Graduation Requirements

The Bear Creek School's curriculum is designed to help each student become the individual God intends and grow in wisdom, compassion, and courage. It is a rigorous college preparatory program with a balanced and comprehensive core of classes. Students have course choices outside of the required core curriculum to explore their individual areas of interest and passion. Advanced Placement and Honors courses are offered.

The following graduation requirements allow students to meet or exceed the requirements for colleges and universities. See Graduation Course and Credit Requirement Details for specifics.

Required Credits

4.0	credits	English
4.0	credits	History[1] (including Washington State history and government)
3.0	credits	Mathematics
3.0	credits	Science
2.0	credits	Languages (credits in the same language)
3.0	credits	Christian Studies and Senior Capstone Project
1.5	credits	Physical Education
0.5	credits	Health
1.0	credits	Fine Arts
2.0	credits	Additional (general electives or credits beyond minimum required as noted above)
24.0	**credits**	(minimum)

Required Community Service

Each Bear Creek graduate must complete 100 total hours of community service which may be completed at any point during grades 9 – 12.

Transfer students have two options for completing this requirement:

1. A student may prorate 25 service hours per year he/she was enrolled elsewhere.
2. A student may provide satisfactory official documentation of previous service completed.

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[1] Students who have successfully completed grade 8 at Bear Creek have met the Washington State history and government high school graduation requirement. Transfer students entering Bear Creek after grade 8 must also fulfill the requirement and may be required to take a JanTerm course or an independent study arranged through the Registrar.

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Course Descriptions

Christian Studies

CS 9 Historical Theology: In this course, students study the theology of the ancient Church while connecting yesterday's faith lessons to our life of faith today. We will look at the life of the early church and how God used ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary things. Specifically, we will explore the early Church's understanding of the Bible, the challenges the Church faced, and the voices that pioneered theology. We need to know how God has been at work to help us see how he continues to be at work. When we see our place in God's grand story, it gives us unique perspective to love God and love others. (0.5 credit)

CS 10.1 Systematic Theology: In this course, students study theological developments through the Medieval and Renaissance periods and discuss the basics of systematic theology while reading and analyzing some of the faith's major thinkers as they approach subjects such as the nature of God, the nature of salvation, and the nature of the Church. Students will be tasked with wrestling with Christianity's seminal questions and creating questions of their own in turn. (0.5 credit)

CS 10.2 Logic: In this course, students address issues surrounding precise thinking and logic. After consideration of a Christian foundation for logic and logical first principles, students study right reason, valid inferences and the attending fallacies, formal and informal. Students learn to apply the rules of logic through examination of statements and arguments from both cultural and biblical sources. (0.5 credit)

CS 11 Philosophical Theology: In this course, students engage in a study of modern Christian thought and practice, particularly as it has been influenced by and engaged with modern philosophy in general. Students will analyze the question raised by the ethicist Charles Taylor: What impact has secular thinking had on modern understanding of self and our relationship with others? Over the course of the semester, students study the differences between secular thinking and transcendent thinking and the relationship between faith and reason. Students take in-depth looks at ethics, epistemology, human self, and how we should live. (0.5 credit)

CS 12 Christianity and Contemporary Culture: In this course, students learn to engage multiple worldviews and examine how they compare and contrast with each other. Students look at the distinct responses to core worldview areas such as man's basic problem and how to solve it. Students examine lingering struggles they may have with the Christian worldview and study how Christians have addressed those issues. Students explore answers to the following questions: What are the distinctive parts of the Christian worldview? How do I identify someone's worldview? How do I understand difficult issues with Christianity? Can I articulate my worldview? Finally, students begin to prepare for their Senior Capstone Project by selecting a topic for approval and making any necessary arrangements before the project begins in May. (1.0 credit)

English and Rhetoric

E 9 Honors Ancient Literature: This course engages students in the careful reading and studying of ancient stories from Mesopotamia, Greece, and Rome. Students dive deeply into the historical context of these stories, learning more about their respective worldviews and drawing modern connections from ancient works. Writing skills are developed by composing argumentative, creative, and persuasive pieces, and students continue to build critical thinking skills through close reading, rhetorical analysis, collaboration, and Socratic seminars. (1.0 credit)

