

Cornerstone Christian Academy

Course Catalog
Logic and Rhetoric School
Grades 7-12



16210 Elementary Drive

Abingdon, VA 24210

www.cornerstoneabingdon.org

Our Mission

The mission of Cornerstone Christian Academy is to provide an excellent college preparatory education that teaches students how to think, learn and live consistently with Biblical principles acknowledging God as the foundation of all knowledge and truth.

Our Vision

Kingdom builders. Essential planning strategy begins with the end in view. What do we want to see in our children as they mature into adults? What will we as parents do to increase the probability that those ends will be met?

We need to look no further than the familiar but powerful phrase in the Lord's Prayer, "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." (Matthew 6:10)

We are those kingdom builders. The major question is: whose kingdom are we building? How can we encourage our children towards the goal of building God's kingdom?

The preliminary trajectory of life is set during the elementary and secondary schooling years through the loving leadership of attentive parents and diligent teachers. Instruction from a biblical worldview equips the Christian school graduate to articulate both the foundational doctrines of the faith as well as a sense of how faith is the cornerstone of all areas of life and learning.

We want our parents to see the difference at Cornerstone Christian Academy. We want you to experience a genuine caring community. We will provide a strong academic program and aim to have solid athletic and arts programs. But most of all, we want to build God's kingdom.

We desire that Cornerstone will be a campus where God is honored, where your child is valued and encouraged, and where excellence is measured in light of eternal standards.

Students at Cornerstone are not just building an academic resume. From the earliest age, our students will discover the excitement of learning and the rewards of diligent effort. As our students leave our school, they will find themselves well prepared, having the tools and the confidence they need to handle any academic challenge. Cornerstone teachers will be exceptional educators skilled at making learning engaging and fun.

Cornerstone Christian Academy desires to be kingdom builders. We want to fulfill the Great Commission by telling students every day the good news of the gospel and helping them to live their lives consistent with biblical truth. By God's grace, Cornerstone will provide an educational opportunity for our students that builds God's kingdom through His power and for His glory.

Introduction to the Logic School

Cornerstone students build on a strong Grammar School foundation, continuing and expanding on its core distinctives: an integration of the Christian worldview, quality instruction in core academic disciplines, extensive training in reading and writing and the study of Latin language and Western culture.

In the middle grades, students move from concrete to more abstract thinking. Thus, students have a greater appetite and capacity to discuss, debate, and argue over issues both great and small. The Logic School is a place of inquiry and dialogue, geared to meet the intense curiosity of these students. Teachers lead students in interactive class discussions, prompting them to think deeper about issues and ideas, and training students in civility and persuasion when expressing their opinions in both spoken and written word.

In math, students move from the concrete to the abstract. Students continue to focus on the four basic math functions with the addition of variables and move on to solving common algebraic problems.

Science students continue to study God's creation and the wonders of our world. They will investigate God's design for plants, animals, and the human body. They expand their knowledge of the physical world and chemical components to make hypotheses and draw conclusions based on their own experimentation.

In 7th-8th grade Logic classes, students learn how to construct sound arguments, to identify logical fallacies, and to think critically about issues.

Logic School students take history and literature courses designed to deepen understanding of great ideas and cultural change. Students delve into primary sources and the Great Books to explore the relationship between actions and consequences found in history and fiction.

The study of Latin provides many proven benefits including increased vocabulary skills, advanced thinking skills, and a foundation for the study of other languages. The understanding of Latin culture provides a critical context to understanding our Western cultural heritage.

These students also expand their study of art and music to hone their creativity and beautiful expression skills.

