

Price High School Curriculum



Grades 9th-12th

LANGUAGE ARTS

All of the Language Arts courses taught at the high school level are A-G approved, which also allow our students to be accepted to top colleges across the country. We offer English 9, English 9 Honors, English 10, English 10 Honors, American Literature, Honors American Literature, English 12, and AP English Literature. Honors courses and AP course are available for 9th – 12th grade students who qualify by taking the prerequisites and earning at an A or B in their previous English course. AP English Literature students will prepare for the AP exam. The English curriculum is structured to follow the *California State Standards of Education*. A strong grammar program is part of the

curriculum which solidly prepares students for taking the SAT. Reading comprehension skills are essential to the program in order for students to understand the value of reading for knowledge, information and general understanding of subject matter. Learning new vocabulary and understanding terms in context are also strong points of the comprehensive English high school program. A strong vocabulary program is crucial for advancement of reading comprehension skills and excellent SAT scores. The writing skills program prepares high school students for college level writing and speaking. Students become knowledgeable of all genres of literature such as fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. A literature anthology and select novels based on grade level are parts of the reading program for all high school students.

Mission

The mission of Frederick K.C. Price III Christian Schools is to provide high academic learning in a disciplined, well-organized, safe, Christian environment. We will provide a biblically based college preparatory curriculum with personalized attention for all students. We will also provide a strong athletic and an enhanced extra-curricular program which will promote high social standards. We will accomplish this mission by:

- Providing exemplary preschool, elementary, middle and high school programs in a safe Christian environment
- Serving a diverse community encompassing all socioeconomic levels and races
- Expanding Frederick K.C. Price III Christian Schools' current leadership position by serving the responding population
- Achieving this mission through the power of the Holy Spirit and a premier-managed organization, competent, effective and satisfied personnel, who are valued, protected, and rewarded

MATHEMATICS

High school mathematics encompasses Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2, Trigonometry, Calculus, and two levels of AP Calculus, respectively. Each class listed builds on each other and covers California State Board of Education Mathematics Content Standards and is A-G approved. Each math class provides methodical and unambiguous instructions for every skill as required by the state, throughout the program. The instructional methods used involve a range of skills and strategies and that allow the students the opportunities to think critically and reason analytically.

In Algebra I students are taught symbolic reasoning and calculations with symbols are central in algebra. Through the study of algebra, a student develops an understanding of the symbolic language of mathematics and the sciences. In addition, algebraic skills and concepts are developed and used in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

The geometry skills and concepts developed in this discipline are useful to all students. Aside from learning these skills and concepts, students will develop their ability to construct formal, logical arguments and proofs in geometric settings and problems. This course is designed to provide the student with the requisite foundation for the study of advanced algebra and trigonometry.

In Intermediate Algebra, this discipline complements and expands the mathematical content and concepts of Algebra I and Geometry. Students who master Algebra II will gain experience with algebraic solutions of problems in various content areas, including the solution of systems of quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, the binomial theorem, and the complex number system.

Trigonometry uses the techniques that students have previously learned from the study of algebra and geometry. The trigonometric functions studied are defined geometrically rather than in terms of algebraic equations. Facility with these functions as well as the ability to prove basic identities regarding them is especially important for students intending to study calculus, more advanced mathematics, physics and other sciences, and engineering in college. All AP Calculus courses prepare students for the AP exam. Upon successful completion of any of the AP Calculus courses, students have the opportunity to take the AP exam, allowing them to receive college credit upon passing the exam with a qualifying score.

SCIENCE

The high school science program provides courses based on the California State Standards. Advanced and AP courses such as zoology, human anatomy and physiology and AP physics are also offered. These courses utilize differentiated instruction such as discussion of current events, independent research projects, collaborative group work, and visual presentations using multimedia. Successful completion of each course ensures that students develop critical reading skills, use essential math skills for problem solving, and emphasize critical and creative thinking. Competency using basic laboratory techniques such as microscopy, dissection, and measuring substances accurately using laboratory equipment are emphasized.

