

Our vision is that every CHA student is *rooted* in a deep love for God, *known* within our community, *engaged* in educational excellence, and *inspired* to make a difference.



CHRISTIAN HERITAGE
ACADEMY

CURRICULUM GUIDE

	BIBLE	MATH	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	MUSIC	PHYSICAL ED	ART
PK	Learn about how the Bible is our guide, teaching us truth and the character of Jesus, God's Son. Discover what it means to follow His example, treating one another with love and respect, just as Jesus did.	Develop number sense, identify relationships in objects, understand geometry, and analyze data. This involves measuring and comparing objects and quantities, estimating, recognizing patterns and shapes, and making predictions.	Develop communication skills—listening, speaking, and letter recognition and sounds—through a play-based curriculum that fosters language use and understanding in emergent reading and writing.	Explore life, physical, and earth sciences based on their interests. Make predictions and hypotheses, then determine their validity through investigation, exploration, and experimentation.	Explore individuality and belonging within families, schools, neighborhoods, communities, and the world. Learn about democracy and develop participatory skills like negotiation, problem-solving, communicating needs, and decision-making.	Explore sound, creative play, music-making, and movement through the <i>Kindermusik</i> program. Learn about worshipping God through body and voice.	Develop movement skills, understand rules and safety during physical activity, build team-building skills, and adopt healthy eating habits and general health practices. Transition from parallel play to interactive play with peers.	Foster individualized creativity through the art center, equipped with scissors, markers, stickers, glue, and colored paper, and through the block center, stocked with nails, hammers, screws, rubber bands, foam blocks, and screwdrivers. Encourage individual creativity during guided art projects in small group time.
K	Discover twelve biblical truths that reveal God's character and our identity as His children, guiding us to follow Him faithfully.	Master addition and subtraction up to 10, number sense up to 100, flat and solid shapes, and measurements, learning to count by groups and apply this knowledge to real-life problem-solving.	Master letter sounds, decoding and encoding CVC words, consonant blends, and digraphs to help in reading decodable books.	Use observational skills to explore science topics like plants, animals, and natural forces. Apply non-standard measuring skills to understand forces and use listening and visual cues to observe patterns and changes in animal and plant life.	Explore local communities, including the roles within each and how they function. Compare and contrast different community roles and functions, and engage in role-playing to understand community dynamics.	Use singing, movement, and rudimentary instruments to learn the basic elements of music, including pitch, rhythm, and timbre. Create and respond to beautiful sounds with body and voice.	Learn proper form techniques for throwing, jumping, running, dancing, exercising, and balancing. Explore various sports and how to perform their specific actions. Emphasize teamwork, good sportsmanship, and the importance of exercising, stretching, and warming up. Find joy in being active.	Explore the seven elements of art—line, shape, color, value, texture, form, and space. Learn to use and manipulate various art tools, such as pencils, paintbrushes, and Cray-Pas, to complete artworks. Emphasize craftsmanship and creativity in art creation.
1st	Learn what it means to be made in God's image, reflecting His characteristics as Creator, Helper, and Savior. Through Jesus' death on the cross, He became our Redeemer as well!	Understand how place value helps with addition and subtraction, both in computation and word problems, with and without regrouping.	Develop phonetic skills to improve fluency and automaticity. Identify genres, main ideas, and story elements, as well as compare and contrast, sequence stories, make predictions, draw conclusions, and recognize cause and effect. Capitalization, end marks, and parts of speech are also practiced.	Explore God's design in day and night patterns, plant and animal traits and survival, and engage in experimentation.	Understand the importance of rules and compare and contrast schools from the past with those today. Develop map skills, including locating continents and oceans.	Develop beginning music literacy, including the basic elements of pitch, rhythm, timbre, and expression. Learn basic note-reading and rhythms, recognize and name instruments, and continue developing musical abilities through movement and singing.	Engage in various physical activities that integrate faith values, encourage character development, and promote teamwork, while learning different ways to keep the body active. Focus on the development and growth of gross locomotor skills and spatial awareness.	Study color theory and the color wheel, exploring the contrast between warm and cool colors, balancing color in a composition, and understanding value within each color. Create clean, carefully detailed artwork by blending colors with different art tools, cutting precisely with scissors, and using a ruler for straight lines.
2nd	Learn what it means to live in harmony with God, others, ourselves, and creation.	Master addition, subtraction, and regrouping with 3-digit numbers, as well as multiplication and division by 2s, 3s, 4s, 5s, and 10s. This enables us to apply these math concepts to real-world story problems.	Transition from learning to read to reading to learn by identifying different genres of literature and exploring an author's purpose and main idea. Language arts content includes parts of speech, phonics, and writing paragraphs and nonfiction passages.	Study and exploration of God's creation through hands-on experiments using Mystery Science, including seed growth, properties of matter, whales and reptiles, erosion, and insects	Explore different communities throughout American history and identify cultural differences and their relevance to life today.	Achieve rhythmic accuracy, tonal recognition, and music literacy through musical play. Learn to devote musical talents to the worship of God, recognize rhythmic and melodic notation, describe and demonstrate timbres, and define musical terms.	Engage in various physical activities that integrate faith values, encourage character development, and promote teamwork, while learning different ways to keep the body active. Learn and perform basic sports skills and cooperate with game rules.	Draw animals step-by-step using guide shapes and lines, create complete, balanced compositions, and incorporate space in artwork with a foreground, middle ground, and background. Develop shading and blending skills and practice acrylic paint techniques.
