



COURSE CATALOG

2021-2022

OUR MISSION

Ascent Classical Academy trains the minds and improves the hearts of young people through a classical, content-rich education in the liberal arts and sciences, with instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue in an orderly and disciplined environment.

LOCATIONS

Ascent Classical Academy of Douglas County

10004 Park Meadows Drive, Lone Tree, CO 80124
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Ascent Classical Academy of Northern Colorado

6402 S. County Road 5, Windsor, CO 80528
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The offerings listed in this course catalog are subject to campus availability.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Ascent Classical Academy Credit Requirements

REQUIREMENT	CREDIT HOURS
History	4.5
English	4.0
Mathematics ¹	4.0
Science ²	4.0
Latin / Foreign Language ³	3.0
Fine Arts	1.0
Government	1.0
Logic and Rhetoric	1.0
Moral and Political Philosophy	1.0
Physical Education / Health	1.0
Economics	0.5
Senior Thesis (Capstone)	0.5
Electives	2.0
TOTAL	27.0

ACA Requirements for Colorado Department of Education

- Post-graduation advisement plan
- Demonstration of English proficiency
 - Senior Thesis (Capstone)
- Demonstration of Mathematics proficiency
 - Minimum score of 500 on SAT mathematics section *or*
 - Minimum score of 50 on the AFQT (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery), *or*
 - Mathematics Capstone

¹ Must include Geometry and Algebra II

² Must include Biology and Chemistry

³ Must include one credit hour of Latin

UPPER SCHOOL COURSE MAP

Required Course

	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade	
Composition, Civics, and Philosophy	7th-Grade Comp. and Grammar	8th-Grade Comp. and Grammar	Comp./Logic and Rhetoric		Political Philosophy and American Government	AP U.S. Government and Politics and Economics	Senior Thesis (Capstone) and Moral Philosophy
History	Intro to Western Civilization	Intro to American History	Western Civ. I	AP European History (Western Civ. II)	AP U.S. History	Modern World History	
English	Intro to Classical Literature	Intro to American Literature	Ancient Literature	British Literature	AP American Literature	AP Modern Literature	
Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I	Euclidean Geometry	Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Calculus (AP / Dual Enrollment)	4 High School Credits Required
Science	Life Science	Conceptual Physics	Biology	Chemistry	Physics I or Advanced Science	Advanced Science	4 High School Credits Required
Language	7th-Grade Latin	8th-Grade Latin	Latin I	Language Elective	Language Elective	Language Elective	3 High School Credits Required
Fine Arts	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	Fine Arts Elective	1 High School Credit Required
Physical Education	7th-Grade P.E.	8th-Grade P.E.	P.E. Elective	High School P.E.	P.E. Elective	P.E. Elective	1 High School Credit Required
Electives			Elective	Elective	Elective	Elective	8 Total High School Credits Required

COURSE CREDIT AND GPA

Credit Hours

Credit hours are awarded to students in grades 9-12 who successfully pass a course with a grade of D- or above. Credit hours are awarded at the rate of 0.5 credit hours per course, per semester.

Grade Points

Ascent Classical Academies uses the following grade scale for awarding grade points and credit hours per semester course grade:

GRADE LETTER	GRADE POINTS	CUTOFF %	MAXIMUM %	CREDIT HOURS
A	4.0	97	–	0.5
A-	3.7	90	96.9	0.5
B+	3.3	87	89.9	0.5
B	3.0	84	87.9	0.5
B-	2.7	80	83.9	0.5
C+	2.3	77	79.9	0.5
C	2.0	76	76.9	0.5
C-	1.7	70	73.9	0.5
D+	1.3	67	69.9	0.5
D	1.0	64	66.9	0.5
D-	0.7	60	63.9	0.5
F	0.0	–	59.9	0

Honors Courses

All courses in core subjects (Composition, Civics, and Philosophy; English; History; Mathematics; and Science), language courses of level three and above, and dual enrollment courses are honors-level courses and are weighted on a 5.0 scale. One additional grade point is awarded for a passing semester grade of an honors-level course.

