



COVENANT
CLASSICAL SCHOOL

Covenant's Collegiate
Model Rhetoric Program

Course Catalog

with Grade 8 Transitional Year



Humanities: History and Literature

History of Science with Classic Literature and Composition: Grades 8/9

Using Joy Hakim's *Story of Science* series as the foundation of their studies, students explore 4,000 years of scientific discovery and invention. Primary source readings include the Kepler-Galileo letters and the Manhattan Project letters. Literature includes *The Screwtape Letters*, *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*, *Fahrenheit 451*, a Jack London title, and a Jules Verne title. Utilizing portions of I.E.W.'s *Elegant Essay* curriculum, the five-paragraph essay and the articulation of a thesis statement will be mastered in this class, which serves as a gateway course between the Logic and Rhetoric School years. This course can fulfill 1 world history credit and 1 English credit for 9th grade students.

Christendom: Grades 9/10

Christendom is a course that tackles the perennial questions that arise out of the interaction of church and state as we study church history from the Roman Empire to the Reformation era and early Enlightenment. Students will have course readings in one church history textbook and in Bauer's *History of the Medieval World*. Literature titles include Augustine's *Confessions*, *Beowulf*, Shakespeare, and *The Crucible*. Writing

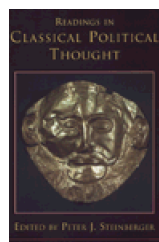
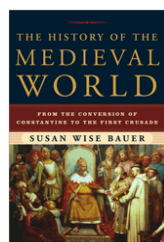
projects will include non-fiction reports, literary critiques, and thesis-driven essays. This course can fulfill 1 world history credit and 1 literature credit for all high school students. Rhetoric 1 or 2 will be taken concurrently.

American Studies: Grades 9/10

This course examines the events, people, and debates that have molded the United States while equipping them for the privileges and responsibilities of citizenship in American society. Students will study Hillsdale College's *Story of Hope* and primary sources that span from the Mayflower Compact to the Letter from Birmingham Jail. Literature choices include the classics *Scarlet Letter*, *Great Gatsby*, *Grapes of Wrath*, and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Writing projects will include non-fiction reports, literary critiques, and thesis-driven essays. This course can fulfill 1 American history credit and 1 literature credit for high school students. Rhetoric 1 or 2 will be taken concurrently.

Classical Government and Economics: Grades 11/12

In this course, students trace the foundations of law and justice from the *Iliad* and Plato's *Republic* to Machiavelli, and





they compare Cicero and Locke to the U.S. Constitution. In economics, students contrast the original writings of Adam Smith with those of Karl Marx. Special attention is given to training students to closely read and critically analyze such robust texts, and class discussion revolves around the interaction of the ideas espoused in each text. Writing projects include summaries, non-fiction reports, and thesis-driven essays. This course fulfills 1 credit in government and 1 credit in economics.

Postmodernity: Grades 11/12

In this course, students explore the foundations of postmodern thought as both the rejection and culmination of Western thought. They will wrestle with such ideas from a philosophical vantage point but also from a historic and literary perspective, all while remaining grounded in the historic Christian scriptures. Course readings include Richard Rorty, *Crime & Punishment*, *Brave New World*, and *Old Man and the Sea*. Writing projects include summaries, non-fiction reports, narrative critiques, and thesis-driven essays. This course fulfills 1 credit in philosophy and 1 credit in literature.



Select Literature Titles



Mathematics

Note: A standard pathway and an honors pathway will be offered.

Algebra 1 (*May be taken in Grade 8*)

This standard pathway course will utilize Harold L. Jacob's classic text as its base. Students will develop a deep understanding of algebra's powerful tools: expressions, equations, and graphs. They investigate the coordinate plane, slope, x and y intercepts, and linear equations. They also study exponents, roots, polynomial expressions, and the quadratic formula.

Algebra 1 Honors (*May be taken in Grade 8*)

Covenant's proprietary, problems-based Honors Algebra course was developed using the best conceptual mathematics resources available, including publicly available problem sets from Phillips Exeter Academy. The course covers major algebra topics with more depth and challenge. Students build a solid understanding of functions and graphs. Students learn to recognize both the equations and graphs of linear, quadratic, cubic, quartic, rational, exponential, radical, and absolute value functions. They expand their understanding of linear functions including slope and intercepts, parallel and perpendicular functions, inequalities, simultaneous equations and inequalities, and quadratics. They also work with rational and radical expressions and equations and more. A highlight of the course is that students derive the quadratic formula from scratch utilizing their problem-solving skills.

