



# Course Catalog

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter to Parents and Students.....	3
History.....	4
Curriculum .....	4
Graduation Requirements.....	5
Grading Scale.....	6
Repeat, College, and Eighth Grade Courses.....	6
Attendance Policy.....	6
Postgraduate Program.....	7
Academic Integrity Policy.....	8
Grading Policy.....	9
Extra-Curricular Activity Eligibility.....	10
Transcripts.....	10
Criteria for Suspension or Expulsion.....	10

## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Mathematics.....	11
English Language Arts.....	13
Social Studies.....	16
Science.....	18
Foreign Languages.....	20
Study Skills.....	23
Electives.....	25
College Dual Enrollment.....	27
High School Dual Enrollment.....	28

Redemption Christian Academy

1-855-RCA-1979 | 518-272-6679

Email: [info@redemptionchristianacademy.org](mailto:info@redemptionchristianacademy.org)

Website: [www.redemptionchristianacademy.org](http://www.redemptionchristianacademy.org)

*Redemption Christian Academy is more than a school...it's preparation for life.*

Rev. 2019

Dear Parents and Students:

The courses at Redemption Christian Academy are designed to prepare the individual student towards becoming successful in future endeavors. In addition to gaining sufficient mastery of skills required in college and the workforce, students will be encouraged to develop a lasting interest and joy in learning. Above all, the values upon which Redemption Christian Academy are founded will be reinforced across the curriculum in hopes of transforming a student's life towards future success. RCA offers a complete educational experience that focuses on spiritual, academic, and athletic growth.

Cooperation and communication among parents, students, teachers, and administrators insure that students receive the most out of their educational experience. Our staff is willing to provide assistance in the attainment of academic goals.

In addition to the course offerings at Redemption Christian Academy, students have many opportunities in which to participate in extra-curricular activities and programs. Through memberships in clubs and sports, students develop character, build skills, gain confidence, and learn to serve. It is to the student's advantage to partake of the diverse programs and activities available at RCA. The unique educational experience afforded to students is why Redemption Christian Academy is more than a school...it's preparation for life.

Sincerely,  
*Mrs. Joan E. Massey*  
Mrs. Joan E. Massey  
Principal

*“This institution does not exist for your education alone; it does not exist for your comfort and happiness altogether, although those things are important, and we keep them in mind; it exists that we may give you intelligence, skill of hand, and strength of mind and heart; and we help you in these ways that you, in turn, may help others. We help you that you may help somebody else, and if you do not do this, when you go out from here, then our work here has been in vain.”*

-Booker T. Washington

## HISTORY

Founded in 1979 by Pastor John Massey, Jr., Redemption Christian Academy (RCA) provides quality education in an affordable structured, Christian environment. Pastor Massey believed that in the right environment, any student, regardless of race or background, could achieve academic excellence. Pastor Massey’s vision was to provide a strong academic foundation to help hard-working, motivated students reach their ne plus ultra.

Redemption Christian Academy began as a day school and less than five years later welcomed its first boarding students. Since then, RCA has welcomed international students from around the world: Switzerland, Venezuela, the Bahamas, Korea, France, Germany, Serbia, Brazil, Russia, Croatia, Bulgaria, Italy, the Dominican Republic, Greece, Canada, the Czech Republic, Ghana, Macedonia, Liberia, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and others. RCA now has affiliates in Texas, Liberia, and India.

Because of the mission and commitment to excellence, RCA has attracted many volunteers over the years, including a number of highly professional faculty members. What began as a small church-school has now grown into an interdependent community of educators, volunteers, students, and their families. Many of RCA’s alumni have not only been a part of the school since the doors opened in 1979, but have returned to help educate future graduates.

Once enrolled in RCA, students experience the process of spiritual, academic, and athletic maturation. With the help of the staff, hard work, and family support, every student can succeed. Together we endeavor to cultivate tomorrow’s leaders. We have produced future leaders that will continue to impact their families and communities as well as the world!