Logic School Courses

Math 7

Math 7 is a course that reviews and builds basic skills necessary for entering pre-algebra and Algebra I courses. Review of basic algebra properties will be applied to operations with integers, fractions, and decimals. Students also learn to write proper steps to solving algebraic equations and use them to solve problems. Students will review and apply the topic of percent and solve problems applying it. Other topics of study include introduction to formal geometry, linear graphs and systems, areas and volumes of solids, statistical data and graphs, and probability.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a course that reviews and further develops the basic skills necessary for entering an Algebra 1 course. Operations with integers, fractions, and decimals will be extended to algebraic expressions and equations. Other topics of study include inequalities, exponents and roots, scientific notation, linear relationships, graphing, an introduction to geometry, basic statistics, and probability.

Bible 7

This course compares and contrasts the key tenets of Christianity to Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality. Students will memorize scripture which allows them to approach the world around them in a Christ-honoring way. Understanding different worldviews, in light of the truth of Scripture, challenges the student to accurately respond to challenging questions and point others to “the way, and the truth, and the life.”

Bible 8

This course “helps students understand how they can live out their Christian worldview in a post-Christian culture (www.summit.org).” Memorizing scripture and defining certain biblical terms, the student will grow in their faith and get a glimpse of what it looks like to follow Jesus, according to what is taught in Scripture.

Life Science (7th Grade)

In this course, students will learn to complete a lab report, including identifying what question they are trying to answer, predicting what will happen, describing what happened, and trying to explain why it happened. Students focus on the microscopic world, plants, animals, and the human body.

Physical Science (8th Grade)

This course prepares Logic students to transition into Rhetoric level science courses as they investigate the basics of chemistry and physics. It begins with a review of the scientific method and lab safety. This leads to units on motion and force, energy, electricity and magnetism, and waves. The course then transitions into chemistry with a focus on matter, atomic structure, bonding, and reactions. Students will develop their skills in the laboratory with hands on experiences in practical labs to reinforce real world application.

Humanities 7

In this course, students discover the beginnings of life and the emergence of civilization. Beginning with the Garden of Eden and continuing through history until the beginning of the Roman Empire in 753 B.C. The foundations of a Christian worldview and how it contrasts with the early pagan traditions are discussed. A foundational framework for logic and rhetoric is laid and skills are developed by a robust study of ancient texts and classroom discussion using Socratic methodology. Students will have the opportunity to write and give oral presentations on different themes within ancient thought and culture in comparison to their modern counterparts.

Humanities 8

This course focuses on history and literature from the beginning of Rome to the beginning of the Renaissance. Time periods from the emergence of Christian Rome and the development of theology through the creeds, the decline of the Roman Empire and the separation of the Eastern and Roman church, the rise of feudalism and Islam, the formation of the European culture, and the regeneration of humanism through the rise of intellectual Renaissance culture are covered.

Latin 7

This course is a preliminary course in the sequence of the eventual three-year Latin program. Seventh grade Latin is an early intermediate course in the ancient Latin language. Students engage in the four proficiencies of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on comprehending the major grammatical rules of the language. Students encounter grammatical concepts and focus on using those concepts rather than simply learning about them. As students' comprehension of Latin increases over the course of our Latin program, the ultimate goal is for them to be able to access the literature, culture, and great ideas of Western Civilization in the language in which most of those ideas were originally developed.

Latin 1 (8th Grade)

This course is the first course in the sequence of the three-year Latin program. Latin I is an early intermediate course in the ancient Latin language. Students engage in the four proficiencies of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on comprehending the major grammatical rules of the language. Students encounter grammatical concepts and focus on using those concepts rather than simply learning about them. As students' comprehension of Latin increases over the course of our Latin program, the ultimate goal is for them to be able to access the literature, culture, and great ideas of Western Civilization in the language in which most of those ideas were originally developed.

Logic Physical Education

The purpose of physical education at Cornerstone Christian Academy is to encourage students to acquire the knowledge, processes, and skills needed to engage in physical activity both now and for a lifetime, as well as promote the healthy lifestyle. Also, students will understand the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle in order to be more effective in the student's daily walk with God and the call He has upon their lives.