3rd	Discover essential truths about our relationship with God, self, others, and creation, highlight what it means to be His image-bearer, and reflect on general lessons from the Bible.	Master multiplication, division, measurement, money, fractions, shapes, and time. This allows us to solve 1- and 2-step problems using methods like skip counting, model drawing, part-to-whole strategies, estimation, and standard algorithms.	Develop fluency, comprehension, and vocabulary through targeted units and novel studies. Sequence and summarize novels while covering language arts content like parts of speech, capitalization, punctuation, transition words, voice, and word relationships. Descriptive and expository writing are also practiced.	Study animals and plants, including their environments, life cycles, structures, and functions. Explore weather, climate, and forces, and practice comparing and contrasting. Investigations help students make predictions based on their findings.	Study geography and mapping, cultures and communities, Chicago history, city hall, and supply and demand. Use comparisons, representations, and explanations to address social studies questions.	Develop rhythmic accuracy, tonal recognition, and music literacy through play and collaboration. Implement rhythmic and melodic notation on advanced classroom instruments, describe and select preferred timbres, and identify musical terms in written music.	Engage in various physical activities that integrate faith values, encourage character development, and promote teamwork, while learning different ways to keep the body active. Build on accurately replicating basic sports skills and team cooperation to enhance physical activity levels and social interaction.	Explore form, perspective, point-of-view, and shadows in artwork. Practice blending and shading colors with paint, Cray-Pas, charcoal, and pencils. Use precision work with smaller art tools to draw complex trees, animals, and self-portraits.
4th	Follow Jesus' example of servanthood, learning to love and serve others. This also involves applying Bible stories and truths to our lives, and committing Scripture to memory.	Obtain an increased understanding of number sense with larger numbers, including place value, multiplication, division, fractions, and decimals. This allows us to perform number operations and solve real-world problems.	Strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and fluency through novel studies and nonfiction texts. Write paragraphs and essays, including fictional narratives, informational reports, and persuasive essays, while learning sentence and paragraph structure. Oral presentations are also practiced.	Learn about the human body and the forces that God has created in our world. Engage in the scientific process by making observations, creating hypotheses, conducting trials, and analyzing results.	Explore the geographic, economic, historic, and cultural highlights of the five regions of the country, including states and capitals. Learn regional vocabulary and develop map skills.	Achieve rhythmic accuracy, tonal recognition, and music literacy through performance, collaboration, and composition. Implement advanced rhythmic and melodic notation on classroom instruments and describe and select preferred timbres.	Engage in various physical activities that integrate faith values, encourage character development, and promote teamwork, while learning different ways to keep the body active. Understand and demonstrate sportsmanship, fair gameplay, and sports rules.	Create complex textures using various art tools, such as pencils, watercolors, and acrylics. Focus on proportions of the figure and facial features, and develop unique, consistent textures with different brushes and types of paint. Further develop shading skills to add texture, create the illusion of space, and add shadows.
5th	Study the overarching theme of God's plan to redeem and restore His creation. This also involves applying Bible stories and truths to our lives, and committing Scripture to memory.	Gain mastery over fractions, decimals, and percentages. Learn how it enables us to solve real-world problems using these key mathematical concepts.	Enhance reading comprehension, vocabulary enrichment, and fluency through novel studies. Engage in critical thinking about characters and their motives, and practice the writing process, including proper grammar conventions with the eight parts of speech and the use of figurative and descriptive language.	Explore the earth and its cycles, including food webs, ecosystems, and the water cycle, as well as space and the properties of matter. Investigate using the scientific method and understand God's order and purpose in the world.	Discover ancient civilizations, including their development and progression.	Develop rhythmic accuracy, tonal recognition, and music literacy through performance, collaboration, composition, and improvisation. Practice rhythmic and melodic notation on advanced classroom instruments and describe and select timbres to convey ideas.	Engage in various physical activities that integrate faith values, encourage character development, and promote teamwork, while learning different ways to keep the body active. Enhance physical literacy and gameplay by applying strategies and coordinating multiple movements across different sports.	Explore textures, complex patterns, and abstract figures. Create space using one-point perspective drawings and use a ruler for measurement and perspective. Apply a variety of tools in new ways to blend or apply different mediums to your artwork.