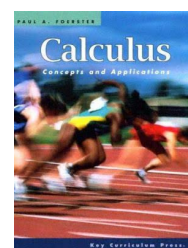
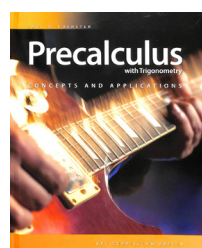
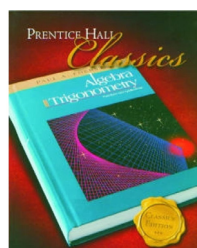
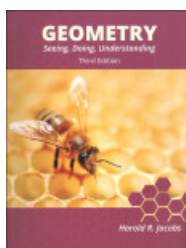
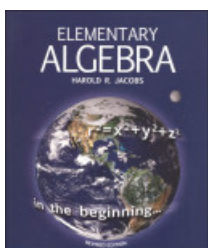
Geometry (*Standard Classical and Honors pathways*)

This course stresses logic and deductive reasoning and provides students with plenty of practice with proofs (informal and paragraph). Utilizing Harold L. Jacobs' classic Geometry text as a foundation, students experience a thorough study of Euclidean geometry, beginning with an introduction to geometry. Then topics build incrementally, progressing through the nature of deductive reasoning, lines & angles, congruence, inequalities, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, transformations, area, similarity, right triangle, circles, concurrence theorems, regular polygons and the circle, geometric solids, and non-Euclidean Geometries.

Algebra 2 (*Standard Classical and Honors pathways*)

Algebra 2 continues the conceptual approach to mathematics that all Covenant mathematics courses and the Jacobs textbooks are known for, but this course picks up with Harold L. Jacobs' student Paul Foorster's textbook series as the foundation. The major topics of the first semester are linear, quadratic, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. Second semester covers irrational functions, quadratic systems, higher degree polynomial functions, sequences and series, probability & data analysis, and trigonometric and circular functions with their properties.

Mathematics Pathway





Precalculus (*Standard Classical and Honors pathways*)

Precalculus with trigonometry continues using the Foerster textbook series as its foundation. Topics include algebraic, logarithmic and exponential functions and using them for mathematical modeling, trigonometric and periodic functions with their applications and properties during first semester, and then triangle trigonometry, analytic geometry, discrete and continuous mathematics including limits, derivatives and integrals during second semester.

Calculus Honors

Continuing in the Foerster textbook series, calculus combines graphing-calculator technology with a unique, real-world application approach, and presents calculus as a study of fundamental concepts: limits, derivatives, definite integrals, and indefinite integrals. Students learn these concepts using algebraic, numerical, graphical, and verbal approaches. *This course prepares students to take the Advanced Placement (AP) Calculus AB exam (optional).*

Statistics

Statistics is offered as an alternative capstone mathematics course for those students who may find the humanities and social sciences more appealing. Students are introduced to major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and interpreting data. They explore concepts such as variation and distribution; patterns and uncertainty; and data-based predictions, decisions, and conclusions.



Science

Note: Two tracks will be made available as the Rhetoric School grows: the classical track and the accelerated track. While the classical track is thoroughly rigorous, the accelerated track is well-suited for STEM-minded students. Students in both tracks will take Earth Science as the bridge between the Logic and Rhetoric years. See diagram below.

Earth Science: Grades 8/9

Within the context of the study of landforms, minerals, and planetary phenomena, many other timely and important topics are covered including conservation of natural resources, climate change, pollution, and environmental justice, as well as the current scientific consensus concerning geologic history. Multiple Christian viewpoints on the age of the Earth will be presented. This course will primarily use the *Earth Science* text from Novare, which combines the historic Christian faith with a rigorous approach. 9th grade students may obtain 1.0 credit of lab science for this course.

Classical Track:

Introductory Physics: Grades 9/10

Designed for 9th or 10th graders, *Introductory Physics* incorporates math, history, and epistemology (theory of knowledge), making it the perfect text to draw students upward into the adult world of scientific investigation. Topics include energy, motion and Newton's laws; atoms, matter, and substances; heat and temperature; waves, sound, and light; electricity, circuits, and magnetism; and may include enrichment material on buoyancy and geometric optics. Students will receive a genuine experience of a lab scientist, emphasizing proper procedures and lab report writing, 1.0 lab science credit.