Logic Music

This class will introduce students to the joy and challenge of choral singing. They will find their singing voice and range. Students will learn the essentials of music theory, begin to sight read music, and will be exposed to and begin to appreciate choral music of many kinds. Seventh grade students will be introduced to beginning guitar playing.

Logic Art

This course will foster connections between the visual arts and Christianity as well as the development of students' technique in the studio arts. The instructor will emphasize a foundation in the elements of art and principles of design as a basis for current and future works. Students will practice in a variety of media, including, but not limited to drawing (pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, ink, oil pastels), sculpture (mixed media), paint (watercolor and acrylics) and printmaking. Mentorship in personal artistic development is intrinsic to the primary teaching methods of the class.

Logic 7 and 8

In 7th and 8th grade Logic classes, students learn how to construct sound arguments, to identify logical fallacies, and to think critically about issues. Emphasis is placed on the development of composition skills in order for students to be able to communicate their ideas with proper grammar, structure, logic, and clarity. More specifically, **Logic 7** is an introduction to the principles of proper reasoning, focusing on informal logical fallacies. **Logic 8** is an introduction to the principles of deductive reasoning, formal logic, and simple syllogisms.

Introduction to the Rhetoric School

The Rhetoric School continues to develop skills gained in the Logic School. At the Rhetoric level, students increasingly apply these skills to evaluating and synthesizing information while constructing a biblical interpretation of the subjects they study. Ultimately, our graduates will be able to apply a biblical worldview to ideas and works by authors of the Great Books, and they will be able to articulate a thoughtful Christian response to the issues posed by the world around them.

Students will continue their integrated study of history and literature at greater depth in the Rhetoric School. Students will continue their studies of the Great Books with courses in British, World, American, and Classic Literature. Students will have a comprehensive overview of World and U.S. History as well as U.S. Government. Writing, presentations, and oral debate opportunities will increase as students apply, evaluate, and synthesize the information that they gain.

Complementing historical and literary studies, the Bible curriculum at the Rhetoric level will address principles of interpretation, a survey of Bible doctrine, and then students will apply what they have learned with courses in apologetics and biblical worldview analysis so that they can formulate intelligent Christian responses to the influential thought systems which they will encounter in college and adult life.

Latin study in the Rhetoric School will finish basic grammar and vocabulary and then gradually shift into translating and discussing great works and figures in Latin literature.

Mathematics and science coursework will be pursued with the goal of understanding God's creation and His intelligent design. Students will apply logic, thinking, and writing skills to gain an excellent grounding in these disciplines, preparing them to complete college-level work in these areas and to become informed adults capable of following and evaluating new developments in these fields throughout their adult lives.

As with other areas, the skills emphasis of the Logic School will shift in the Rhetoric School to application in their study of logic. Students will focus upon constructing and presenting persuasive essays and speeches and developing research skills. Their senior year will culminate in a senior thesis, drawing together in practice all that they have learned about constructing a thoughtful and persuasive argument on a significant topic.

We thank you for the opportunity to partner with your family and trust that this Curriculum Guide will provide assistance through the course selection process for the school year at Cornerstone Christian Academy.

Graduation Requirements

Department	Credit	Required Course	
Literature	4	World Literature British Literature American Literature Classic Literature	9 10 11 12
Mathematics	4	Algebra I Geometry Algebra II Pre-Calculus I & II* Calculus* *Dual Enrollment/AP	9 10 10 11 12
Sciences	4	Earth Science Biology Chemistry *General Biology 1 (senior level) Anatomy *Dual Enrollment	9 10 11 12 12
History	4	World History I World History II US History Government and Personal Finance	9 10 11 12
Bible	4	Church History Old Testament* New Testament* Religions of the World w/Apologetics* *Dual Enrollment	9 10 11 12
Languages	3	Latin I (completed in 8 th Grade). Latin II Latin III Or (beginning in the 9 th grade students may choose) Spanish I Spanish II Spanish III	8 9 10 9 10 11
Physical Education & Health	2	Physical Education and Health (9 th Grade) Physical Education and Health (10 th Grade)	
Rhetoric	2	Rhetoric 11 Rhetoric 12 (Senior Thesis)	
Fine Arts	4	Rhetoric Choir I, II, III, IV Visual Art: Art I, II, III, IV	9-12 9-12