E 10 Honors Medieval and Renaissance Literature: This course covers various genres of medieval and Renaissance literature through the reading of epic poetry, drama, and novel. The biographical, historical, and philosophical contexts of each work are the focus of class discussion. Writing centers on the development of analytical, persuasive, and expository composition. Basic grammar skills are reviewed and developed further in the students' writing and selected assignments. The review of key literary terms is incorporated throughout the course. Students develop their critical thinking skills through writing exercises, Socratic seminars, rhetorical analysis, and collaboration. (1.0 credit)

E 11.1 Honors Enlightenment and American Literature: Students engage in selected course readings closely and critically, giving attention both to the details of language such as syntax, diction, imagery, schemes, tropes, and devices, as well as worldview ideology and critical literary theory. Compositions for this course are based on literary and stylistic analysis. The overall course goal is to trace the progression of ideas and themes throughout the eras (the Enlightenment, Romanticism, Realism, Modernism, and Post-Modernism), understanding what the American experience looks like in many times and places while developing a personal and academic writing style. (1.0 credit)

E 11.1 Advanced Placement English Language and Composition: Students develop their skills as close readers of text and adept writers of arguments. Various pieces of American literature and a diverse selection of nonfiction spanning six hundred years serve as the context for these readings and arguments. Students work on building their vocabulary of literary terms as a way to understand methods central to nonfiction. This course prepares students to take the AP Language and Composition exam which focuses on the analysis of style, the crafting of arguments, and the synthesizing of sources around an argument. (1.0 credit)

E 11.2 Rhetoric: In this class, students will have many opportunities to practice speaking and receive significant benefits from teacher guidance and peer support. This course cultivates eloquent speaking through time-tested exercises in rhetorical theory. Students develop expertise in rhetoric by writing and delivering a series of short speeches that focus on developing delivery skills such as eye contact, posture, and vocal variety. While continuing to develop these skills, students then move to longer speeches including a narrative and two speeches arguing both sides (thesis/antithesis) on a contemporary issue of their choosing. Students will get their novice speech jitters out of the way and become the kind of people that others look to when a confident voice is needed. (0.5 credit)

E 12 Advanced Placement English Literature and Composition: This course engages students in the careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative (fictitious and poetic) literature through the ages. Writing assignments include expository, analytical, and argumentative essays. Students study the elements of style, correct and academic grammatical construction, and logical organization of ideas. Students develop the vocabulary necessary for college-level reading and writing. (1.0 credit)

E 12 Honors Senior English: This course explores the themes of community, dignity, relationships, and identity. Students study the elements of style, literary lenses, and worldview frameworks. Exposure to a wide variety of reading, from ancient to modern, and from many genres enables students to explore and express their convictions through discussion, essays, and creative writing. Oral exam and oral interpretation, likewise, have a place in the course instruction and assessment. (1.0 credit)

Fine Arts: *Performing Arts*

Advanced Placement Music Theory: This course is designed to develop a student's ability to recognize, understand, and describe the basic materials and processes of music that are heard or presented in a musical score. Skills developed in this course include composition, dictation, harmonic analysis, structural analysis, ear training, and sight-singing. The course will prepare students for studying music while in college or to simply further their technical study of music. This is not a performance-based course. The content of the AP Music Theory course is equivalent to the first year of college-level music theory. Prerequisite: Students must complete and pass a music fundamentals test. (1.0 credits)

Music Theory: This fall semester course is designed to give students a strong foundational knowledge of how music is organized. Students will learn specific methods for cultivating musical fluency using notes, key signatures, scales, intervals, chords, and rhythms. Skills of musical analysis, dictation, ear training, sight-reading will also be introduced. Students who successfully complete the class will be better prepared to continue their musical studies and/or continue with college level music classes. This course is taught concurrently with AP Music Theory. (0.5 credit)