## CURRICULUM

RCA offers each student a challenging educational opportunity. RCA employs an eclectic combination of teaching methods: traditional classroom instruction, one-on-one interaction between the teacher and pupil, small group review sessions, cutting-edge cloud learning, general lectures, and the virtual classroom. We offer advanced placement courses, dual enrollment college level courses, dual enrollment online high school courses, a hands-on Career Development Program, NCAA approved core courses, and a postgraduate program. RCA offers a complete educational experience that encourages students to become lifelong learners of relevant knowledge and information.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

To qualify for a Redemption Christian Academy high school diploma or postgraduate certificate, students must satisfy the following minimum requirements:

### HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA

4 years of English/Language Arts	4 units
4 years of Social Studies	4 units
3 years of Mathematics	3 units
3 years of Science	3 units
4 years of Physical Education	2 units
Electives	4 units
1 year of Art and/or Music*	1 unit
1 year of Foreign Language*	1 unit
TOTAL	22 units

*\*Recommended. Additional mathematics, English, social studies, or science courses may be substituted.*

### POSTGRADUATE CERTIFICATE

Mathematics or Science*	1 unit
English/Language Arts	1 unit
College Readiness*	1/2 or 1 unit
Career Development	1/2 or 1 unit
Physical Education	1/2 unit
Bible Principles	1/4 unit
TOTAL	4 units

*\*Recommended. Additional mathematics, English, social studies, science, or elective courses may be substituted.*

## RCA GRADING SCALE:

90-100%	A
80-89%	B
70-79%	C
69% and below	F (no allowance given for D)

## REPEAT COURSES

Students rarely repeat courses; however, students may repeat a course to increase their knowledge of a subject matter. When a course is repeated, the original course and the repeat will appear on the transcript, unless the original is a failing mark. Also, students may take more than one course in a given academic discipline if course prerequisites are met.

## COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT COURSES

Students enrolled in college dual enrollment courses are awarded credit on their high school transcript. These courses will be designated on the transcript with the name of the college when official transcripts have been received by Redemption Christian Academy from the college. See page 27 for more details.

## COURSES TAKEN IN EIGHTH GRADE

High school courses taken in grade eight or prior will be listed on the student's high school transcript when the course has been completed. It will be noted on the transcript that the student was in grade eight when the course was taken and completed.

## COURSE OFFERINGS

Like any other academic institution, not all courses are offered every semester, or even yearly. Course offerings are determined depending on student demand. A student may enroll in high school classes through National University Virtual High School. Qualified students also have the option of taking college classes with Grand Canyon University or local colleges. See page 27 for more details.

## ATTENDANCE POLICY

A valid written excuse is required for students who are absent from school. Unexcused absences will be subject to disciplinary action. In order to receive credit for a class, a maximum of 12 absences per semester or 24 per year are allowed. If a student exceeds the number of allowed absences, the student will be required to attend the summer session even if academic work is made up.

Make-up work, quizzes, and tests must be completed within the time allotted. This is subject to the instructor's discretion. This allotted time may not exceed two weeks. A student who has an unexcused absence waives the privilege to make up work, quizzes, and tests.

## POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM

Redemption Christian Academy's Postgraduate Program's objective is designed for students who have graduated high school, yet desire one or two additional years of preparation before attending college. This gap year program affords students many opportunities to mature with the help of RCA's academic and support staff. Depending upon student readiness, maturity, and independent living skills, students may opt for one or two years of participation in the postgraduate program.

In addition to the variety of academic subjects RCA offers, qualified academic students may take college courses and receive dual college credit through our partnerships with Grand Canyon University, National University, or a college of their choice. An extended senior curriculum of RCA's high school courses is available for those postgraduates who need a fifth year of academic preparation to enhance their critical thinking and strengthen academic skills. Students have opportunities to build competence in English Language Arts and Mathematics and may also take high school AP courses. Through RCA's postgraduate program, students may strengthen their academic preparedness and improve SAT and ACT scores.

Students may also participate in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) program. RCA students have conducted research by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Research Assistantship for High School Students Award. Students are also provided relevant learning opportunities.

The college search and application process starts as soon as students arrive on campus. As part of student orientation, academic planning with advisors begins. RCA staff encourage students to set specific goals which will position them for the best advantage.

Furthermore, RCA's Career Development Program enhances a student's life skills needed for success in the world: critical thinking skills, time management, organization, and independent living skills. Through this program, students may gain relevant skills in a variety of areas: agricultural engineering, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), culinary arts, construction technology, baking technology, education, entrepreneurial training, facilities maintenance, landscaping, hospitality, and audio-video communications. The experiences acquired through these hands-on skills are useful stepping stones that can be applied throughout a student's lifetime.

Redemption Christian Academy is a member of NEPSAC (New England Preparatory School Athletic Council). Member schools of NEPSAC have athletic teams that combine high school and postgraduate athletes together for competition. Student athletes gain exposure before college coaches offering opportunities for scholarships. Student athletes may also use their postgraduate year to fulfill NCAA academic requirements. RCA offers a variety of NCAA Eligibility Center approved high school core courses that postgraduates are able to take.