Grade Point Average (GPA)

Both weighted (5.0 scale) and unweighted (4.0 scale) GPAs are reported on student transcripts. GPA is calculated by averaging all grade points over attempted credit hours from grades 9-12.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPOSITION, CIVICS, AND PHILOSOPHY

7th-Grade Composition & Grammar

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 1

In this course, students will build upon their prior knowledge of the art of writing through explicit grammar and composition instruction and practice. This includes, but is not limited to, understanding and recognizing the eight parts of speech and their specific roles in a sentence, sentence analysis and diagramming, crafting cohesive and thoughtful sentences, paragraphs, and essays, and becoming familiar with the editing process.

8th-Grade Composition & Grammar

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 1

This course builds on the concepts covered in 7th-grade composition but can still stand alone as a contained and advanced composition course. The course briskly covers the eight parts of speech, verbals, and clauses to spend more time with writing, mechanics, and usage. This is accomplished through a variety of ways, but most frequently through teacher modeling and student practice. An emphasis is placed on writing assignments which will best prepare students for writing reports and performing literary analysis.

Composition

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

Note: This course is replaced by the Logic course after a school's third year.

Through this course, students will gain a deeper understanding of formal grammar and its application to the art of writing to improve upon their prior knowledge and skills. This course focuses on students' writing skills and develops their ability to compose different types of papers for a range of purposes and audiences. This course enables students to explore and practice descriptive, narrative, persuasive, or expository styles. Although the course may present some opportunities for creative writing, its focus remains on nonfiction, scholarly, and formal writing.

Logic

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

Note: This course replaces the 9th-grade Composition course after a school's third year.

This course provides students with an introduction to formal logic – including the concepts of simple apprehension, judgement, and deductive inference – before exploring advanced topics. Such topics include translating ordinary sentences into logical statements, identifying and working with hypothetical and complex syllogisms, and understanding the logic of relations.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPOSITION, CIVICS, AND PHILOSOPHY *(cont.)*

Rhetoric

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

Aristotle defines rhetoric as “the art of discovering all of the available means of persuasion in a given situation with the intentional goal of affecting change.” In this course, students will learn an artistic skill which uses a number of persuasive techniques to create a case for change. Constructing structurally sound arguments, establishing credibility, and arousing emotion in an audience are primary skills that aid this creative endeavor. As pockets of the outside world use rhetoric to further detrimental ends, this course seeks to form individuals who will effectively contend with such arguments and promote good decision-making.

Political Philosophy

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 11 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

This course serves as an introduction to political philosophy. From reading and discussing primary texts, students will develop an understanding of the body politic and political structures, develop skills for critically engaging with a philosophical text, and grow in their reading analysis and writing abilities. Covered texts include Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics* and *Politics*, Aquinas’ *Summa Theologiae*, and the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels.

American Government

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 11 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

In this course, students apply knowledge gained in previous years of study to pursue a deeper understanding of the institutions of American Government. In addition, they draw on their studies of world and American history and geography and other societies to compare differences and similarities in world governmental systems today. This course is the culmination of Western Civilization and U.S. History classes to prepare students to address problems, to understand and to participate in the governmental process, and to be a responsible citizen of the United States and the world.

AP United States Government & Politics

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

AP U.S. Government and Politics is an introductory college-level course in U.S. government and politics. Students cultivate their understanding of U.S. government and politics through analysis of data and text-based sources as they explore topics like constitutionalism, liberty and order, civic participation in a representative democracy, competing policy-making interests, and methods of political analysis.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

COMPOSITION, CIVICS, AND PHILOSOPHY *(cont.)*

Economics

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

The general objective of a high school economics course is for students to master fundamental economic concepts, appreciate how the principal concepts of economics relate to each other and understand the structure of economic systems. Students will use economic concepts in dealing with personal, communal, national, and global economic issues. The concepts of scarcity, property, value, trade, money, banking, prices, and the business cycle are presented in both formal theoretical and applied contexts. Students will read and discuss positive and normative economic ideas within the Austrian, Keynesian, and Neoclassical schools of thought.

