

Introducing Covenant's

Collegiate Model Rhetoric Program





Table of Contents

Introduction	03
Value of Model	04
Class Structure	05
Scope and Sequence	06
Sample Schedule	07
Where are Classes Held?	08
Co-curricular, Elective, and Social Opportunities	09
Who Might Benefit?	10
FAQs	11



Introduction

Covenant Classical School is launching a *Collegiate Model* high school program to serve families in Chicago's western suburbs. *Collegiate Model* high school programs (sometimes referred to as "University Model" or "Collaborative Schools") have been rapidly growing in number across America.

What is it?

The *Collegiate Model* schools break with the standard model where students are in the school building from 8:00 am to 3:00 pm Monday through Friday and often attend the same class every day. Rather, as the name suggests, classes are scheduled more similarly to a college schedule, where classes meet 2-3 times per week, and class time is used only for direct instruction and class discussion. Everything else is done outside of class including reading, writing, research, projects, collaboration with

others, and meeting with faculty. When students are younger, such as the grammar school years, teachers often supervise and use class time for the projects and the start of homework. Covenant's *Collegiate Model* is designed for students in 8th through 12th grade where class time is used for what can only be done at school.





Why is this model so valuable?

Covenant has selected this model because of the strategic advantages it presents to our students and families.

1. The *Collegiate Model* facilitates the best academic preparation for college and beyond.

Teaching students how to read widely, think deeply, and write well requires them to have the time needed to do close reading of important texts, to wrestle with ideas, and to learn to write with style and clarity. This is simply impossible if you go to school all day, attend practice after school, and get home exhausted from the day with assignments to get done before going to bed and repeating the same pattern the next day.

This model is consistent with the Covenant's classical emphasis upon the liberal arts and sciences and is designed to provide students with the time needed to read for understanding, to synthesize their ideas, and to do their best written work rather than merely scrambling to complete an assignment. With time and practice, students cultivate good academic habits including personal responsibility, the ability to work independently, and doing their best work. These habits are essential for a smooth transition and strong start to college.

2. The *Collegiate Model* facilitates students' health, wholeness, and well-being.

Current research has found today's teenagers are suffering from alarmingly high rates of anxiety and depression, as well as the inability to focus upon a task. These threats to mental health are complicated by the constant influences of social media, poor habits related to sleep and nutrition, and the interpersonal challenges commonly associated with adolescence. Covenant's

Collegiate Model gives students more time and space in their lives and schedules, making it easier to cultivate habits leading to personal health and wellness.

3. The *Collegiate Model* facilitates a deeper experience of school community.

Students today crave connections to peers which they often find in school. While it may sound counter-intuitive for a program with fewer hours of class time than other schools, The Collegiate Model at Covenant is strategically designed to provide students with meaningful connections to their classmates and enough shared experiences in classes, in co-curricular activities, and through social events, to help students experience true community at school. On days when students are not in class,





they may be seen meeting in coffee shops, collaborating in study groups, going to museums, or participating in educational travel. The shared life of the smaller school community adds fun and helps students create healthy and enduring friendships.

4. The Collegiate Model facilitates more time with parents and family.

In the years leading up to high school graduation and the time when they leave home to head off to college, it is not uncommon for students to spend 40-50 hours a week at school. This severely limits time spent with parents, siblings, extended family, and friends at church. The Collegiate Model gives families more time together during these critical and often challenging years of life, giving parents the time they desire and their children need.



5. The Collegiate Model facilitates lower tuition costs.

At a time when private school tuitions are rising rapidly and some are beginning to compete with the cost of college tuition, the Collegiate Model's efficient design delivers a tremendous value in private schooling for less than \$10,000. This is welcome news for all families and especially those with multiple children.

How are classes structured?

The course schedule is strategically designed so all the core academic subjects: literature, history, language arts, foreign language, math, and science meet every Tuesday and Thursday. Math and sciences courses add a lab course on Fridays. Fridays are also the days when students take elective courses in the fine arts, performing arts (music and drama), and academic clubs.

The scope and sequence of academic courses follow patterns common to most high school. For instance, Latin 1 precedes Latin 2, and Algebra II precedes Pre-Calculus. Students are invited to take courses for which they demonstrated proficient preparation and their selections are driven less by what year they are in school (i.e. Sophomore English).