Overall, RCA's postgraduate program offers a number of advantages. Not only does it enhance the student's academic preparation and college readiness, but it also fosters maturity so that students may be able to handle the independence of college life. Whatever the reason a

student chooses to attend Redemption Christian Academy's Postgraduate Program, he or she will acquire academic and life skills necessary for college and beyond. Students will be more prepared to face life's challenges. "Before anything else, preparation is the key to success" (Alexander Graham Bell). That is why our motto is "Redemption Christian Academy is more than a school...It's preparation for life."

## ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY

Cheating is defined as an act of deceiving. If students do any of the following, it is considered cheating. We encourage studying together, but each student must hand in his/her own original work. Cheating would include, but is not limited to, any of the following behaviors:

1. Copying another person's test or assignment answers.
2. Allowing someone else to copy your answers for a test or assignment.
3. Divulging test questions and answers to other students.
4. Copying another person's homework.
5. Allowing someone else to copy your homework or giving another student access to your assignments.
6. Using, providing, or having in your possession "cheat sheets" of any kind.
7. Plagiarism, the act of intentionally or unintentionally treating work done by someone else as though it were your own, copying portions of reports (including reports in books, encyclopedias, and magazines, from those written by other students, or from Internet or online sources) without giving credit to the people who wrote these reports. It is unacceptable to borrow a report (or pay another person to do your paper) and then hand in that work as your own.
8. Verbal or nonverbal communicating, for whatever reason, with another student while a test is in progress.
9. Copying a teacher's assigned test.
10. Taking a teacher's assigned test without permission.
11. Looking around the room during testing. This includes looking at another student's desk, test, or papers.
12. Lending or receiving materials via electronic instruments or equipment, sharing of electronic files via e-mail, jump drive, or CDs, or Network Drive.
13. Copying from, using, having on the desk (or anywhere within possible view) any written answers, vocabulary, formulas, notes, or other written/visual/electronic material, which are not specifically required or permitted by the teacher during the test.
14. Use of electronic translators for work in world language classes.

Failure to adhere to these directives could result in discipline, including suspension or dismissal. Plagiarism, cheating, copying, and sharing student work will result in disciplinary action.



## GRADING POLICY

THE HIGH SCHOOL GRADING POLICY AT RCA WILL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING FOUR SEGMENTS:

Tests	which account for	60% of the grade
Quizzes	which account for	15% of the grade
Assignments/Homework	which account for	15% of the grade
Participation/Attendance	which account for	10% of the grade
Added together = 100% or the total grade		

### A. TESTS

1. Test average will constitute 60% of final grade.
2. Written assignments and papers may be included as a test grade.
3. When absent from a test, make-up tests will not be given without permission from an administrator and the teacher.
4. All unexcused testing absences will result in a zero on a test.

### B. QUIZZES

1. There will be several quizzes per marking period. "Pop" or unannounced quizzes may be given to students.
2. Without an excused absence, a student will receive a zero on a quiz.
3. A student does not have an option to take a quiz. Students should put forth their best effort.

### C. ASSIGNMENTS/HOMEWORK

1. Homework assignments are given regularly per marking period.
2. Each assignment must be completed to the student's best ability prior to the next class.
3. A 24-hour grace period may be given for homework assignments for extenuating circumstances.
4. Make-up work may be completed with permission from an administrator and the teacher.
5. Students are fully responsible (even when suspended) for obtaining notes, assignments, and review material for missed classes. Information may be obtained from fellow classmates or from the teachers at the teachers' convenience.
6. Assignments must be turned in legibly and with a proper heading:

Name	Class and Assignment
Date	Teacher

### D. PARTICIPATION/ATTENDANCE

1. Participation includes preparation, punctuality, attendance, attentiveness, class discussion and interaction, listening, and note taking.
2. Any student who is tardy or absent will be reported immediately.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

Students participating in any extra-curricular activity must maintain a minimum academic grade as specified by the instructor or academic advisor.

## TRANSCRIPTS

Transcripts and recommendations will be sent to a designated recipient upon written request. Please allow seven to ten business days for processing. Prior clearance must be obtained from the Bursar's office. Transfer students must complete one academic year to obtain an RCA transcript. A student who does not complete a full year will be issued a progress report card in lieu of a transcript.