	BIBLE	MATH	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	PHYSICAL EDUCATION	ART (6th) and WORLD LANGUAGES (7th-8th)	EXPLORATORIES ¹	PERFORMING ARTS ² (6th-8th)	LEARNING RESOURCE ⁴ (6th-8th)
6th	Bible 6 Explore the sweep of redemptive history from the Old Testament narrative, from creation to the coming of Messiah, learning in the process how to interpret and apply the Bible faithfully.	Course 2 Learn and practice mathematical concepts including multiples, factors, linear relationships, scientific notation, variable expressions, ratios and percentages, and two-step equations.	English 6 Examine literature through a Biblical lens, explore vocabulary through Classical roots, practice varied sentence structure, and present on independent reading.	Science 6 Explore God's world through observation, classification, and an intro to the scientific method. Content includes atoms, elements, simple machines, geology, and a trip to northern Wisconsin.	World History Explore the Common Era around the globe, including early Chinese civilization and the Industrial Revolution, through project-based activities, source analysis, and discussion.	PE 6 Practice and evaluate health- and skill-related fitness through physical activities, sports, basic skill training, and the development of strong social and emotional skills.	Art 6 Engage in various materials, techniques, and disciplines while learning to implement elements and principles of art through designing, refining, and creating multimedia works of art.	Art (7th-8th) Explore color theory and create a non-traditional color wheel in painting, engage in visual problem-solving in drawing, and hone skills in precision shading and mark-making with various pencil grades and blending stumps. Delve into ceramics through study in history and the basics of clay and Greek pottery, additive and subtractive clay techniques, and creation of patterns and textures. Google Suite (6th) Explore Google Docs for word processing, Google Slides for creating presentations, and Google Drive for storing and sharing files. Learn about Google Classroom to manage assignments and collaborate with teachers and peers.	Choir Sing in an ensemble using music from varied genres and time periods to develop musical literacy and tonal ability. Engage in community-building, thoughtful expression of ideas, and worship. Band ³ Develop the ability to read, perform, and express oneself through an instrument. Participation includes individual and group performances each semester.	Learning Resource Receive help with homework, writing assignments, test preparation, organization, and study skills. Obtain assistance with understanding and mastering more challenging concepts from the class curriculum. Acquire more skills to increase self-awareness with a trajectory toward the self-advocacy and skills needed for success in high school.
7th	Bible 7 Examine select sections of Scripture to know God more deeply; learn how God loves us with an unparalleled love; and understand that His redemption plan for us through His Son Jesus is generous, merciful, and miraculous.	Course 3 Continue building a strong foundation in core mathematical concepts including area, perimeter, square roots, linear functions, graphing, operations with positive and negative whole numbers, multi-step equations, percentages, and rates. Pre-Algebra Explore algebraic foundations, such as expressions, equations, inequalities, exponents, factors, rational numbers, linear functions, probability, and polynomials, transitioning from basic to abstract mathematical concepts.	English 7 Uncover meaning in more sophisticated texts, including poetry, short stories, and drama; write using both expository and narrative pieces; and begin learning MLA conventions.	