General Biology is an introductory life science course designed to give a basic introduction to the structure and function of all living things. Students should understand the basic characteristics of life ranging from simple microscopic organisms to more complex specimens. Students will understand how organisms interact to form a viable living ecosystem and are able to build models of DNA, extract DNA, and make plates of bacteria found in the classroom. General chemistry is a physical science course that introduces students to the study of matter. This course encompasses all things (living and nonliving), and the materials or elements that make up our world. Students research elements of interest and create a unique narrative comparing them to a missing or wanted poster presentation.

Zoology is an advanced life science course requiring successful completion of general biology and chemistry. This course surveys the major taxa of the animal kingdom and provides an introduction to animal anatomy, physiology, ecology and evolution. This course includes dissection of simple organisms such as the earthworm and grasshopper and complex organisms such as the fetal pig. Anatomy and physiology is an advanced life science course requiring successful completion of general biology and

general chemistry. This course gives an in-depth study of the structure and function of the entire human body. In addition, the course includes various laboratory activities such as testing lung capacity in teenagers, an independent research program and a visit to a hospital or a forensics laboratory.

Physics is an introductory course where emphasis is on developing an intuitive understanding of physics principles, as well as problem solving with the use of mathematics. Laboratory work develops reasoning power and the ability to apply physics principles, as well as acquainting students with sound techniques. Upon successful completion of physics, students have the opportunity to take an AP Physics course, preparing students for the AP exam, allowing them to receive college credit upon passing the exam.

SOCIAL SCIENCE

All courses are A-G certified and follow the applicable California State Content Standards, which allow our students to be accepted into top colleges across the country. The courses offered are World Geography, World History, United States History, Government, Economics, AP Government & Politics, and African-American History. Social science courses offered include core classes as well as college preparatory electives.

The primary and comprehensive goal of the social science program is to assist students in analyzing how our society works and how humans behave, broaden understanding of the human world, and familiarize students with history to know their unique place in the stream of time. Students will learn to value history and world affairs. Students will further understand that history never repeats itself; however, past and present situations are not exactly matched, but have the tendency to show uniformity within any given civilization.

Throughout all of the social science courses, students are exposed to situations and material that require them to hone fundamental skills. These skills include learning new vocabulary and understanding terms within their proper context, which is a vital aspect in full mastery of language. Reading comprehension is essential for the student in understanding the value of reading for knowledge, and information, and obtaining a general understanding of subject matter. Writing skills is another essential part of the learning process that assists students in properly and fully expressing their own original ideas, or showcasing knowledge of a particular topic. Lastly, oral expression is a set of skills that ensure students communicate clearly, confidently, and respectfully which is crucial for students as they move to the college level and into real world situations of interviews (job, scholarship, etc.), speeches, oral summaries, etc.

In the primary course of World Geography, students will examine the physical features of the earth and their effects on the political, economic, and social life of various nations.

In World History, students will examine modern world history, including the foundation of world religions and beliefs, exploration, intellectual revolutions, violent revolutions, industrial revolution, nationalism/imperialism through the world wars, cold war, the quest of countries seeking independence and changes in current global patterns.

In United States History, students will examine a historical survey of the United States from the establishment of the American colonies to contemporary American society.

Government and Economics is offered during the senior year. In the Government course, students will examine systems of government in the world today and analyze the history and changing interpretations

of the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the current state of the legislative, executive, and judiciary branches of government, with an emphasis on analyzing the relationship among federal, state, and local governments.

In the Economics course, students will examine how people, business, and governments choose to organize its limited resources to satisfy limited wants. Students will be introduced to the major characteristics of the mixed market economic system in the United States and how basic economic questions are answered. Further emphasis is placed on real world connections of budgeting, financing, career choices, etc.

