

Two consecutive years in the same language in grades 9-12 are required for graduation.

### **Spanish I – 1 Credit**

The student will be introduced to the importance of learning a foreign language. The course is designed to teach beginning grammar and basic vocabulary, with an emphasis on meaningful communication. There is also a cultural component which introduces the student to geography and cultures of the Spanish-speaking world.

### **Spanish II – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I*

The student will continue to develop their ability to translate, comprehend, and understand more fully the grammatical components of the Spanish language. Through the use of these skills, the student will be introduced to more cultural aspects of the Hispanic world. For the most advanced students the text is written entirely in Spanish with emphasis on attempting to broaden the student's knowledge of the twenty one countries that comprise the Spanish speaking world.

### **Honors Spanish III – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I & II. Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

This course surpasses the basic levels of translating, comprehending, writing, and listening in Spanish. The text, *En Espanol*, is written almost entirely in Spanish except for grammar explanations. There is an emphasis on attempting to broaden the student's knowledge of the twenty-one countries that comprise the Spanish speaking world.

### **Honors Spanish IV – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Spanish I, II, & III. Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3.*

"*Avancemos*" Level 4 is designed to review critical Spanish language structures and vocabulary to support the student to pursue proficiency in the four language skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Cultural components are provided to show comparisons of culture from country to country.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

Four math credits are required for graduating class of 2020 and after. Also, one math class must be taken each year of high school. Three math credits are required for graduating class 2019 and before. Must include Algebra 1, 2, and Geometry.

### SUGGESTED MATHEMATICS SEQUENCE:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Algebra 1 or Algebra 2
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Algebra 2 or Geometry
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Geometry or Pre-Calculus
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Pre-Calculus, Senior Math, or AP Calculus

### **Algebra I – 1 Credit**

This course will serve as the foundation for Algebra II and Geometry. Emphasis will be on exponents, inverse operations, formulas, and algebraic expressions. Included in the course content is graphing, the quadratic formula, and factoring.

### **Algebra II – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

In addition to reviewing concepts learned in Algebra I, students will be taught how to solve absolute value equations, inequalities, and system of equations. The curriculum will include graphing linear equations, inequalities, and conic sections, as well as introduce matrices and logarithms.

### **Geometry – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1*

The curriculum is designed to master the use of formulas to determine area, volume, and surface area. Skills learned in Algebra will be used to evaluate and understand geometrical theorems and postulates. Students will learn to construct geometrical figures and analyze how geometry shapes our world. An introduction to trigonometry and pre-calculus is also included.

### **Pre-Calculus – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1, 2 & Geometry*

The curriculum is designed to focus on relations, functions, and graphs. This includes polynomial and rational functions. There is also a study of trigonometry as it relates to graphing, identities, equations, vectors, and parametric equations. The curriculum will also work with advanced functions and graphing including exponential and logarithmic functions, ultimately preparing students for both AP Calculus and college-level math courses.

### **AP Calculus AB – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1, 2, Geometry, & Pre-Calculus. Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3. Students are required to pay fee & take College Board Advanced Placement Examination.*

This course is primarily concerned with developing the students understanding of the concepts of calculus and providing experience with its methods and applications. The courses emphasize a multi-representational approach to calculus, with concepts, results, and problems being expressed graphically, numerically, analytically, and verbally. The connections among these representations also are important. AP Calculus AB consists of a full high school academic year of work that is comparable to one semester calculus courses in colleges and universities. It is expected that students who take AP Calculus complete the AP Calculus exam at the end of the course. The course includes the study and application of differentiation and integration, and graphical analysis including limits, asymptotes, and continuity.

### **Senior Math – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Algebra 1, 2, & Geometry*

This course is intended to build upon concepts taught in previous courses to allow students to gain a deeper knowledge of the real and complex number systems as well as the structure, use, and application of equations, expressions, and functions. Functions emphasized include linear, quadratic and polynomial. Students continue mastery of geometric concepts such as similarity, congruence, right triangles, and circles. Students use categorical and quantitative data to model real life situations and rules of probability to compute probabilities of compound events.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

Three Science credits in grades 9-12 are required for graduation. Two units must be lab-based courses, one of which must be Chemistry or Physics.

### SUGGESTED SCIENCE SEQUENCE:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: Physical Science or Biology
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: Biology or Chemistry
- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: Chemistry, STEM, Anatomy, AP Chemistry, or Physics
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Chemistry, STEM, Anatomy, AP Chemistry, or Physics

### **Physical Science – 1 Credit**

Physical science investigates the many aspects of matter and energy. It includes investigations of physics, chemistry and astronomy concepts along with a limited study of earth science. Laboratory experiments will be provided along with classroom activities to strengthen the student's grasp of the concepts in physical science. Students work to improve their organization & presentation of scientific data and their analytical & problem-solving skills. This course is a prerequisite for all science courses.

### **Biology – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science*

This course provides students with a general understanding of the modern biological sciences. In the course of the year, students will become familiarized with the basic life processes at the molecular, cellular, systematic, organismal and ecological levels of organization within the biosphere. Students will be provided with an overview of an organism's interdependence and interactions with the environment and one another. The class will also expose students to current and emerging technological advances and their benefits to biology.