Electives	4	Personal Finance (REQUIRED w/in Government) Yearbook 11-12 Biblical Hebrew 10-12 *Students will earn a total of 4 combined fine arts/elective credits
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Honors Courses, Dual Enrollment, and Advanced Placement

CCA Honors Courses

Students in grades 9-12 may choose to take designated courses at the Honors level. Honors courses are offered in core academic areas of English, Mathematics, Science, and History. Honors courses are differentiated from regular courses through extended breadth and depth. Emphasis is on more rigorous materials and assignments that necessitate high-level critical thinking skills.

Students must have an A (90-100) average in that subject area from the previous school year to be eligible. Anyone with a high B (87-89) average may request permission to take a course as Honors on a probationary status. Students who earn below 70% in the first semester of an honors class will be moved to the regular class for the second semester.

Students can expect to have extra reading and writing assignments, homework, and projects as the Honors component to the course. Honors material is up to the discretion of the instructor.

Students wishing to participate in the honors level or dual enrollment courses must demonstrate self-motivation and initiative with a commitment to coming to class prepared. Thoughtful interactions and active class participation are expected from all students. Reading critically and effective oral and written communication are required.

Dual Enrollment

Students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grade may have opportunities to take courses as dual enrollment through Virginia Highlands Community College, King University, or other schools with offerings that meet the student's need. Some dual enrollment courses are taught by CCA instructors or others are taken directly through the college's online platform. There may be additional fees associated with online classes determined by the number of students, selection of courses, and tuition cost.

Course offerings vary by the semester depending on the institution, scheduling, and teacher availability. Some of the courses students have been able to take are Old Testament, New Testament, Religions of the World, Pre-Calculus, General Biology I, Statistics, College Algebra, and Introductory Psychology, Developmental Psychology, and Introduction to Digital Literacy and Computer Applications.

Advanced Placement and CLEP Tests

Cornerstone offers AP Calculus to those seniors who have completed the preliminary course work by the end of the junior year. At this time, no other courses are offered as AP often due to the restrictions AP places on the content of those courses. Even if not enrolled in an AP course, students are eligible to take the same tests as AP students and receive the same equivalent to college credit for scoring 3 or above. Students can possibly receive 3-6 hours of college credit per test that they take. The credit issued is at the sole discretion of a college or university. There is an early fall deadline to sign up for the AP tests. There is a fee assessed for each test a student takes.

The College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) is a series of tests you can take to earn college credit for your undergraduate degree, rather than completing lengthier courses. CLEP tests are given throughout the year at designated locations, and students can register for those online. Students can receive 3-6 hours of college credit per test that they take. The credit issued is at the sole discretion of a college or university.

Grading Scale

Course grades for report cards are calculated on a 100-point system as follows:

Logic/Rhetoric Grade Scale

Course grades **for report cards** are calculated on a 100-point system as follows:

Grading Scale	GPA (Grade Point Average)
A+ = 97 - 100	4.0
A = 93 - 96	4.0
A- = 90 - 92	3.7
B+ = 87 - 89	3.3
B = 83 - 86	3.0
B- = 80 - 82	2.7
C+ = 77 - 79	2.3
C = 73 - 76	2.0
C- = 70 - 72	1.7
D+ = 67 - 69	1.3
D = 63 - 66	1.0
D- = 60 - 62	0.7
F = 59 and below	0.0

Course Information

Bible

Four credits in Bible are required for graduation. Transfer students without previous Bible courses are required to take course in accordance with grade level sequencing.