Moral Philosophy

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

This course provides students with an introduction to moral philosophy, focused on the central question of “what makes a worthy life?” By engaging a series of selected texts – with a strong emphasis on Plato and Aristotle – students grapple with the minds and persistent ideas of great Western philosophers as they attempt to answer this question. By the end of this course, students will develop an appreciation for the difficulty – and necessity – of identifying and living a meaningful, purposeful, and moral life.

Senior Thesis

PREREQUISITE: NONE | GRADE LEVEL: 12 | SEMESTERS: 1 (0.5 CREDITS)

The Senior Thesis is a year-long, self-directed capstone project. The thesis is an academic paper based on a topic and work of the student’s choice, whose argument and significance the student will articulate and defend before a panel. The Senior Thesis is, in essence, the culmination of a student’s classical education. The course is designed to guide students through the research, writing, and speaking processes of the thesis. Upon completing this course with a grade of C- or higher, students will have satisfied the graduation requirement for demonstrating English proficiency.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HISTORY

Introduction to Western Civilization

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, students will be introduced to the people, the books, and the ideas that produced them and the culture in which they live. Students will learn about the lives, work, and ideas of the great leaders in history such as Homer, Thucydides, Alexander the Great, Jesus, Mozart, Shakespeare, and Winston Churchill. Through reading, writing, and discussion of historical figures, works, and ideas, students will learn to think critically about the people, the books, and the ideas of their own day, preparing them to live moral and influential lives.

Introduction to American History

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 8 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The eighth-grade history course includes a study of the United States from the Colonial period through the Modern Era. The course encompasses an in-depth study of the American Revolution, the United States Constitution, and its past and present implementation at federal, state, and local levels, the Civil War, its causes and aftermath, World War II, the Cold War and the War on Terror. While history and civics are the core disciplines of the program, economics, sociology, geography, and humanities are also incorporated to give students an understanding of – and appreciation for – the major movements and concepts that have characterized the United States.

Western Civilization I

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Western Civilization I will give students an overview of Western history through the year 1200 A.D. The class will discuss wars, political institutions, and economic developments such as the Peloponnesian War, the Roman Senate, and Phoenician shipping. Students will read and discuss various religions including Christianity, Judaism, and Islam and the philosophers such as Plato and Aristotle. We will look into scientific developments and technology and explore their effect on Western Civilization. Students will also experience literature, art, music, and theater such as Homer's *Odyssey*, Renaissance architecture, medieval chant, and Greek drama.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

HISTORY *(cont.)*

AP European History

PREREQUISITES: WESTERN CIVILIZATION I | GRADE LEVELS: 10

SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Western Civilization II will give students an overview of Western history from 1200 A.D. to the present. The class will discuss wars, political changes, and economic revolutions such as World War II, the rise of the nation-state, and the decline of the feudal system. The class will read about religious developments and philosophers, such as the growth of Protestantism and Nietzsche. The class will look into scientific developments and technology such as the discovery of DNA and the printing press. The class will explore economic philosophies and writings of Adam Smith, Karl Marx and others. The class will also experience writers, artists, musicians, and playwrights such as Charles Dickens, Michelangelo, Mozart, and Shakespeare.

AP United States History

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 11 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The AP U.S. History course is designed to provide students with the analytic skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in U.S. history. The program prepares students for intermediate and advanced college courses by making demands upon them equivalent to those made by full-year introductory college courses. Students should learn to assess historical materials – their relevance to a given interpretive problem, reliability, and importance – and to weigh the evidence and interpretations presented in historical scholarship. An AP U.S. History course should thus develop the skills necessary to arrive at conclusions on the basis of an informed judgment and to present reasons and evidence clearly and persuasively in essay format.