## CRITERIA FOR SUSPENSION OR EXPULSION

RCA is dedicated to providing its students with a safe and supportive environment in which to live and learn. The school administrators have the authority to decide which offenses are considered serious enough to cause suspension from school and/or school-sponsored events. Students and parents will be warned prior to possible suspension. In cases involving gross misbehavior, Administration shall attempt to notify parents by telephone before initiation of an actual off-campus suspension.

Some behavioral infractions may also qualify as criminal behavior. Parents and students must understand that violating these offenses could result in the student facing both disciplinary action from the school and criminal charges from an outside law enforcement agency. The school's actions with regard to enforcing its rules are separate and apart from any consequences that a student may face should he break the law. Students are to abstain from smoking, drinking alcoholic beverages, drugs, cursing, fighting, stealing, or other unacceptable behavior.

Discipline does not fall to one set of hands at RCA, but rather dormitory supervisors, teachers, and Administration are all empowered to address behaviors that do not support a safe and supportive environment to live and learn. The Administrative Department will be made aware of all discipline issues and will be personally involved in any discipline matters. The Administrative Office will serve as a primary point of contact for parents about any disciplinary issues. Based upon Administrative discretion, students may be disciplined by social probation, strict probation, fines, suspension or expulsion for one or more disciplinary infractions. Also, a student may be expelled if his/her conduct or disposition is such that the school administration makes a determination that it is unable to work with the student.

## TRANSFERS BACK TO STATE OR REGIONALLY ACCREDITED SCHOOLS

If a student chooses to re-enter a state or regionally accredited public or private school, the receiving school may choose to test the student to determine if he/she should be placed in the desired grade level or if certain credits may be transferred. Although the vast majority of Public and Private Schools are cooperative concerning transferring credits from Private Schools accredited by the National Association of Private Schools, they are not required by law to automatically accept credits from any school.

# DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

*The Mathematics Department course offerings are designed to provide students with a college preparatory foundation. The department is committed to providing quality instruction to students of all ability levels. Each course is sequential and builds upon previous coursework. Traditional classroom teaching, small group review sessions, and one-on-one tutoring provide students with the opportunity to excel.*

## PRACTICAL MATHEMATICS

This full year course offers a solid foundation of the basic math skills needed to participate in subsequent high school level math courses. It provides a thorough review of arithmetic skills: place value, addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, integers, fractions, decimals, and percents. Practical skills required for daily adult living will be emphasized.

## GENERAL MATHEMATICS

This full year course offers students an additional review of basic mathematics skills. It reinforces arithmetic skills covered in Practical Math. Math concepts and applications are taught in the context of word problems.

## ALGEBRA I

This standard course in algebra provides students with a strong base for future work in mathematics. Topics include the following: rational numbers and operations, algebraic expressions, linear equations and inequalities, polynomials, factoring, rational and irrational numbers, and the quadratic formula. Students explore related topics in geometry as they apply to their study of algebra.

## GEOMETRY

This standard course in geometry provides students with an understanding of geometric terms, postulates, and theorems. Students will utilize deductive reasoning to prove theorems. Topics

include the following: congruence, angles, triangles, parallel lines, quadrilaterals, right triangles, circles, area and volume, linear equations, and coordinate geometry. A review of algebra throughout the course will reinforce material previously taught.

## ALGEBRA II

This course is spiraled and sequenced from previous high school level math courses. Students review and build upon previously learned topics including quadratic equations, geometry of the circle, and rational and irrational numbers. Additional topics include imaginary and complex numbers, functions, exponents, and Euclidean and analytical geometry.

## TRIGONOMETRY

This course requires previous knowledge of algebra and geometry. Topics include: the sine, cosine, tangent functions and their reciprocal functions, right triangle trigonometry, radian measure, trigonometric identities and equations, and coordinate graphing.

## PRE-CALCULUS

This course provides a preparation for the study of Calculus and requires previous knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry. Topics include an in-depth study of functions, graphing techniques, second degree equations, complex numbers, polar coordinates, series and sequences, and the theory of limits.

# DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS

*The English Department course offerings are designed to provide students with an appreciation of literature and the ability to effectively express oneself. One of the highlights of the English curriculum is that many students become published authors, some winning writing contests. In addition, for years RCA students have presented their research at local colleges, historical societies, and schools.*

## ENGLISH 9

This course offers an intensive review of the foundations of reading and writing. Literature will be used to aid student comprehension skills as well as to develop an appreciation of the written word. A review of the basics of grammar and honing of writing manuscript in proper form will be included. The writing component of this course develops solid sentence structure and paragraph organization. Students will learn to shape effective sentences and paragraphs. English 9 introduces the recursive writing process. An emphasis is placed on the development of creative writing, personal essays, and narrative writing.