Church History

Students learn the history of the Christian Church from its origins in Judaism to the “house churches” in contemporary China. Students study the details of the lives of prominent figures, core theological developments and the social, political, and economic movements that have affected Christianity's growth. Students will memorize parts of the book of Acts.

Old Testament

Old Testament Survey overviews the historical and geographical background, literary structure, content, and theological emphases of the books of the Old Testament. Students may take as a dual enrollment course for a 3-semester hour college credit.

New Testament

New Testament Survey overviews the historical and geographical background, literary structure, content, and theological emphases of the New Testament. Students may take as a dual enrollment course for a 3-semester hour college credit.

Apologetics and World Religions

Apologetics seeks to equip students with a proper understanding of the influence of worldviews, presenting a framework for a biblical worldview applicable to all spheres of human life, giving reasons for the faith in the face of opposing worldviews and objections. The world religions component of the course introduces the religions of the world with attention to origin, history, and doctrine, and evaluates them through the lens of the Bible's teachings. Students may take as a dual enrollment course for a 3-semester hour world religions college credit.

English

Students must earn a total of four credits of English in order to graduate.

World Literature

A survey of history and literature from A.D. 1500-1800 with an emphasis on understanding literature in its historical and cultural context, increased mastery of English grammar and composition, and evaluation of ideas and events from a biblical worldview.

British Literature

This course focuses on the study of British Literature with emphasis on reading comprehension, vocabulary, speaking, research and writing as well as the development of critical thinking and analytical skills. Specific works covered will include novels, plays, poetry and biographical information from various authors. Students will study and utilize grammar in various writing assignments including a research paper, essays, and reflections.

American Literature

Rhetoric American Literature includes a comprehensive review and mastery of basic grammar but focuses on classical literature and composition. Literature is studied chronologically beginning with the major classical epics and continuing through the present day. The purpose of this course is to further the students' mastery of reading, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary through an expanding biblical worldview as it relates to cultural history.

Classical Literature

This course will equip students to analyze classic works of literature and use their dialectical and rhetorical skills to articulate what they learn. Ultimately, this course exists not only to prepare students for a college literature course, but also to build their ability to derive meaning from the world around them as well as the divine Word God has gifted us. Consequently, this will enable students to rhetorically present what they are learning to a watching world.

Mathematics

Students must earn 4 total credits of mathematics, three of which must be Algebra I, Geometry, and Algebra II. Upon completion of these courses, students are placed in a higher level based on their performance in prerequisite classes.

Algebra 1

This course focuses on the development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for studies in further mathematics courses. In Algebra I, students learn to use the fundamental language of algebra to describe patterns. They work with formulas, discuss unknowns, and graph functions, as well as learn to apply these concepts to everyday problems. Statistics and geometry will be included to motivate work with algebraic expressions, equations, functions, and fractions.

Geometry

In this course, students study transformations, measurement formulas, three-dimensional figures, and shapes and patterns. Students undertake proof-writing, following a carefully sequenced development of logic. Emphasis is placed on drawings, measurements, and visualizations, along with properties and deduction, and the algebraic and numeric representations needed to describe the visual world. Students will be required to study and apply Euclid's theorems, postulates, and definitions. **PREREQUISITE: Algebra I**

Algebra II

This course emphasizes facility with algebraic expressions and forms—especially linear, quadratic, and polynomial forms; power; and roots—along with functions based on these concepts. Students study logarithmic, trigonometric, polynomial, and special functions both for their abstract properties and as tools for modeling real world situations. Emphasis will be placed on understanding and facility with problem solving techniques.