Modern World History

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

This class will explore the development of the modern world, ranging from the European Enlightenment and resulting revolutions to the development of contemporary nations and political ideologies. Geographically, we will be considering the entire world, which became increasingly interconnected during the past several centuries, largely as a result of European colonialism and imperialism. Major themes will include revolutions in politics and in philosophy, European hegemony around the globe, and the rise of totalitarianism.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH

Introduction to Classical Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7 | SEMESTERS: 2

This course will introduce students to Classical Literature and themes through engaging with some fantastic and influential texts. Beginning with Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology, students are exposed to a variety of texts which speak to and allude to one another. This helps them, in conjunction with their history course, to build an understanding of the development of Western Culture. Courageously reading difficult authors like G.K. Chesterton, William Shakespeare, Charles Dickens, Ray Bradbury, and C.S Lewis, students expand their understanding and grow in the virtues they encounter while reading.

Introduction to American Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 8 | SEMESTERS: 2

This course introduces students to great examples of American Literature within the context of understanding the American Experience. Students are encouraged to carefully interpret the important and influential texts we read. Exposure to some of the giants of the American literary culture like William Wadsworth Longfellow, Frederick Douglas, Harper Lee, George Orwell, and Flannery O'Connor, when coupled with understanding their difficult texts, creates a hunger in the students for good literature.

Classical Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The great literature of the classical world has shaped the course of Western Civilization. The ancient Greek and Roman epics were regarded as the ultimate authority for beliefs and human behavior. The great Greek drama provided a tragic conception of life that explored both the moral complexity and the noble endurance of man in the face of an incomprehensible fate. Dante combined the classical and Christian currents of Western Civilization in a new, comprehensive view. We can only know who we are as a civilization when we begin to understand the works that shaped us. This course, therefore, examines the major themes, wisdom, archetypes, and characters of ancient and classical literature, as well as how classical literature has shaped the Western tradition. Through close reading, Socratic discussion, and purposeful writing, students will explore some of the earliest answers to the enduring themes and questions related to human's search for truth, wisdom, and the good.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

ENGLISH (*cont.*)

British Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 10 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In British Literature, students read, discuss, and write about the greatest texts from perhaps the greatest literary tradition in world history. The plays of William Shakespeare, the epic poetry of John Milton, and the gentry novels of Jane Austen prompt students to ponder eternal questions about human nature and what it means to live a good life. Through models ranging from Beowulf to Lizzy Bennet, students see themselves more clearly and learn to command their passions, keep their promises, and cultivate virtue. In conjunction with their history class, students learn about the political, social, and religious trends that animated the Middle Ages and Renaissance, and continue to exert their influence on modernity. Lastly, the beautiful poetry and prose of the British literary tradition will fill students with incomparable delight and wonder.

AP American Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 11 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In AP American Literature, students consider questions at the heart of American identity through stories, poetry, and essays by some of America's greatest writers – among them Benjamin Franklin, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Herman Melville, and Mark Twain. Where does America fit into the Western tradition of thought and art? What kind of person does America produce? What are the blessings and dangers of freedom? What are the virtues necessary for American citizenship? Through a close examination of the best writing by Americans, our students will arrive at a deeper understanding of what it means to be an American.

AP Modern Literature

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In AP Modern Literature, students will read and study great works of modern prose, poetry, and theater. The course is structured to be taken in conjunction with the 12th-grade government and economics courses and is largely based on reflective reading, followed by discussion and analysis. The novels and other works have been chosen for their timelessness and their portrayal and examination of important historical events, and the ideas that have helped shape the modern world. Practical writing and grammar skills are also a focus in this class, with exercises in clear and concise writing. Additionally, students will be expected to discuss the literature and its relationship to current issues in society.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-9 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Pre-Algebra curriculum is an extension of the Singapore Math K-6 curriculum. It is designed to provide an understanding of real numbers, simple algebraic manipulations, and rudimentary concepts of geometry. It can be considered the foundation for future mathematics courses such as Algebra, Geometry, and Calculus.