Below are two charts: one is an overview of the standard scope and sequence of the academic program including brief course descriptions. The other is a sample course schedule indicating how classes are structured. Please refer to the course catalog for greater detail on the scope and sequence and expanded course descriptions.



Chart A is a sample course schedule which indicates how classes in grades 9-12 are structured.



RHETHORIC SCHOOL SAMPLE SCHEDULE

TIME	PERIOD	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
8:10-8:18 AM	HR	Independent Study with teacher contact available.	Assembly	Independent Study with teacher contact available.	Assembly	Assembly
8:20-9:04 AM	1		Rhetoric		Rhetoric	Elective
9:07-9:51 AM	2		Physics		Physics	Science Lab
9:54-10:38 AM	3		Geometry		Geometry	Math Lab
10:38-10:48 AM	Break		Break		Break	Break
10:51-11:35 AM	4		Humanities		Humanities	Fine Art
11:38 AM-12:22 PM	5					Academic Club
12:22-12:49 PM	Lunch		Lunch		Lunch	Lunch
12:53-1:37 PM	6		P.E.		P.E.	I.T./Computers
1:40-2:24 PM	7		Latin/Spanish		Latin/Spanish	Study Hall
2:27-3:11 PM	8		Theology		Chapel	House
3:11-3:15 PM	Wrap-Up		Wrap-Up Time		Wrap-Up Time	Wrap-Up Time



Chart B is an overview of the standard scope and sequence of the academic program. Please see the separate Course Catalog for more detailed information regarding course descriptions.



RHETORIC SCHOOL SCOPE & SEQUENCE

SUBJECT	COURSES OFFERED		NOTES
HUMANITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christendom Seminar • American Studies Seminar • Classical Government & Economics • Postmodernity Seminar 		Each course is 2 credits and integrates history, literature, and political philosophy.
MATHEMATICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Algebra 1 • Geometry • Algebra 2 • Pre-Calculus • Calculus or Statistics 		Algebra I may be taken in Grade 8. Two tracks will be offered: standard classical and honors.
SCIENCE	Classical Track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physics • Biology • Chemistry • Environmental Science 	Accelerated Track: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accel. Physics • Accel. Chemistry • Advanced Biology • Advanced Physics 	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.
FOREIGN LANGUAGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latin through Advanced. Latin • Spanish 		Spanish I offered in Grade 8. Latin studied in Grades 3-8.
RHETORIC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rhetoric I: Public Speaking • Rhetoric II: Advanced Composition with Dual Enrollment Option • Rhetoric III: Classical Rhetoric • Rhetoric IV: Senior Thesis 		Senior Thesis will be written during Rhetoric IV.
THEOLOGY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Theology • Systematic Theology • Ethics • Apologetics 		A competency must be met in Overview of the Bible.
ELECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Studio Art • Drama with Productions • Marimba Ensembles • Computer Science • Academic Clubs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certamen (Competitive Latin Club) • Debate 		Every semester's schedule will include 2-3 opportunities for students to participate in electives from categories such as those listed here. Graduates will be required to participate in a variety of fine arts and academic electives. Students will be required to meet a competency in digital literacy.
CAPSTONE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Thesis 		Completed concurrently with Rhetoric IV.



8th Grade at Covenant

Covenant offers a standard 5-day program for students in Kindergarten through Grade 7. The academic program for 8th grade begins to introduce students to the *Collegiate Model* by offering instruction on 4 full days (M, T, Th, F). Our 8th grade students will begin to cultivate the healthy habits of personal responsibility, independent work, and time management, with one day where there is no instruction at school. Teachers will be available for virtual office hours and to respond to questions, and the faculty will mentor students to prepare them for the three day *Collegiate Model* beginning in Grade 9.



What is the culmination of Covenant's *Collegiate Model* program?

Most classical schools across America prepare students for a seminar course during their senior year in which students complete a thesis project, consisting of a 15-20 page paper written on a topic of their choice under the guidance of a faculty mentor and written in a prescribed format aligned with principles of classical rhetoric. Students present their thesis in a persuasive speech before their peers and panel of faculty or invited guests who have read their paper before taking impromptu questions on their topic. The senior thesis project is a multi-disciplinary synthesis and culmination of their classical schooling.

Where are Classes Held?