PREREQUISITE: Algebra I

Pre-Calculus I & II

Topics include functions and their graphs, quadratic equations, polynomials, exponential and logarithmic functions, applications involving exponential growth and decay, rational functions, systems of equations, and work with matrices. Students also study trigonometric ratios and functions, inverse trigonometric functions, applications of trigonometry, laws of sine and cosine, conics and the characteristics of them, and geometric sequences. These courses are taught as a dual enrollment option. **PREREQUISITE: Algebra II (C or higher)**

Calculus (AP)

Our study of calculus, the mathematics of motion and change, is divided into two major topics: differential and integral calculus. Differential calculus enables us to calculate rates of change, to find the slope of a curve, and to calculate velocities and accelerations of moving bodies. Integral calculus is used to find the area of an irregular region in a plane, to measure lengths of curves, and to calculate centers of mass of arbitrary solids. Students will develop a conceptual understanding of the theory behind these ideas from problems presented analytically, numerically, graphically, and verbally. Graphing calculators will be used, but most calculations will be completed by hand. At the conclusion of the course, students will have the option to take the AP Exam for the chance at earning college credit for this course. **PREREQUISITE: Pre-Calculus I and II (with grade of C or higher)**

Science

Science requirements for graduation are four years of science in the following order: Earth Science, Biology, Chemistry and General Biology 1 (DE) and Anatomy.

Earth Science

Earth Science is a survey course touching all major areas of earth science and emphasizing areas particularly important to Christian philosophy. Labs are designed to develop lab skills and reinforce content. Students learn about the foundations of our earth, our solar system, stars, exploration of space, meteorology, geology, earthquakes, volcanoes, and the hydrosphere. Our goal is twofold: to instill in students a vision of the Creator through His creation (Romans 1: 19-20, Psalms 97:6) and to teach them to carefully analyze information in light of His principles (Colossians 2:8, Proverbs 19:2, Psalms 1:1, Hosea 4:6). Class activities promote a great understanding of God's Creation from stargazing and weather prediction to studying the depths of the Earth. We study God's order, power and wisdom when studying the physical laws He created.

Biology

This course introduces students to the life sciences through lectures, projects, and laboratories. Students will study and apply scientific methods, macromolecules, cells, energy flow, genetics, heredity, evolution, ecology, homeostasis, and pathogens. Students will learn to write lab reports, while mastering safe lab techniques. Real world application is woven throughout the course.

Chemistry

This college preparatory course in general chemistry challenges students as they investigate historical concepts (how Dalton came up with his atomic postulates) and discuss current controversies (whether or not entropy is truly disorder). Students will develop their skills in the laboratory by hands-on experience and will learn proper lab techniques. Topics covered include dimensional analysis, atomic theory and structure, periodic trends, nomenclature, stoichiometry, molecular structure and geometry, acid-base chemistry, the gas laws, thermodynamics, and kinetics.

Human Anatomy

Students will learn about the many different systems of the human body and how they work together to maintain homeostasis. Students will acquire knowledge and gain understanding through lectures, reading, rhetoric (presentations and papers), laboratory investigation, and homework. Students at CCA will use this knowledge to observe how human anatomy and physiology are part of God's design. Students will also learn how to look at scientific data objectively and determine the validity of the study. Students will learn how to assess health risks and act appropriately. Integrity is important in any scientific study, and this will be stressed as students complete their own lab work and review the lab work of other scientists.

PREREQUISITES: Biology and Chemistry

General Biology I (DE)

This course focuses on foundations in cellular structure, metabolism, and genetics as well as explores the core concepts of structure and function; information flow, storage, and exchange; pathways and transformations of energy and matter; and systems biology. Emphasizes process of science, interdisciplinary approach, and relevance of biology to society. This course has a lecture component (3 credits) and a lab component (1 credit). Upon successful completion of the course, students will earn (4) college credits in science. **PREREQUISITES: Biology and Chemistry**

History

History requirements for graduation are four years in the following order: World History I, World History II, US History, and Government/Personal Finance.

World History I

Students will study A.D. 1500-1800 with an emphasis on the historical and cultural context and evaluate ideas and events from a biblical worldview. Students will study the Renaissance, the Reformation, the Age of Reason, Attempts at Liberty, and the Industrial Revolution through the lens of Scripture examining God's providence in the moments and movements of history. Geography study focuses on Europe.