Algebra I

PREREQUISITES: PRE-ALGEBRA | GRADE LEVELS: 7-10 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

While the elementary mathematics courses worked to build concrete and abstract knowledge about number systems, Algebra I takes the abstraction further and introduces students to functions. Each section of this course is designed by first giving an overview of the requisite knowledge that students have spent years building. Once assured that the foundation has been firmly laid, students use that as a base to build and discover the inherent structure of the new topic. Topics include properties of mathematics, algebraic manipulation, functions, linear equations, systems of equations, radicals, exponents, and quadratic equations.

Euclidian Geometry

PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA I | GRADE LEVELS: 7-11 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Geometry is the study of shapes. Through the lens of relationships of shapes in the plane, we will introduce, study, and work toward mastering the art of mathematical proof. We will manipulate and analyze the relationships of planar shapes and how they can move in planar space. We will use many parts of Euclid's elements to further our understanding of the origins of modern geometry and deepen our understanding of logic.

Algebra II

PREREQUISITES: GEOMETRY | GRADE LEVELS: 7-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Algebra II builds on the fundamental concepts and skills of Algebra I. The student will learn and use the rules of arithmetic to develop advanced simplification techniques such as factoring in order to deal efficiently with more complicated expressions such as quadratics and rationals in the contexts of equations and functions. The course will proceed through a variety of types of functions, both algebraic and transcendental, which will be treated both graphically and algebraically with specific emphasis on discovering the roots of these functions – whether strictly real or complex – and the general aim of analyzing their meaning, behavior, application, and relationships with each other.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MATHEMATICS *(cont.)*

Precalculus / Trigonometry

PREREQUISITES: ALGEBRA II | **GRADE LEVELS:** 11-12 | **SEMESTERS:** 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this course, we will expand on prior knowledge of Algebra and Geometry. In tying together these two subjects, we will complete an in-depth study of functions, continuity, and graphs. We will discuss sequences and series, the Binomial Theorem, and the Fundamental Theorem of Algebra. We will also introduce and study Trigonometry, the relationship of triangles and circles. Precalculus is offered for Dual Enrollment through CU Succeeds.

AP Calculus AB

PREREQUISITES: PRECALCULUS | **GRADE LEVELS:** 11-12
SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Calculus is the study of change. We will be approaching the study of calculus through a few big ideas: the idea of limits and continuity, the problem of finding slope at a point, and the problem of area under a curve. We will analyze the relationships between continuity, derivatives, and integrals as well as talking about how these ideas relate to mathematics as a whole. This class is offered with the option of taking the AP Calculus AB exam or taking the course as Dual Enrollment through CU Succeed.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE

Life Sciences

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The goal of the Life Sciences course is to provide students with a conceptual framework and understanding of how the various aspects of biology and chemistry work together to support life and our planet. Topics include (but are not limited to) theories of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds and reactions, the chemistry of food (sources and uses of energy in systems), human health and body systems, cell division & genetics, geologic time, and evolution.

Conceptual Physics

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 8 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The goal of the Conceptual Physics course is to provide students with a conceptual framework and understanding of the physical world in which they live. Topics include (but are not restricted to) the nature of science, motion, forces, density, buoyancy, energy, work, power, sound, light, electricity and magnetism, stars, galaxies, and the universe.

Biology I

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Biology I course is designed to provide information regarding the fundamental concepts of life and life processes. Topics include (but are not limited to) cell structure and function, genetics, evolution and classification, microorganisms, fungi and plants, the biosphere and ecosystems, animal systems, and the human body systems.