Life Science Study life science, including cell structure, human body systems, the animal kingdom, and plant diversity through observation, classification, measurement, prediction, controlling variables, and drawing conclusions.	US History 7 Examine early America through the Civil War by discussing motives and beliefs, reading historical sources, collaborating on historical projects, and visiting Springfield, IL.	PE 7 Continue developing health- and skill-related fitness. Learn the Karvonen formula and how it is relative to the F.I.T.T. acronym in relation to both nutrition and physical activity.	MS Spanish I Explore the basics through reading, speaking, and writing about school, places, foods, activities, and family in the present tense. Connect Spanish structures to English patterns and manage large amounts of content for memory.	Humanities (6th-8th) Explore the relationship among the disciplines of literature, history, music, art, and language. Practice using the Hero's Journey to understand theme, character, and conflict in literature. Statistics (6th-8th) Collect, summarize, display, and compare data utilizing Google Sheets and the TI-84 graphing calculator. Subsequently engage in simple probability, sample spaces, experimental and theoretical probability, simulations and predictions, independent events, and dependent events. Create data displays, including bar charts, pie charts, stem and leaf plots, box and whisker plots, and histograms.	Theater Explore diverse theater forms and their histories through observation and reflection, theater games, project-based learning and performance. Communications Improve verbal communication skills, including public speaking and debate. Learn how to deliver a speech and how to craft a logical, persuasive argument.	
8th	Bible 8 Explore God's glorious plan for redemptive history from the New Testament, beginning with the Gospel accounts of the ministry of Jesus up to the story of the consummation of all things in Revelation.	Algebra I * Explore constants, expressions, equations, and functions in addition to order of operations, integers, polynomials, factoring, graphing linear and quadratic equations, and radicals. Geometry * Study the properties of geometric figures and basic trigonometry to develop abstract and logical thinking through deductive and inductive reasoning techniques.	English 8 Explore enduring themes such as suffering and redemption; research human rights abuses and Gospel-driven activism; and present arguments using art, speech, and a formal research paper.	Physical Science Explore and examine matter, atomic structure, the periodic table, chemical bonding and reactions, motion, and forces with increasing sophistication using the scientific method.	US History 8 Explore US history from the Civil War to the present through increasingly sophisticated source analysis, collaborative projects, maps and timelines, and a trip to Washington, DC.	PE 8 Continue developing health- and skill-related fitness in addition to growing leadership skills, learning about the five heart rate zones, and participating in resistance training to avoid using drugs and to keep safe.	MS Spanish II Read, speak, and write about going out to restaurants, shops, public sites, and natural settings, as well as helping communities in the present and preterite tenses. Completion of MS Spanish II counts as an earned high school Spanish I credit.	STEM (6th-8th) Engage in collaborative engineering and science projects involving catapults, air resistance operated balloon cars, marble run construction, egg drops, model paper airplanes, and marble run roller coasters. Engage in engineering projects that explore Newton's Three Laws of Motion in preparation for 9th grade conceptual physics.		