## ENGLISH 10

Students in English 10 will learn to master the skills of grammar and composition. Parts of speech will be reviewed. Students will focus on the development of the five-paragraph essay. Coursework will include the fundamentals of using the library. Students will also keep a response journal to critique the literature they read. Oral reports and presentations will be assigned. Students will be taught narrative, descriptive, and expository writing.

## ENGLISH 11

English 11 emphasizes reading and writing of greater lengths. Students will learn to write coherent essays. In addition, students will write in length on a researched topic. Their writing skills will incorporate the development of a thesis statement and outline. Students will study and use a variety of literary elements as well as learn to systematically read and critique literature.

## ENGLISH 12

English 12 equips students with literary skills needed for college. Students will be involved in extensive reading and writing. Classwork will include the development of collegiate vocabulary and critical thinking skills. Through practice, students will hone their writing skills with a variety of compositions, including a research paper. The foundations of public speaking will also be covered.

## ENGLISH PG

This class introduces the student to critical reading and analysis of texts. The student will understand and apply theoretical frameworks representative of specific time periods, genres and modes. Students are required to utilize an academic journal, the purpose of which is to maintain detailed notes and ideas pertaining to texts the student has prepared for class, writing assignments or are otherwise presented in class.

## LITERATURE I

This course is designed to develop reading discipline in students. The class will read, discuss, and critique a variety of literary genre. Emphasis is placed on vocabulary, syntax, comprehension, and reading strategies. Students will receive instruction on various reading strategies needed to improve understanding. They will keep an ongoing response journal of their readings. In addition, students will write essays and be evaluated for critical reading skills.

## LITERATURE II

In Literature II, students will gain an appreciation for the different styles of writing. They will read several books through the course of the year. Students will be required to write book reports, give oral reports, thoughtfully participate in classroom discussions, and complete projects.

## COMMUNICATION SKILLS

This class introduces the student to key principles of communication through verbal presenta-

tions and writing assignments. Students will learn the proper mechanics and delivery of a variety of forms of verbal presentations such as expository, persuasive and demonstrative speeches. They will also learn the mechanics and principles of conducting research and writing across genres. The first half of the school year will focus on oral presentations and the second half will focus on the mechanics of writing and research.

### WRITING WORKSHOP

Writing Workshop introduces students to a broad range of writing genres they will encounter in their college careers and professionally. Students will explore the writing process through in-class discussions and writing exercises. The course will also introduce students to the fundamentals of journalism and the journalistic writing process which will culminate in a periodical digital publication. Students will gain experience in working with community groups such as the Underground Railroad History Project to learn the basic principles of video journalism and human interest stories.

### AFRICAN-AMERICAN LITERATURE

This course examines dramatic and literary works written in historical eras: Slavery, Reconstruction, Harlem Renaissance, Civil Rights/Black Arts Movement. It also includes works by contemporary African-Americans. The class will have a strong and continuous focus on reading literacy, writing mechanics, and essay construction. This course examines the elements of style within literature.

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

*The Social Studies curriculum employs an eclectic combination of teaching methods: traditional classroom instruction, one-on-one interaction between the teacher and pupil, group projects and presentations, and computer aided instruction. The use of multimedia allows students to build a solid educational foundation while interacting with the curriculum in a dynamic, hands-on way. The curriculum integrates Scriptural principles throughout the activities and assignments.*

### GLOBAL 9/WORLD GEOGRAPHY

Students will examine civilizations and cultures of North and South America, Central America, the Caribbean, Europe, Africa and Asia. Geography, history, religions, and economics are some of the areas that are studied. These new perspectives will give our students a better understanding of world geography from past to present.

### GLOBAL 10/WORLD HISTORY

Students will learn history from Ancient Civilization to the Contemporary World. Included in this comprehensive study of World History are various world empires, the Renaissance and Reformation eras, the Age of Revolution, the Industrial Revolution, World War I, and World War II. This course will give students a more in-depth understanding of past and current events.

### US HISTORY

This course will teach students the transformation of the United States of America from a new nation to a world power. Students will examine the events and the people that have shaped and are shaping American History in the past and today. Topics will include the foundation of the American Republic, slavery, the Civil War, foreign policy, the Great Depression, conflicts, terrorism, and more.



## GOVERNMENT

Government is a semester course that focuses on the principles of the American system of government with an emphasis on the U.S. Constitution and the Bill of Rights. Students will learn about the three branches of government and be able to understand the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship.