Chemistry I

PREREQUISITES: BIOLOGY I (C OR BETTER) AND ALGEBRA I (B- OR BETTER)

GRADE LEVELS: 10 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Chemistry I course is designed to provide information regarding the composition, properties, and reactions of substances. Topics include (but are not limited to) states of matter, atoms, atomic models and electron configurations, the periodic table and periodic law, chemical bonding, chemical composition, chemical equations, stoichiometry, gases, solutions, acids and bases, reaction energy, reaction kinetics, and chemical equilibrium.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

SCIENCE *(cont.)*

Physics I

PREREQUISITES: BIOLOGY I (C OR BETTER), CHEMISTRY (C OR BETTER), AND ALGEBRA I (B- OR BETTER) | GRADE LEVELS: 11 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Physics I course is designed to provide information regarding the study of the forces and laws of nature affecting matter, such as equilibrium, motion, momentum, and the relationships between matter and energy. Topics include (but are not limited to) motion in one, two, and three dimensions; forces and the laws of motion; work and energy; momentum and collisions; circular motion and gravitation; vibrations and waves (both sound and electromagnetic); geometric optics; electrostatics; electric circuits; and magnetism.

Anatomy & Physiology

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Anatomy is the structure of the human body. Physiology is the study of how these structures function. Throughout the course the relationship between anatomy and physiologic function will be stressed. The course will provide an excellent foundation for students interested in medical sciences. More importantly, the course will provide a thorough understanding of how the human body functions and the physiologic homeostatic mechanisms that maintain health.

Biology II

PREREQUISITES: BIOLOGY I | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Taken after a comprehensive initial study of biology, this advanced studies course covers biological systems in more detail. Covered topics include cell organization, function, and reproduction; energy transformation; human anatomy and physiology; and the evolution and adaptation of organisms.

Chemistry II

PREREQUISITES: CHEMISTRY I | GRADE LEVELS: 12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Taken after a comprehensive initial study of chemistry, this advanced studies course covers chemical properties and interactions in more detail. Advanced chemistry topics include organic chemistry, thermodynamics, electrochemistry, macromolecules, kinetic theory, and nuclear chemistry.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGES

Latin 7

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7 | SEMESTERS: 2

The 7th-grade Latin course serves as an introduction to the study of Latin, providing students with the necessary fundamentals and study skills to study Latin at higher levels. Major concepts covered include basic Latin vocabulary, inflection, verb and noun formation, conjugation verbs, and declension nouns and adjectives. Ultimately, students will learn the basics of reading, parsing, diagramming, and translating Latin.

Latin 8

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 8 | SEMESTERS: 2

The eighth-grade Latin 8 course begins with an initial review of Latin 7 material before introducing students to additional foundational concepts. Students will be challenged with reading, parsing, diagramming, and translating higher difficulty Latin texts in preparation for future Latin studies.

Latin I

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Designed to introduce students to Latin language and culture, the Latin I course prepares students to communicate authentically in Latin by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on a variety of topics.

Latin II

PREREQUISITES: LATIN I | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Latin II course builds upon skills developed in Latin I, preparing students to communicate authentically in Latin by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information on concrete topics.

Latin III

PREREQUISITES: LATIN II | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Latin III course prepares students to communicate authentically in Latin by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information, concepts, and ideas on a variety of topics, including connections to other subject areas.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

LANGUAGES (CONT.)

Latin IV

PREREQUISITES: LATIN III | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Latin IV course builds on Latin III in preparing students to communicate authentically in Latin by interpreting (reading, listening, viewing), exchanging (speaking and listening; reading and writing), and presenting (speaking, writing) information, concepts, and ideas on a variety of topics, including connections to other subject areas.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS – ART

JH Art

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 | SEMESTERS: 2

This elective course is designed to build upon the information base developed through the sixth grade Core Knowledge sequence. It continues in following the art history timeline progression from the birth of modernism through today's contemporary style, looking at famous works from each important movement and providing an introduction to Western artistic media and methods. Beyond learning aspects of art history's cultural impact and visual analysis, students will encounter hands-on creative activities.