* Algebra 1 and Geometry are high school level courses that will count for elective credit in Upper School and will keep students advancing on their math track.

¹ Exploratories are required, quarter-long courses that may vary by school year.

² Middle School students have their choice of Performing Arts courses.

³ Private lessons and approval by the band director are prerequisites for students who are beginning band in Middle School.

⁴ Learning Resource students have a Student Service Plan identifying their specific learning needs or have been referred by their teachers for academic assistance.

	BIBLE	LANGUAGE ARTS	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES	MATHEMATICS 9th-12th, sequential	WORLD LANGUAGE 9th-12th, sequential	FINE ARTS / TECHNOLOGY* 9th-12th	LIFE COURSES 9th-12th	PHYSICAL ED 9th-12th	OTHER COURSES 9th-12th
9th	Bible I Undertake a comprehensive survey of the Old Testament, emphasizing the significance of comprehending its cultural and literary context to facilitate a nuanced understanding of the Old Testament.	English I Interpret and respond to classic literature, including Shakespeare, from a Christ-centered perspective through training in analytical reading and logical writing. <i>Honors offered.</i>	Physics Study motion, momentum, energy, waves, sound, and light while completing activities and lab work designed to ignite curiosity, concept development, critical thinking, and problem-solving. <i>Honors offered.</i>	Human Geography Using research and argumentation, students explore how humanity interacts with the world around them through the lenses of sociology, economics, and politics – and how God’s redemptive plan touches all aspects of how humans treat each other. <i>AP offered.</i>	Algebra I In this high school course, students explore constants, expressions, equations, and functions in addition to operations, integers, polynomials, factoring, graphing linear and quadratic equations, and radicals. <i>Honors offered</i> Geometry In this high school course, students study the properties of geometric figures and basic trigonometry to develop abstract and logical thinking through deductive and inductive reasoning techniques. <i>Honors offered</i>	Spanish I Students explore God’s world through speaking, writing, and reading about school, places, foods, activities, and family, developing their ability to interpret meaning, connect Spanish structures to English patterns, and produce accurate statements at the Novice and Intermediate levels. Spanish II Students read, write, and talk about school, shopping, events, errands, and celebrations, using the present, preterite, and imperfect tenses. Students make and interpret increasingly complex statements at the Intermediate Level. Spanish III Students further their vocabulary, listening, speaking, and cultural understanding through a variety of activities at the Intermediate and Advanced Levels. Spanish IV Students delve deeply into Spanish language and culture through themes driven by authentic Latin Literature excerpts.	2D Design / Drawing & Painting Students will explore the elements and principles of art and design through the lens of two-dimensional media. They will have the opportunity to create intriguing and meaningful works of art through traditional drawing, watercolor painting, and acrylic painting. 3D Design / Sculpture & Ceramics Students will explore the elements and principles of art and design through forming three-dimensional works of art with structural integrity and visual interest. They will primarily engage in clay media as well as building structures using mixed media. Choir Students participate in a vibrant choral ensemble that performs and studies music from varied genres while building community and thoughtful expression of ideas and worship. Students develop their musical literacy and tonal ability both individually and as a group through rehearsal and performance. Current Events & Debate Students have the opportunity to discuss and debate current events and other important issues. We will approach these conversations from a Biblical perspective, emphasizing truth, civility, and respect. Instrumental Ensemble Students learn what it means to excel both individually and as a group through instrumental ensemble rehearsal and performance – all with the goal of glorifying God through His gift of music Theater Students delve deeply into embodied storytelling styles through individual and group practices, theater games and performances, while fostering ideas and increasingly diverse thought through reflection and class discussions. Yearbook Students produce the school yearbook. They learn a variety of skills, including photography, interviewing, and publishing.	Health (9th) Students build a foundation for healthy physical, mental, spiritual, and emotional well-being through both academic learning and healthy habits. Civics (10th) Students explore the basic principles of American government and citizenship, with special emphasis on the U.S. Constitution, the function of federal, state, and local governments, and how Christians should approach civic engagement. Communications (11th) Students learn how to communicate effectively and ethically, particularly in today’s digital world, with an emphasis on public speaking. College and Career Prep I (11th) Students will gain understanding of self through assessments, discussions, and self-reflections. They will also acquire information about colleges, majors, and careers through various resources. College and Career Prep II (12th) Students will prepare for postsecondary education and/or career by completing College applications, learning about Financial Aid resources, exploring majors, and considering life after CHA graduation. Consumer Education (12th) Students will explore personal finance from a Biblical perspective. They will study budgeting, saving money, credit and debt, insurance, income and taxes, housing and real estate, as well as investing and retirement.	