## ECONOMICS

Economics is a semester course that is designed to provide students with a better understanding of economics ranging from the individual consumer, small business owner, to the world economy. The law of supply and demand, forms of business, labor unions, government finances and influence on the economy, money and prices, inflation and deflation cycles will be analyzed.

## CURRENT EVENTS

The focus and goal of this course is to awaken critical thinking skills of the student by teaching them to examine current political, economic, and social occurrences. Emphasis will be placed on thoroughly investigating the source and the information. Using newspapers, magazines, the Internet, and other media, students will obtain a better understanding of the importance of daily events and the shape and the effect they have on local and world communities. Students will maintain self-reflective notes, share their perspectives in class, perform oral and written presentations, and complete research projects.

## EUROPEAN HISTORY

This course studies European history from 1450. Students are introduced to the cultural, economic, political, and social developments that played a fundamental role in shaping Europe. Students will explore the development of contemporary institutions, the continuous change in present-day society, politics, and the evolution of current forms of artistic expression and intellectual discourse. The expectation is for students to understand some of the principle themes in modern European history, obtain the ability to analyze historical evidence and historical interpretation, and to express historical understanding in writing.

# SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

*The Science Department seeks to provide students with an informational study of the sciences while challenging students with analytical reasoning through the scientific method of inquiry. Activities and laboratory experiments provide students with hands-on experience. Relevant engineering problems are explored, and students are prompted to discover real life solutions.*

## PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Terms such as mass, length, area, volume, density, and velocity are explored in this course. Topics studied include atomic and molecular structure, motion, forces, light, electricity, and magnetism. Students will apply critical thinking skills and write laboratory reports. Foundational skills are emphasized in this course as students will need them for later science courses.

## ADVANCED PHYSICAL SCIENCE

This course will teach the relationship between matter and energy, governing physical laws and their mathematical relationships. Based on a combination of physics, chemistry, and physical science standards an inquiry based approach is used by students to investigate physical science concepts. Students will obtain a better understanding of advanced technology and how it affects society. Students will formalize and complete individual research projects.

## BIOLOGY

Biology is a laboratory science course that covers the study of living things. Students will examine various fundamental concepts: cellular biology, zoology, botany, genetics, ecology, and physiology.

## CHEMISTRY

Chemistry is a laboratory science course which requires students to investigate the physical and chemical changes of the composition of matter. Students will study measurement and analysis,

atomic theory, molecular structure, and equilibrium systems.

## EARTH SCIENCE

Earth Science introduces students to the study of the earth's changing surface. Weather, climate, astronomy, and aerospace science are explored. Aside from studying phenomena in the world, students also learn the skill of making graphs and charts. Instructions received are supplemented by labs and reports.

## GENERAL PHYSICS

General Physics students will explore physics concepts: electricity and magnetism, work and energy, and waves. This class places a strong emphasis in mathematics. (Algebra II or permission from the Department Head is a prerequisite for this course.)

## CRITICAL THINKING AND APPLIED SCIENCE

This course investigates applications of scientific discovery and technology. Modern advances and theories in the fields of science including astronomy, biology, food and nutrition, epidemiology, archeology, physics, and earth science will be studied. Origins, economic and international impact, the roles of media, industry and government, and implications for social policy will be evaluated. A variety of topics will be explored. Students will be expected to analyze data in order to formulate and substantiate their conclusions.

# FOREIGN LANGUAGES

*Today more than ever there is a great need to be able to communicate with other people in their native tongue, and to understand their culture. To facilitate this, the Language Department offers progressive courses in the study of Spanish and French.*

## FRENCH I

The French I course provides an introduction to the language by emphasizing pronunciation, basic grammar, and vocabulary and listening comprehension. Fundamental sentence structures in the present and past tenses will be covered as well. Students will also have an opportunity to learn about customs, culture, and everyday life of French-speaking countries. Main conversation topics include introducing oneself, talking about food, family, telling time, and different actions in the present and past tenses.

## FRENCH II

The French II course enables students to participate in classroom and extracurricular activities related to French as well as to participate in conversations dealing with daily activities and personal interests. More of the basic conversation, reading, listening and writing skills are taught at this level. Students learn additional regular and irregular verbs as well as verb tenses and grammar. In addition, this course includes simplified readings highlighting French customs, culture, and everyday life. French history is also introduced.