Studio Art

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

This course begins with an in-depth study of the compositional elements and principles through drawing, then transitions to an exploration of the formal hierarchy through painting. Each segment of study will incorporate art history insights for guidance into purposeful visual analysis and effective creative expression. Studio Art is offered on a rotating basis with the Creative Survey elective, and completion of both is required for progression to higher level visual art studies.

Creative Survey

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT HOUR)

This course introduces students to an extensive range of creative opportunities, capitalizing on prior classical art appreciation lessons and skill development. Studies feature a variety of production challenges across the higher and lower arts, ensuring students receive opportunities to work in numerous new concepts and methods. Creative Survey is offered on a rotating basis with the Art Studio Art elective and completion of both is required for progression to higher-level visual art studies.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS – MUSIC

JH Band

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 | SEMESTERS: 2

This course will emphasize the fundamentals of playing a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument to establish a great starting point to enjoy the art of making music. Students will need to provide their own instruments in most cases. Instruments are strongly recommended to be rented or purchased from a reputable music store.

Symphonic Band

PREREQUISITES: TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE PLAYING INSTRUMENT

GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Symphonic Band will explore elements of music beyond learning the first few notes of the instrument. In addition to extending the ranges of each instrument, students will build experience in complex rhythms and becoming more expressive in their playing. Music learned will be a combination of arrangements of great classical works and contemporary wind band composers. Students will perform both as part of a large ensemble and chamber ensemble. Students will need to provide their own instruments in most cases. Instruments are strongly recommended to be rented or purchased from a reputable music store.

Jazz Band

PREREQUISITES: TWO YEARS EXPERIENCE PLAYING INSTRUMENT

GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTER: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Jazz Band will be open to instrumentalists that play woodwind (alto, tenor, baritone saxophone), brass (trumpet, trombone), and rhythms section instruments (percussion, bass, piano and guitar). Students will learn to play in various styles and repertoire and perform in both concerts and festivals. Performances will consist of both large ensemble and small jazz combo ensembles. Students will need to provide their own instruments in most cases. Instruments are strongly recommended to be rented or purchased from a reputable music store.

JH Vocal Ensemble

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 | SEMESTERS: 2

JH Vocal ensemble will emphasize the fundamentals for great singing technique. Course goals include helping students develop their solo singing ability and emphasize multiple ensemble literature styles.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS – MUSIC *(cont.)*

Vocal Ensemble

PREREQUISITES: TWO YEARS SINGING EXPERIENCE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12
SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Vocal ensemble will help students continue developing proper vocal technique and singing independently within an ensemble. Students will perform in a wide variety of styles and ensembles, singing both accompanied and acapella. This course will emphasize the aspect of performing music beyond the fundamentals, expressively performing music of various styles.

JH Orchestra

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 | SEMESTERS: 2

This course will emphasize the fundamentals of playing an orchestral string instrument (violin, viola, cello, bass) to establish a great starting point to enjoy the art of making music. Students will need to provide their own instruments in most cases. Instruments are strongly recommended to be rented or purchased from a reputable music store.

Orchestra

PREREQUISITES: JH ORCHESTRA OR ADMITTANCE BY AUDITION
GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

The Orchestra course will continue building on foundations established in JH Orchestra while also emphasizing the art of creating music beyond playing the first few notes on the instrument. Students will perform both as a large ensemble and chamber ensemble, exploring the classic and contemporary repertoire composed for the string orchestra. Students will need to provide their own instruments in most cases. Instruments are strongly recommended to be rent or purchase from a reputable music store.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

FINE ARTS – OTHER ELECTIVES

Ballroom Dance

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In the Ballroom Dance class, the student will attain basic- to intermediate-proficiency in several of the most popular styles of ballroom dance, including the waltz, foxtrot, east coast swing, tango, merengue, rumba, cha cha, salsa, samba, and perhaps some ancillary dances as well. Students will study the American styles of these dances due to their popularity in social settings and ease of introduction.