World History II

This course opens with a review of western political thought and the "Age of Revolution" from the 1600s then surveys world history through World War I and II through the Cold War era. Students will read primary source materials and complete map exercises to give them a breadth of knowledge about each era. Students will analyze five key themes throughout history from a biblical perspective: justice, power, citizenship, environment, and world religions.

US History

A broad study of the American historical events, key figures, and ideals from circa 1600 alongside a study of the historical background, development, institutions, documents, and processes of the U.S. Government, up to 1877. This is accomplished by analyzing historical and political issues (ex: positive and negative outcomes of colonization, justification of Manifest Destiny), comparing and contrasting secular and biblical worldviews and motives, evaluating primary resources (ex: *The Mayflower Compact*, *Common Sense*, *Declaration of Independence*, *U.S. Constitution*), and exploring military strategies. The course will lead students to propose solutions to US problems based on their understanding of biblical teachings.

Government and Personal Finance

In this course, students will learn about essential features of American government, from its historical and scriptural foundations to detailed analysis of its inner workings. Students will understand state and local governments with a Christian worldview to help them think scripturally and critically about governmental issues. Students will learn how to budget, save, invest, and handle money responsibly and biblically. They will explore typical financial decisions made throughout life. Course material is centered around Dave Ramsey's *Foundations in Personal Finance*.

Physical Education and Health

Students must earn two credits in physical education and health to meet graduation requirements.

Physical Education and Health

The purpose of physical education at Cornerstone Christian Academy is to encourage students to acquire the knowledge, processes, skill needed to engage in physical activity both now and for a lifetime, as well as promoting the healthy lifestyle. Also, students will understand the benefits of maintaining a healthy lifestyle in order to be more effective in the student's daily walk with God and the call He has upon their lives. Students will perform exercises in each class that will demonstrate flexibility and coordination and develop muscular strength and cardiovascular endurance. Students are encouraged to have a cooperative spirit and Christ-like actions in teamwork situations. They will develop communication skills to help them participate as a team in a variety of activities and sports.

Languages

All students take age-appropriate courses in Latin through the 8th grade. Beginning in 9th grade, students may choose to continue in Latin through Latin III culminating in the sophomore year or begin studies in Spanish that ending with Spanish III in the junior year.

Latin I (8th Grade)

This course is the first course in the sequence of the three-year Latin program. Latin I is an intermediate course in the ancient Latin language. Students will continue to engage in the four proficiencies of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on comprehending the language's major grammatical rules. Students encounter grammatical concepts and focus on using those concepts rather than simply learning about them. As students' comprehension of Latin increases over the course of our Latin program, the ultimate goal is for them to be able to access the literature, culture, and great ideas of Western Civilization in the language in which most of those ideas were originally developed. Students in Latin I will continue to build upon the foundations of First and Second Form.

Latin II

This course is the second course in the sequence of the three-year Latin program. Latin II is an intermediate course in the ancient Latin language. Students engage in the four proficiencies of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, with an emphasis on comprehending the major grammatical rules of the language, although translation and conversation become more of an emphasis as the year progresses. Students encounter grammatical concepts and focus on using those concepts rather than simply learning about them. As students' comprehension of Latin increases over the course of our Latin program, the ultimate goal is for them to be able to access the literature, culture, and great ideas of Western Civilization in the language in which most of those ideas were originally developed.

Latin III

This course is the third course in the sequence of the three-year Latin program. Latin III is an advanced course in the ancient Latin language. While continuing to engage in the four proficiencies of language: listening, speaking, reading, and writing, students in Latin III will apply their knowledge in advanced translation of original resources such as the Latin Vulgate, St. Augustine's *The City of God*, Vergil, Cicero, and Caesar. In Latin III, we reach our ultimate goal of accessing the literature, culture, and great ideas of Western Civilization in the language in which most of those ideas were originally developed. Grammar and culture will continue to be studied with *Henle Latin*.