## FRENCH III

The French III course reviews French grammar emphasizing idiomatic construction and expressions. Oral discussion and conversation are based on selected readings from French literature. More advanced conversation, reading and writing skills are taught in order for students to improve their knowledge and fluency of the language. Instruction will also improve student usage of regular and irregular verbs.

## FRENCH IV

The French IV course enables students to acquire a good understanding of spoken French as well as the ability to write and express oneself in the language including the construction of complex sentences, questions, and prepositions. Students will participate in classroom and extra-curricular activities related to French, such as presentations. Students will participate in conversations with native and advanced non-native speakers.

## SPANISH I

The emphasis in Spanish I is on phonology, basic grammar as well as: listening, reading, writing and speaking. Spanish I develops elementary grammar, syntax, and communication skills. Basic vocabulary and fundamental sentence structure will be studied. Students are also introduced to various aspects of Spanish-speaking people throughout the world as illustrated in the text, videos, and presentations.

## SPANISH II

Spanish II builds on the grammar and skills acquired in Spanish I through more advanced study of the Spanish language. More complex grammatical forms such as object pronouns and use of the additional verb tenses will be introduced. Students will continue to acquire oral proficiency and fluency in Spanish, learning how to communicate basic information while expanding their vocabulary and their skills to function within cultural settings. Students hold simple conversations and write short compositions. Students read simple texts and further study Spanish and Latin American culture.

## SPANISH III

In Spanish III the student is expected to apply the knowledge gained in Spanish I and Spanish II and be able to increase his/her competence in the four skills: listening, speaking, reading and writing. The students will gain a greater awareness of the culture and history of the Spanish speaking world, expanding students' knowledge of the civilizations, cultures, and customs of

Spanish-speaking people.

#### SPANISH IV

Spanish IV will enable students to participate in classroom and extra-curricular activities related to Spanish, such as presentations. This course reviews Spanish grammar. Discussions and conversations are based on selected readings from Spanish and Spanish-American literature.

# STUDY SKILLS CURRICULUM

*Study skills program courses are designed to offer students the opportunity to improve skills essential for success. Each course earns 1/2 or 1 credit toward graduation.*

## COLLEGE READINESS

The course is designed for seniors and postgraduates to develop study skills needed for independent learning and to assist in directing them in the college application process. The course covers vocabulary, reading comprehension, writing, outlining, note taking, summarizing, time management, research skills, library and college visits, and organizational skills. This class consists of familiarization and utilization of comprehensive methods of studying, general computer skills, keyboarding, word processing, writing and note taking. Students are encouraged to utilize these skills across the curriculum for homework assignments, tests, research papers, and compositions.

The course also includes SAT/ACT test preparation sessions, the college application process, the writing of college essays, and discussions regarding college financial aid and scholarships among other admission related topics. Students will learn how to research and identify colleges and how to complete the Common Application. In addition to college visits, students will have the opportunity to meet with college admission officers who come to RCA's campus.

## TEST PREPARATION (GRADES 10-POSTGRADUATE)

The course is a comprehensive preparation for the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT), ACT Test, and Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test (PSAT). Student test familiarity is developed by practice tests which identify the student's strengths and weaknesses. An individualized study program is developed for students to focus on improving weaknesses. These classes cover definitions and word analysis, reading comprehension, computation and problem solving in mathematics, and grammar and writing skills. A supplementary self-paced, computer based software program provides students independent and individualized preparation for the SAT,

PSAT, and ACT.

## KEYBOARDING

This course is a one-semester course designed to help students who have little or no training in typing or keyboarding. Emphasis is placed on the following: mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques; development of speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters; and typing without looking at the computer keyboard.



# ELECTIVES

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grades 9-12)

The Athletic Department provides a program of physical development for youth at the academy. Those who are actively involved in the varsity sports undergo an in-depth training for performance in their endeavors. Those who are not active in extracurricular sports are engaged in a personal health and fitness program which caters to their individual needs and may be utilized in adult life. Students receive 1/2 credit.

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORTS

Students who are on school teams may practice and compete throughout the school year. RCA student athletes who play on various teams may travel regularly to out-of-town and out-of-state. Because of the rigorous schedule and practice time involved in the program, active participation on the varsity or junior varsity team will earn credit towards physical education.

## HEALTH

This semester course provides a structured study of topics related to physical fitness, personal appearance, anatomy and physiology, diet and nutrition, and disease. The topics studied are relevant to students' daily living. This course involves discussion of issues raised by our relations to other people. Such issues may include interpersonal relationships; the nature of love; friendship; relationships with strangers; social participation. Students receive 1/2 credit.