Introduction to Theatre

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7-8 | SEMESTERS: 2

This course offers training and practice in theatre fundamentals. Students will develop acting skills, practice analyzing scripts for performance, cultivate trust and collaboration in ensemble-building activities, and evaluate stage productions. Students will cultivate basic acting skills through voice and body warm-ups, improvisational techniques, rehearsal workshops, partner and group performances. Students will also expand their tools for understanding and mining scripts for ‘playable ideas.’ The nature of this course – as is the nature of theatre – is collaborative and experimental; students will engage in the meaningful play of theatre together to develop their sense of wonder, curiosity, and joy in the dramatic arts.

Advanced Theatre Fundamentals

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

This course offers advanced training and practice in theatre fundamentals. Students will develop acting skills, cultivate trust and collaboration in ensemble-building activities, and evaluate performances. Students will cultivate acting skills through voice and body warm-ups, improvisational techniques, rehearsal workshops, partner and group performances. Students will also expand their tools for understanding and analyzing scripts for performance. Depending on interest, students may also explore artistic roles such as directing, dramaturgy, costume, scenery and props, playwriting, and technical design. The nature of this course – as is the nature of theatre – is collaborative and experimental; students will engage in the meaningful play of theatre to develop their sense of wonder, curiosity, and joy in the dramatic arts.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

7th-Grade Physical Education

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 7 | SEMESTERS: 1

In the 7th-Grade Physical Education course, students will be introduced to a variety of fitness challenges and movement skills needed in order to choose a life filled with any physical activity of their choice. While sports skills will be part of the curriculum, the focus will be on overall physical wellbeing and will include opportunities to improve their cardiovascular health, agility, strength, motor skills, and basic sports skills.

8th-Grade Physical Education

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 8 | SEMESTERS: 1

In the 8th-grade Physical Education course, students will be introduced to a variety of fitness challenges and movement skills needed in order to choose a life filled with any physical activity of their choice. While sports skills will be part of the curriculum, the focus will be on overall physical wellbeing and will include opportunities to improve their cardiovascular health, agility, strength, motor skills, and basic sports skills.

Physical Education

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 10 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In the 10th-Grade Physical Education course, students will be introduced to a variety of fitness challenges and movement skills needed in order to choose a life filled with any physical activity of their choice. The focus will be on overall physical wellbeing and will include opportunities to improve their cardiovascular health, agility, strength, motor skills, and basic sports skills.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

MISCELLANEOUS ELECTIVES

Speech and Debate

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

Utilizing rhetoric as it is traditionally meant, students will engage with assignments, activities, and discussions meant to improve their understanding of speech and debate as well as their ability to civilly communicate their own ideas with clarity, efficiency, and emotion. Additionally, students will argue for ideas they do not necessarily agree with, in order to see a variety of perspectives on ideas which shape our modern world.

Journalism/Yearbook

PREREQUISITES: NONE | GRADE LEVELS: 9-12 | SEMESTERS: 2 (1 CREDIT)

In this class, we will publish two works telling the story of our school: a newspaper and a yearbook. The first few weeks of class will be devoted to the principles and history of journalism, after which we will begin the work of assembling the newspaper and yearbook. In addition to providing a medium through which to practice the vocations of journalism and design, these publications will also assist the Ascent student on their journey to wisdom and virtue.

CORE VIRTUES

Ascent Classical Academies' mission joins instruction in the principles of moral character and civic virtue with a rigorous academic program.

Virtue requires both a trained mind and a generous heart, and as such unites our ability to think and reason with our passions, desires, and feelings.

Courage • Moderation • Justice • Responsibility

Prudence • Friendship • Wonder



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