Biology: Grades 9/10

This course starts at the atomic level and progresses to ever larger scales: cells, genes, microorganisms, plants, animals, and human organ systems. The final chapters survey ecology and the theory of evolution. Multiple Christian viewpoints on the theory of evolution will be presented. Mastery learning and lab reports are emphasized. 1.0 lab science credit.

Chemistry: Grades 10/11

This course brings high school students into the real world of chemistry and laboratory experiments using a mastery learning method. The history of modern chemistry, mathematics and technical communication is emphasized throughout. Topics include atoms, substances, periodic law, chemical bonding, molecular theory, metallic bonding, chemical reactions, kinetic theory, gas laws, and redox chemistry. 1.0 lab science credit.

Environmental Science: Grades 11/12

This course serves as the capstone in the classical track because it pulls from knowledge of multiple other science disciplines, allowing high schoolers to apply knowledge they've acquired in previous courses from earth science to chemistry. Topics include ecosystems, biodiversity, populations, natural resources, energy and consumption, the atmosphere, pollution, and models of global change. 1.0 lab science credit.



Accelerated Track:

Accelerated Studies in Physics and Chemistry: Grades 9/10

This course is designed for students who love science, are strong in math, and aspire to a technical career or college program. This course exceeds other physical science courses by providing a unified, in-depth scope, teaching students to use correct terminology, to communicate in succinct technical writing. Concepts include theory of knowledge in science; Newton's laws; energy; waves, sound, and light; electricity; magnetism; substances; atomic models; atomic bonding; and chemical reactions. 1.0 High School lab science credit.

Accelerated Chemistry: Grades 9/10/11

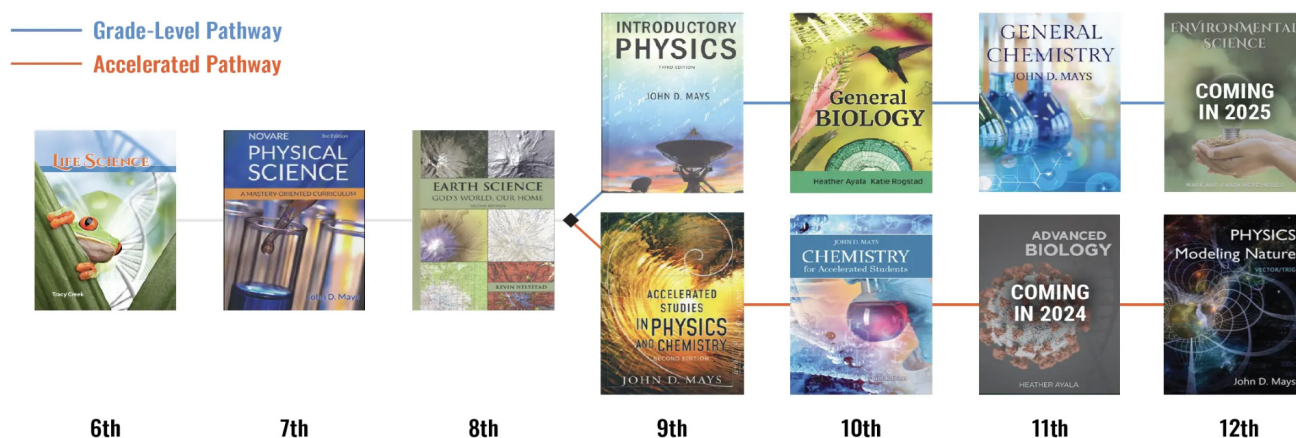
Chemistry for Accelerated Students is an ideal course for students who love science and aspire to a STEM-oriented college program. The accelerated text provides more intense treatment in chemistry topics, including additional chapters on thermochemistry, chemical equilibrium, and a glimpse into organic chemistry. A physics course is a prerequisite. 1.0 High school lab science credit.

Advanced Biology: Grades 11/12

Advanced Biology covers traditional biology topics but more in depth: cell biology and reproduction, respiration, photosynthesis, molecular genetics, biotechnology, Mendelian genetics, plant and animal systems, and homeostasis. Includes hands-on experiments, dissections, and lab reports that prepare students for college-level sciences. 1.0 High school lab science credit.