Fit for Life Students can complete their physical education credit through independent participation in lifetime activities that promote physical well-being. Strength & Conditioning Students use weight and calisthenic training to build strength and fitness specific to their particular goals, all recognizing that our bodies are a gift from God to be properly cared for.	Senior Seminar (12th) Students integrate previous coursework, knowledge, skills, and experiential learning to design a project that stirs their passion, connects with their faith, and makes a difference in the community. Learning Resource Students will receive support as they adjust to Upper School. Lessons will focus on test preparation & self awareness. Students will acquire test skills and develop self awareness through different interest inventories.
10th	Bible II Explore the New Testament, emphasizing the significance of comprehending its cultural and literary context to facilitate both a nuanced understanding of individual passages and the metanarrative of redemptive history.	English II Explore timeless themes through the works of authors such as Plato, Shakespeare, and C.S. Lewis, using clear evidence-based argumentation and mature, analytical writing. <i>Honors offered.</i>	Chemistry Examine God’s design of matter and its interactions starting with atomic theory, then chemical bonds, and finally chemical reactions, gaining hands-on laboratory experience and complex data analysis skills along the way. <i>Honors offered.</i>	European History Students examine the major figures and events of Europe from 1350 to the present, with an emphasis on events influencing American history, using compare and contrast and source analysis, all through a Christian worldview. <i>AP offered.</i>	Algebra II Students explore solving, graphing, and finding the inverse of diverse functions, including polynomial, radical, exponential, logarithmic, and rational functions. <i>Honors offered</i> Precalculus Students examine increasingly complex functions, in addition to matrices, conic sections, sequences, induction, and probability, building a strong foundation for advanced courses and real-world applications in mathematics and sciences. <i>AP offered.</i>					
11th	Bible III Delve deeply into systematic theology, covering the Biblical doctrine of the Church from the Doctrine of the Word of God to the Doctrine of Last Things with an overall goal of understanding scripture and developing a Christian, Biblical worldview. <i>Honors offered.</i>	English III Study American poetry, short stories, historical documents, and essays. Refine evidence-based argumentation and close-reading skills through student-led discussions and research writing. <i>Honors offered.</i> <i>Dual Credit offered.</i>	Biology Explore the life God created through topics ranging from biomolecules, cells, and energy flow to genetics, heredity, and the origins of life. Students gain hands-on laboratory experience, analyze data, and evaluate ethical issues through a Biblical lens. <i>Honors offered.</i>	US History Students examine the events, figures, and trends of American history from 1492 to the present, focusing on how God has used our country’s past for His Kingdom. Students examine credible claims about the past using reliable evidence and sound reasoning. <i>AP offered.</i>						
12th	Bible IV Explore Christian ethics, Christian Apologetics, and Hermeneutics, accurately reading and interpreting Scripture in order to apply the Bible to the great ethical and philosophical questions of our time. <i>Honors offered.</i> <i>Dual Credit offered.</i>	English IV Explore the human quest for meaning by examining the belief systems embedded in 20th-century novels by authors including Kafka, Endo, Lagerkvist, and Camus, and King Solomon’s <i>Ecclesiastes</i> . <i>Honors offered.</i> <i>Dual Credit offered.</i>	Environmental Science Students examine a range of topics including ecology, human populations, earth science, land and water use, energy sources, pollution, and global change, gaining hands-on laboratory experience and learning to critically evaluate data. <i>AP offered.</i>	Psychology Students explore human behavior and mental processes, including the major psychological disorders and their treatment, through understanding and evaluating current research and practices through a Christian worldview. <i>AP offered.</i>	AP Calculus AB or BC Students explore complex mathematical concepts such as limits and continuity, differentiation and its applications, the integral and its applications, exponential functions, and differential equations. AP Calc students creatively solve highly complex problems and must demonstrate sophisticated understanding through written and verbal explanations. <i>AP offered.</i>					

NOTES: This document is designed to serve as an overview of the curriculum for Upper School students by standard grade level courses and by tracks. Not all courses will be available to all students; some require prerequisites, some are limited to certain grades. For the full scope and sequence, including graduation requirements, please refer to the CHA Upper School Academic Catalog for the appropriate school year.

*Fine Arts / Technology courses can be repeated each year because of new content, projects, and performances.