AP Government and Politics is offered for 12th grade students who qualify by earning an A or B in United States History. In this course, students will examine important facts, concepts, various institutions, groups, beliefs, and theories pertaining to United States government and politics. Students in this course are encouraged to complete the Advanced Placement test, which provides students with the possibility of earning college credit.

African American History is also offered where students will examine the continued struggle for political, educational, and economic equality by African Americans. Emphasis will be placed on the contributions of African Americans in the development of an industrialized United States as well as their place in the historical record. Primary forms of instruction include, but are not limited to quality lectures, quick writes, whole/small group discussions, whole/small group activities, peer to peer learning, independent silent/oral reading, debates, multimedia presentations, and guest speakers. Additionally, students will have required readings. Emphasis is placed on achieving selective factual knowledge and appropriate analytical skills.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

The Spanish program is one that encompasses courses beginning with Spanish 1 through AP Spanish Language. The program includes Spanish I, Spanish II, Spanish III and AP Spanish Language. Spanish I learners will cover content such as greetings, introductions, locations, numbers, the present tense of verbs, conjugations, simple sentence writing and asking questions, among others. The intent of this course is to provide a general history of Spanish culture as well as preparing them for transition into the next level Spanish II. At the end of first year Spanish, the learner should be able to engage in very basic conversations with friends, family, and classmates.

Spanish II is a complete review of all the essential elements of Spanish I yet explores a variety of verb tenses. For example, while the present tense is emphasized almost exclusively in the first year, the future, the past, the present progressive, along with the present tense are taught. The Spanish II learner develops more confidence in their abilities as they become writers of the language and are frequently challenged to communicate regularly in class in Spanish while at the same time preparing for Spanish III. At this level, much of the content of the course prepares the student for ordering in a restaurant, how to navigate in a store, like a supermarket or a shopping mall; how to take and give directions, and at a very intermediate level, the Spanish II learner will be able to comprehend and converse occasionally with native speakers if an opportunity is afforded to do so. The Spanish II learner will transition into Spanish III.

Spanish III students will learn how to begin to discuss issues, write essays, and short papers. The learners in Spanish III will be expected to converse regularly in Spanish within the classroom, as well as begin to prepare for the Advanced Placement Spanish course. At this level, the course offers all the tenses of Spanish II and in addition, the past progressive, the conditional, and begins to set the stage for

biographies of native Speakers. Spanish III offers the opportunity for students who would like to take the AP course.

AP Spanish language almost exclusively utilizes the language within the course and the student is encouraged to do likewise. The AP learner will prepare for the AP exam in order to score high enough to fulfill the university language requirement if they elect to do so. An extensive grasp of vocabulary, essay writing, reflection, reading and testing are requirements of the course. Finally, the opportunity to engage in the language to set the stage for fluency is embraced.

VISUAL ARTS

All of our visual art courses are A-G approved. Introduction to Art covers the basic fundamentals of painting, drawing crafts and graphic arts. Students will learn the proper techniques for the above concepts. Abstract art will also be introduced to enhance creative thinking skills. The drawing course is more advanced and is an advanced placement elective for students who want to develop an understanding of draw. The course gives students the opportunity to understand the proper usage of the various shapes and value tones of drawing pencil. Students will learn about shapes, size, shading, sketching, line, and the value scale. Demonstration and example by the instructor will be a major part for learning key principles in this class. Students will learn the basic foundation for using character design. Students will study the fundamental of lines and shapes to create images. This class will study the different aspects of factual design and factual personality. Sketching technique and fundamental of drawing people will also be studied and exercised. Cartoon characters to create storylines will be done in composition form.