### **Chemistry – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science and Biology. Students must have completed Algebra 1.*

This course will include the composition, structure, and properties of matter and the changes it undergoes. The curriculum will primarily contain information concerning general inorganic chemistry and will be supplemented with multiple laboratory and investigative experiences.

### **STEM– 1 Credit**

In this design-thinking, hands-on, learner-driven course, students will be designers who are given real world scenarios that challenge and enhance their critical thinking and team-work skills. They will learn how to research, design, create, and present their solutions as a team. The class will cross multiple facets of the 21<sup>st</sup> century job force as students have opportunities to talk with professionals in various STEM-related fields. The goal for this class is to allow students to learn in a non-traditional format that will challenge them and ignite a passion in them for more knowledge, application, and creation in our increasingly STEM-based world.

### **Anatomy – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science and Biology.*

This course is designed to provide students with an in depth study of the body's structures and relative functions. Students will acquire knowledge of the inner-workings of the body at the molecular, biochemical, cellular, tissue, organ, systematic, and organism levels. Through the aid of laboratory investigations, models, diagrams, and comprehensive studies, students will explore the various systems of the body and their interdependence with one another.

### **Physics – 1 Credit**

*Prerequisite: Physical Science and Biology. Students must have completed Algebra 1& 2 and Geometry.*

Physics is an algebra-based course covering topics that include linear and projectile motion, Newtonian mechanics, work and energy, momentum, waves, optics, sound, electricity, and magnetism. An emphasis on lab experiences and demonstrations is integral to this course to engage students in seeing the theories in action.

## **SOCIAL SCIENCES DEPARTMENT**

Three social studies credits are required for graduation. These must include: American History or AP American History and Government/Economics or AP Government.

### SUGGESTED SOCIAL SCIENCE SEQUENCE:

- 9<sup>th</sup> grade: World History
- 10<sup>th</sup> grade: European History or Psychology



- 11<sup>th</sup> grade: American History or AP American History
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade: Government/Economics or AP Government

### **World History – 1 Credit**

*This course is strongly recommended for freshman.*

The curriculum design is formatted to enable the student to become aware of, and appreciate events that have occurred around the world. Students will be taught to appreciate their own cultures while respecting cultures of others. The actions of leaders in the world will be evaluated and studied in such a way that will bring awareness to the student, not only of history, but also allow the learner to relate current events to those of the past.

### **American History – 1 Credit**

*This course is a requirement for juniors.*

The course is designed for the student to become aware of, and appreciate, the American way of life. The student will be instructed on how ethical and moral values influence characters and human relationships by examination of outstanding people in US history. The course will develop a knowledge of America's past in order to better understand the contemporary social, political, and economic problems, and how to prepare for circumstances of the future.

### **AP American History – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3. Students are required to pay fee and take College Board Advanced Placement Examination.*

This course explores events of U.S. history through the use and analysis of documents, images, cartoons, quantitative data, and other primary sources. The express purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the AP Exam for U.S History. The course is for all intents and purposes taught on a college level and it requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every class. The objectives of this course include: developing an understanding of major themes in U.S. history, including American identity, economic and social life, political change and continuity, and the U.S. role in the world.

### **European History – 1 Credit**

The purpose of this course is to enhance students' understanding of Europe. This course serves as both an orientation to European countries and a primer on Europe's geography. It is about 25% Geography, 25% Travel Information, and 50% regular History. Another purpose of the course is to augment RCA's travel program. Utilizing films, documentaries, and internet/computer lab resources, students prepare projects and presentations that improve their specific knowledge of European history. Philip Parker's *World History* is one of the primary texts used.

### **Government and Economics – 1 Credit**

*This course or AP Government is a requirement for seniors.*

The course is designed to develop a sense of awareness on how our government operates. Emphasis is on political parties, our leaders, and the process that keeps democracy alive. The workings of our government at all levels will be discussed. There will be an emphasis on our economic system, capitalism, and how it compares with other economic system of the world. The ultimate goal of this course is to develop an informed and active citizen.

### **AP Government – 1 Credit**

*Requirements for acceptance must be met. See page 3. Students are required to pay fee and take College Board Advanced Placement Examination.*

This course explores the political theory and everyday practice that directs the daily operation of our government and shapes our public policies. The express purpose of this course is to prepare students to take the AP Exam for the U.S. Government and Politics. The course is for all intents and purposes taught on a college level and it requires a substantial amount of reading and preparation for every class. The objectives of this course include: critical understanding of the strengths and weaknesses of the American political system, as well as their rights and responsibilities as citizens.

### **Psychology – 1 Credit**

Psychology encompasses broad areas of research about human behavior. The goal of this class is to create active intellectual and emotional involvement by the student, not only in learning about psychology, but in life as well. This course provides information that should be available to all high school students who want to understand themselves and their world better. There is also expanded coverage of the nervous systems, brain scans, limbic system, and the prefrontal area of the brain. We also added material on emotional intelligence and multiple intelligences.