All classes will be offered at Covenant facility in north Naperville. The building has 15 classrooms including a science lab, art room, music room, and small gymnasium. The classrooms all have natural lighting and the school has invested in state-of-the art security. Covenant has leased the facility until June, 2026, and is actively seeking to purchase a permanent home near our current location to accommodate future growth.





Will Covenant provide offerings in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM)?

Yes, we will. Classical schooling is often driven by courses in literature, history, and writing. Covenant's *Collegiate Model* program is strategically designed with strong offerings in STEM courses in order to ensure the best academic foundation for our students.

What co-curricular, elective, and social opportunities will we offer?

Covenant will offer both school-day electives and after-school co-curriculars to round out a student's experience. During the school day on Fridays, a variety of fine arts, academic, and STEM-related electives will be offered. Selections will include courses in studio art, marimba ensembles, computer science, Certamen (competitive Latin club), and debate.

The ability to be part of a team, participate in a drama or musical, and attend social activities with classmates, add fun and provide lasting high school memories for students. We recognize some students will participate in club teams and

community groups so our model will focus upon providing select opportunities done well to ensure broad participation from the student body.

Enriching student travel opportunities are in the beginning planning stages as well. We are planning a trip to Greece and Rome as a Grand Tour experience during high school.

Who is teaching?

At every level of Covenant's classical program, our students' experience is shaped by the faculty who teach them. One of the clearest ways Covenant has witnessed God's hand upon the school is the professional faculty who are led to join our mission. More extensive bios of current faculty are in the course catalog as well as positions for which we are currently hiring.





Who might benefit from Covenant's *Collegiate Model* Program?

The intentional design of this program will not be the right fit for every student. Below is a brief profile of the program.

1

Motivated learners eager for a distinctive, academic challenge and ready to develop healthy habits in preparation for college.

2

Home school students and families who may be tired of piecing together courses from different sources in various locations.

3

Parents who wish to provide a Christian and classical school experience for their child/children but may be concerned about the cost.

4

People drawn to the classical school model who also want strong offerings in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

5

High school students want to be a meaningful part of a small school community while participating in co-curricular activities without attending classes 5 full days per week.





Frequently Asked Questions

What if both parents work full-time? Will students have the opportunity to be at school on days when they have no classes?

Absolutely. Covenant will provide the opportunity for students to be at school on non-class days for parents whose work schedules make it impossible for students to be home.

Where will courses be offered?

All classes will take place at Covenant's location at 1571 Oswego Road in Naperville. Covenant is actively seeking to purchase a permanent location within miles of its current location.

Am I able to take only select classes at Covenant?

No. Because the program is strategically designed to cultivate a deeper experience of school community and healthy friendships, part-time students are not able to contribute to our desired school culture. The program is designed to be a solution to the challenge of students attending classes in multiple locations rather than another location where students can take a class or two.

How is the Collegiate Model Rhetoric Program distinct from homeschooling?

Are parents becoming homeschool parents?

In short, no. The Collegiate Model is distinct from homeschooling in a variety of ways. Covenant does all the course planning, teaching, grading, transcribing, and more. Although parent involvement in teaching is not expected, parents will attend our Collegiate Model "Bootcamp" in August alongside their students to help them know what to expect and how to support their children through the next stage of their education. Students will also be trained to complete their independent study days when they are new students, whether in Grade 8, 9, or as transfer students. We will also use a learning management system as a virtual assignment board to facilitate efficiency for families on those independent study days.

How much work outside of classes will be expected?

On independent study days, students complete assignments such as close readings of texts, writing assignments, problem sets, planning for presentations, or assessments. The amount of work will be commensurate with the core objectives for each course. Normal homework load will still exist on regular class days.

Will Advanced Placement (AP) or dual enrollment options be offered?

Several of our classes – such as Advanced Physics and Honors Calculus – will prepare students to take an AP exam (which is optional). One of our Rhetoric classes can be taken as a Dual Enrollment option for college credit in Composition I and II through Donnelly College or Southeastern University, all while being taught by Covenant faculty. We are also currently exploring partnerships with local colleges to endorse our courses for dual enrollment credit.

Will Covenant offer college entrance exam/test preparation or college advising?

We are working to build a partnership with a test prep and college advising organization to make these valuable services available to our families.