Spanish I

This course is the first course in the sequence of the three-year Spanish program. Spanish I teaches the four basic language skills: listening, comprehension, speaking, and reading and writing, within a cultural context. Students learn to engage in conversation, understand the written and spoken language, demonstrate knowledge of cultural practices and perspectives, develop insight into the nature of the Spanish language.

Spanish II

This course is the second course in the sequence of the three-year Spanish program. In Spanish II students will continue learning the Spanish language through cultural immersion, building upon the skills learned in Spanish I. Students will broaden their knowledge of grammatical, conversational, and cultural aspects of the Spanish language.

Spanish III

This course is the third course in the sequence of the three-year Spanish program. While continuing to build skills gained in Spanish I and II, students will culminate their Spanish study as they immerse ever deeper into Spanish and Mexican culture.

Fine Arts

Fine Arts play an integral role in any education, especially a classical Christian education. Students must earn 4 fine arts/elective credits to graduate. Students may choose from art of choir in grades 9-12. Other elective choices open up in the later Rhetoric years.

Rhetoric Art

This course will foster connections between the visual arts and Christianity as well as the development of students' technique in the studio arts. The instructor will emphasize personal style and creativity in a way that will challenge both beginning and more advanced artists. Students will complete this course with a deeper literacy of the major works of art in relevant historical periods, a skillful handling of the formal elements of art and principles of design, and practice in a variety of media, including, but not limited to drawing (pencil, colored pencil, charcoal, ink, oil pastels), sculpture (mixed media), paint (watercolor and acrylics) and printmaking. Mentorship in personal artistic development and technique is intrinsic to the primary teaching methods of the class.

Rhetoric Choir

In Rhetoric Choir, students continue to build upon previously acquired skills to see God's truth, beauty, and goodness through the joy of musical performance. Students will engage in the study of basic to intermediate music theory while learning to perform a variety of vocal genres. Students may earn up to four credits in Rhetoric Choir.

Other Electives.

Yearbook

This course will give students the opportunity to learn and experience design skills which will serve them in a wide variety of professional fields. We will focus primarily on photography, visual hierarchy, typography, editorial formatting, and public interview techniques. Students will have many opportunities to exercise these skills by documenting athletics, special events, chapel, etc., interviewing their peers, designing pages and spreads, and taking ownership of their own creative process and design style. The aim for this course is to develop a comprehensive understanding of journalism and its practical applications, as well as the importance of encouraging and uplifting our peers.

Biblical Languages

An introduction to the biblical languages of Hebrew and Greek using a blend of second-language acquisition methods, extensive classroom interaction, and grammar instruction to provide a foundation for reading the Bible in the original languages.

Formal Rhetoric

Two Rhetoric credits are required for graduation.

Rhetoric 11

Rhetoric 11 explores the art of rhetoric in great speech and in great writing. Through observation, analysis, and practice, students will learn the foundational appeals (ethos, pathos, and logos), the five canons of rhetoric (invention, organization, style, memory, and delivery), and the three genres of rhetoric (deliberative, epideictic, and judicial).

Rhetoric 12 and Senior Thesis

The senior thesis represents the culmination of a Cornerstone student's education—critical thinking, research tactics, persuasive writing, and rhetoric abilities by preparing, presenting, and defending a substantive argument on a debatable question. The senior thesis is a capstone project, the crowning achievement in a student's academic journey. In completing the 18-to-20-page thesis, students bring all that they have learned—reading, writing, and arguing—to bear on one issue. They learn the background of the topic, analyze other people's arguments, and synthesize their findings and discoveries, putting it all together to form a true, good, and beautiful whole. Students present their papers in a 13-to-15 minute oral defense to the Board of Directors, Faculty, and their families at the end of their senior year.