Advanced Physics: Grades 11/12

This course is a college-preparatory course for STEM-minded students who aspire to a technical career. The course employs vector calculations and assumes Algebra 2 and trigonometry as a prerequisite. Topics include motion, Newton's laws, forces, fields, static equilibrium and torque, the work-energy theorem, Einstein and mass-energy equivalence, momentum, rotating systems, pressure and buoyancy, the gas laws and laws of thermodynamics in depth, harmonic motion, electrostatics, Faraday's laws, and nuclear physics. 1.0 High school lab science credit. *Students may use this course to prepare for the Advanced Placement (AP) Physics 1 and 2 exams (optional)*





World Languages

*Both a classical and a modern foreign language will be offered.
Students who complete the Latin pathway will have a specially designated diploma.*

Latin II

Students who complete Latin 2 will have studied all Latin morphology and are ready to begin reading adapted texts. Readings may include Caesar, the Vulgate Bible, and Latin poetry.

Latin III

This course is a reading course in which students begin to learn to read fluently and for appreciation of their structure and beauty. Sample readings include Fabulae Faciles and Epitome Sacrae Historiae.

Latin IV

Students continue in readings in authentic texts ranging from Eutropius, Nepos, Legenda Aurea, and the Voyage of St. Brendan to mid-level texts such as Caesar and the lyric poets.

Advanced Latin

This Latin capstone is a reading course in more challenging authentic texts from Cicero, Vergil, and Erasmus.

Note: As the program grows, we would like to add a Latin 1 course for incoming students who did not take the equivalent of Latin 1 in their Logic School years.

Spanish I

This course covers the four key areas of foreign language study: listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students become familiar with common vocabulary terms and phrases, comprehend a wide range of grammar patterns, participate in simple conversations, and appreciate cultural customs of Spanish-speaking countries.

Spanish II

Students further expand their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully. They also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing.

Spanish III

Students are introduced to content-based thematic passages. They continue to develop speaking, writing, and reading proficiency. The expected outcome of this course is low-to-mid-intermediate proficiency.

Spanish IV

Spanish IV continues content-based thematic passages with increasing complexity and expansive vocabulary. Students achieve mid-to-high intermediate proficiency in speaking, reading and writing.



Rhetoric

Composition 8/9:

This is a component of the Humanities 8/9 course, which serves as a bridge between the Logic and Rhetoric years. Utilizing portions of Institute for Excellence in Writing's *Elegant Essay* curriculum, the five-paragraph essay and the articulation of a thesis statement will be mastered in this class. 0.5 composition credit (combined with 0.5 literature credit for 1.0 English credit) if taken in Grade 9.

Rhetoric I: Public Speaking

In this course using the Institute for Excellence in Writing's Public Speaking curriculum, students learn memory and delivery techniques as they write and present five types of speeches: self-introductory, narrative, expository, persuasive, and impromptu. Thesis development and the canons of rhetoric are emphasized as students become competent and confident public speakers. 0.5 English credit.

Rhetoric II: Advanced Composition with Dual Enrollment Option

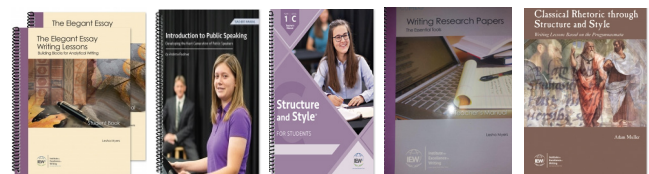
Covenant students can receive college credit for English Composition I and II from a fully accredited university (either Southeastern University or Donnelly College) when they successfully complete *Structure and Style for Students: Year 1 Level C* and *Fix It! Grammar: Level 5*, 4th edition on campus with instruction from Covenant's own faculty. Prerequisite: Sophomore standing.

Rhetoric III: Classical Rhetoric

Continuing in the Institute for Excellence in Writing pathway, students compose essays and arguments based on the Progymnasmata rhetorical writing exercises while learning to write with structure and style. This approach to composition emphasizes the classical method of building up the student's reasoning and articulation skills through a series of interrelated exercises. 1.0 English credit, writing-intensive class.

Rhetoric IV: Senior Thesis

Covenant seniors culminate their rhetoric studies with an intensive research project. During their 12th Grade year, students develop and prepare to defend a 15-20 page thesis paper. This thesis defense, made before a panel of judges, is the capstone of their experience at Covenant. Students apply their rhetoric skills gained in previous courses while also honing their research skills from the Institute for Excellence in *Writing's Writing Research Papers: The Essential Tools*. Advanced research skills include advanced theses, sophisticated integration of quotations, counter-arguments, arrangement, and the integration of style. 1.0 Credit in English, writing-intensive class.