## CHOIR

The choir is a mixed voice ensemble, divided into the basic groups: soprano, alto, tenor, and bass. Participation in the school choir involves frequent rehearsals. The school choir performs at various school, church, and outside functions. Students receive semester or one year credit for participation in the choir.

## FINE AND APPLIED ARTS

Students will gain experience and skills in the arts. Areas of study and practice include the fine arts,

namely, painting, drawing, photography, and large-scale sculpture; the applied arts, namely, Ceramics, glassware, basketry, pottery, jewelry, metalware, furniture, textiles, clothing, and other such goods are the objects most commonly associated with the decorative arts. Students may receive semester or one year credit.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT

Career Development is designed to give students the opportunity to acquire important skills useful in today's job market. Students learn by hands-on experience using the D.I.Y. methodology and progress according to individual ability, interest, and initiative. Career development may be completed in various fields: agricultural engineering, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), culinary arts, construction technology, baking technology, education, entrepreneurial training, facilities maintenance, landscaping, hospitality, and audio-video communications.

Because RCA is located in the heart of Tech Valley, students are afforded STEM opportunities from more than 30 area colleges and universities that offer incredible educational experiences in high tech and engineering in addition to business, medicine, and law. Students can participate in collaborative programs for educational programming and tutoring with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Russell Sage College, and SUNY Polytechnic Institute College of Nanoscale Sciences.

Culinary students train through Goodway Culinary Institute. They learn food preparation, handling, planning, and management under auspices of a trained and experienced food preparation supervisor. Students study the art of baking through production and packaging of all major baked good items. They learn basic principles of food handling as well as acquire skills in marketing and account management. This course is evaluated on a pass-fail basis and students may receive from 1/2 to 1 elective credit per year for participation in the program.

## AUDIO-VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS (GRADE 11 – POSTGRADUATE)

This progressive study of videotaping affords students up-to-date course work in all major aspects of the field. Students will learn techniques of lighting, setup, camera, operations, computer graphics, microphone use, and editing. Qualified students will originate, design, and develop a videotaped production. Employing creativity, students may write plays, commercials, or other types of

material to communicate an idea or opinion to an audience. Projects may be developed individually or by groups. Students may receive from 1/2 to 1 elective credit per year.

## BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES

This course involves attending Bible study and morning devotions and employing the skills of note taking and summarization. Scripture memorization and classroom discussion are also required. Students will become familiar with basic tenants of Christianity and learn their application to daily living. This course is evaluated on a pass-fail basis, and students receive 1/4 credit per year.

## CULTURAL LEARNING IMMERSION PROGRAM (CLIP)

Redemption Christian Academy (RCA) has successfully educated international students since 1994 through its Cultural Learning Immersion Program (CLIP). Over the past two decades, there have been numerous occasions where international students arrived on campus with minimal English skills. Within a short period of time, students acquired functional English speaking skills. By the end of the academic year, these students have usually transitioned into regular classes on their grade level.

Redemption Christian Academy's family atmosphere provides a nurturing and supportive environment for students. Those with minimal English proficiency are placed in remedial classes. In addition, they receive tutoring. Students are culturally immersed by typically having an English speaking roommate. They are encouraged to speak "English only" both during classes and in the presence of any person who does not share their native language. Teachers individually monitor the student's progress and provide additional tutoring and support where needed.

## COLLEGE DUAL ENROLLMENT

Redemption Christian Academy has partnered with colleges for dual enrollment to provide students the opportunity to earn college credit while attending RCA. Students may apply for dual enrollment at Grand Canyon University or local colleges. Dual enrollment courses are a great way to get ahead and prepare for college, while earning your high school diploma. These are college level courses that also satisfy high school credit requirements.

Students who are interested in taking dual enrollment courses with Grand Canyon University must meet certain academic criteria. Students may choose local college online courses or attend class on the college campus. Redemption Christian Academy students have the opportunity to receive their high school diploma while also earning college credit. Students should speak to their RCA counselor for details on course offerings.

## **HIGH SCHOOL DUAL ENROLLMENT**

Redemption Christian Academy students may enroll in classes with National University Virtual High School (NUVHS) to receive additional high school course credit. Students are directly taught by National University Virtual High School instructors and must follow all guidelines and criteria established by NUVHS.

Students enrolled in NUVHS courses are awarded credit on their high school transcript, and these courses are designated on the transcript with the name of NUVHS when official grades have been received by Redemption Christian Academy from NUVHS.