PERFORMING ARTS

Theater Arts, Adv. Theater Arts, Honors Theater Arts, Technical Theater, Recording Arts, Adv. Recording Arts, and Drum line

The Theater Arts A/B course is designed to teach students basic and advanced components of Theater and Performance Arts. The course is divided into four units: *Getting Started in Theater*, *Building Acting Skills*, *Producing and Appreciating Plays*, and *Special Topics in Theater*. Through the lessons, students learn to become more aware of their senses, observe people and places more closely, and move expressively. Students also learn to use their talents, reinforce self confidence, and improve the ability to work with others. Through the course study, students are prepared for stage performance, by development of skills in all components of Theater: Voice Projection, Articulation, Inflection, Expression, Improvisation, Characterization, Role Preparation and Research, Stage Movement, Poise, Vocabulary of Theater, Creating Original Characters, Writing Monologues and Plays, Appreciation of Theater History and Development in Various Cultures, Careers in Theater, Stage Production, and Film and Television.

Advanced Theater is a continuation of Theater AB. As such, students are expected to have a deeper understanding for the concepts covered in Theater Arts AB. Students continue their investigation into the study of Theater and Drama, and the rendition of these works as tailored for a live audience. The actor's goal is to embody a character such that the audience sympathizes with the character's struggles, suspending its disbelief. The major focus of this course, therefore, is the faithful rendition of a variety of

characters and archetypes. This course is designed for the serious students of drama who wishes to embark on a career of performance. Students will read more varied selections of dramatic text; view filmed and live staged works of various playwrights of various eras and genres.

At this level of Theater Arts, students must be able to take the responsibility for organizing others to complete a theatrical performance project. Students must have full understanding of all components involved in creating a theatrical production; i.e. playwriting, directing, stage management and producing.

Technical Theater course is designed to give students a basic understanding and experience in the technical aspects of theatrical production, including architecture, scenic design, set constructions and painting, production organization, lighting and sound design. The course readies students for demonstration of a working knowledge of set, lighting and sound for future and current productions. Course study involves identification of the primary functions of a stage technician before, during, and after a production, basic scenic design and construction of which students must be able to effect. The course enables students to be able to understand and demonstrate learned skills with the audio/visual process, lighting techniques with “hands-on” experience. Experience is also gained in working effectively as a member of a production team as students learn to conceptualize, plan, create and successfully participate in school productions.

The Recording Arts course is designed to instruct students in modern music technology, music theory, music appreciation, and music business. The course gives students the opportunity to understand: How to compose and write original compositions, artistically and technically; how the language of music works; the importance of every genre of music; how to succeed in the business. Units of Instruction will be Apple Logic 9 Pro, Propeller head Reason 5/6, and Avid Pro Tools 9/10. The course will include lecture, critical listening, ear training, laboratory (studio) time, genre and artist research, songwriting craft, group and individual practice. Advanced students learn post production techniques, mastering, marketing, and publishing; and will attend guest speaker lectures and spend lab time working in a state of the art recording studio.

Drum line is a course designed for students to become active members in a working and performing drum corps. All students will learn to play and will be expected to demonstrate competency on snare drum, bass drum, quads and cymbals. The Marching Knights Drum line has won several competitions during parades.

COMPUTERS

This course provides an overview of microcomputer applications, including introduction to computer concepts, Microsoft Office 2007, Keyboarding, Word Processing, and Desktop Publishing, Spreadsheet and the Internet research and PowerPoint. This is an exploratory course that begins with keyboarding skills to help students develop proper keyboarding techniques, accuracy and speed. In this hands-on course students will also learn to effectively surf the web, create interactive PowerPoint presentations, and construct various publications such as calendars, flyers and brochures. In addition, this is a course filled with exciting and interactive computer projects. In this hands-on course students will create various interactive multimedia projects using PowerPoint, Excel and Word. This does not satisfy the high school technology requirement.

BIBLE

Students are directed to an understanding of God's will for their lives through a study of God's character and application for decision making; Learning how to discern God's will as a class concerning the focus and location of the senior mission's experience. Students continue with scripture memory and involvement in service projects. The more we know and understand God through a careful study of His Word, the greater will be our personal challenge to maintain a right relationship with Him. More than simply a body of information, this course allows students to translate knowledge into personal application as they discover how attributes of God apply to daily life.

If you have any further questions regarding our curriculum feel free to contact us at 323.565.4199.