Rhetoric Pathway: Institute for Excellence in Writing materials



Theology

Note: A competency in Overview of the Bible must be met if students have not completed the Bible pathway of Old and New Testament in grades 6-8 in Covenant's Logic School.

New Testament: Gospels: Grades 8/9

All of God's revelation climaxes in the life, death, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus Christ. The four canonical gospels are divinely inspired records of his ministry. Students study the gospels closely and carefully, beginning with their historical and cultural context, including the intertestamental period. Students master inductive Bible study and investigate the meaning of the kingdom of God, Jesus' fulfillment of Old Testament typologies, his miracles and parables, his view of the future, and the saving efficacy of his death and resurrection.

Note: New Testament: Pauline Letters may alternatively be available to Grades 8/9.

Historical Theology: Grades 9/10

Historical theology surveys the people and movements that have shaped the faith of the Christian church from post-biblical times to the present. Students become acquainted with the doctrinal views of significant movements, schools and individuals in church history, showing the trajectory of thought in the development of doctrines as they have been worked out in history. This gives students an appreciation of the efforts of the Church throughout the centuries as it has sought to establish and defend what is considered to be orthodox belief. 0.5 Theology credit.

Systematic Theology: Grades 10/11

This course is a careful overview of the Christian system of doctrine. Systematic theology is the study of what the Bible--considered as a whole--teaches about the various topics it

addresses, and the summary of these teachings in a logical and coherent order, focusing on topics such as the attributes of God, the Trinity, creation, sin, the person and work of Christ, the application of Christ's work to believers, the person and work of the Holy Spirit, eschatology, and more. 0.5 Theology credit.

Ethics: Grades 11/12

What is "the good life," the life well lived? What does human flourishing mean? To ponder these questions, first articulated in Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*, students will read various philosophical and theological texts while remaining firmly planted in Scripture. Students will also study practical applications of ethics such as bioethics and human rights. 0.5 Philosophy credit.

Apologetics: Grades 11/12

The Apostle Peter asserted the importance of being ever-ready to offer a defense, or "apologia," for one's faith (1 Peter 3:15). Through this integration of faith and reason, apologetics seeks to demonstrate the compatibility between spiritual beliefs and the intellect, presenting the Christian faith as both logical and compelling. Students study arguments and explanations that both defend and promote the Christian message, often integrating Scripture, philosophy, history, and other fields into their explanations. 0.5 Theology/Philosophy credit.



Faculty

Dr. Jacob Andrews will teach Latin and Logic

Dr. Andrews attended a classical school in Chicago and graduated with high honors from Loyola University in Chicago with a B.A. in Latin and Philosophy. He went on to receive a Master of Arts in the History of Philosophy from Marquette University (Wisconsin), and a Master of Philosophy in Ancient and Medieval Philosophy from the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium), and a Ph.D. in Medieval Philosophy from Loyola University in Chicago. Dr. Andrews joined Covenant in 2020.

Mrs. Katrina Combs will teach Humanities

Mrs. Combs earned her B.A. from Wheaton College with a double major in History and in Philosophy. She went on to earn her M.A. in Philosophy of History from a Great Books-style program within Olivet Nazarene University's Department of History and Political Science. She taught Western Civilization at Olivet and also served as the Adjunct Professor in the Department of Philosophy at Trinity Christian College until the birth of her second child. She has been teaching classically since 2006 and has completed additional training with the Institute for Excellence in Writing. Mrs. Combs was a founding teacher at Covenant in 2010.

Mr. Bob Locascio will teach Science and Computer Science

Mr. Locascio received a B.S. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign and spent the first three decades of his career in the telecommunications tech industry. He then transitioned to helping create a non-profit Christian ministry before teaching classically. In addition to men's ministry, he has taught in children's ministry at several churches for the past 35 years. His wife, Christine, is the chair of the English department at Wheaton College, so they are deeply immersed in the mission of Christian schooling.

Mrs. Heather Reyes will teach Algebra and Honors Algebra.

Mrs. Reyes graduated with an undergraduate degree from North Central College in Elementary Education. She went on to earn her Master's Degree in Mathematics Teacher Leadership from Aurora University, where she has served as an adjunct faculty member. She has taught both undergraduate and graduate students in education and in mathematics, including Fundamentals of Algebra and College Algebra. Mrs. Reyes joined Covenant in 2019.

We will be hiring for the additional positions in Geometry, High School Biology, Spanish, and Bible.