Concert Band: Upper School concert band is an instrumental performing ensemble. Concert band members continue to master their skills on a musical instrument. The concert band performs at two concerts each year as well as one off-campus performance opportunity each semester. Concert band members are also encouraged to play with the Pep Band during home sporting events. Students in the concert band are eligible to participate in the Northlake Music Region Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as to audition for the All-State and All-Northwest honor bands and orchestras. This year-long course may be taken more than once. Prior instrument knowledge required. (1.0 credit)

Concert Choir: Upper School concert choir is a performing ensemble with multiple required performances, including one regular concert and other performance opportunities that may arise. Students in the choir program are eligible to participate in the Northlake Music Region Solo and Ensemble Contest, as well as to audition for the All-State and All-Northwest honor choirs. Emphasis is placed on vocal training, sight singing, music theory, and choral blend. This year-long course may be taken more than once. (1.0 credit)

Jazz Band: In this course, students learn to play jazz styles on their own instruments. All instruments are welcome. The class explores the jazz styles of swing, Latin, and funk. Students learn and build on improvisation principals. Students in this class perform at two concerts each year in addition to many other school and community events. Jazz band members are also encouraged to play with the Pep Band during home basketball games. The band rehearses 2 – 3 times a week before school as a zero-period class. Jazz combos may be formed for rehearsals during other times. This year-long course may be taken more than once. Prior instrument knowledge required. (0.5 credit, full year)

New Play Development: This course offers students the opportunity to share stories they have been itching to tell. Students will collaborate to compose short plays and learn the process of building a stage-worthy script. Participants will produce a story about a historical figure or an event or create a new imaginative work. Emphasis is placed on character development, writing dialogue, and conflict/resolution. Students explore the process of new play development from page to stage. This course provides a foundation for further study in playwriting, directing, acting, marketing, set design, costuming, and producing. (0.5 credits)

Technical Theater: This course will survey the various elements of a theater production, exposing students to audio engineering, stage lighting, set design, set construction, and stage management. Students will perform the technical roles for the fall or spring Upper School theater productions (sound, lighting, stage management, set and scene movement) and may have the opportunity to assist with various Lower School and Middle School productions. Some after school and weekend rehearsals are required in addition to all scheduled Upper School fall or spring theater performances. (0.5 credit)

Theater Production: This course is designed for students of varying theatrical experience to collaborate and perform a classical or contemporary play. Students will build skills in character development, on-stage relationship work, and explore atmosphere/mood. Participation in the fall or spring semester production is required. While much of the course is dedicated to developing a production, students also work on improv, playwriting, audition techniques, theater history, and movement. This course may be taken more than once. (0.5 credit)

Fine Arts: *Visual Arts*

Advanced Digital Arts: This course is designed for students with serious interest in the practical application of digital art and photography. While exploring photographic and digital media with the camera and computer, each student develops a body of work that reflects a range of problem-solving and ideation, personal voice, and versatility with techniques to demonstrate his or her abilities compiling a personal portfolio by the end of the term. Prerequisites: Photography 1 and 2 and Graphic Design 1 and 2 or permission of instructor. This course may be taken more than once. (0.5 credit)

Film and Animation: In this year-long course, students explore the possibilities of storytelling through film and animation. This course will give students both the narrative craft and visual techniques necessary to bring a story to life on screen. It is a hands-on production course emphasizing aesthetics, creativity, and technical expertise utilizing up-to-date industry-standard tools, Adobe® Creative Suite, and other programs to build a foundation for further study. Prerequisites: Photography 2 and Graphic Design 2 or instructor permission. (1.0 credit)

Graphic Design 1: In this course, students examine the principles of design utilizing modern digital technology. Students acquire an understanding of the process of design, design fundamentals, digital art tools, and creative thinking. Students gain a basic proficiency in Adobe® Creative Cloud applications (Photoshop®, Illustrator®, InDesign®). This course includes project-based learning, lectures, and critiques. (0.5 credit)

Graphic Design 2: Using the working knowledge obtained in Graphics Design 1, students further enhance their technical abilities and advanced knowledge of design principles. Students delve deeper into the creative opportunities of Adobe® Creative Cloud applications (Photoshop®, Illustrator®, InDesign®) and other programs, while developing their voices as visual artists. Prerequisite: Graphic Design 1 (0.5 credit)

Photography 1: In this course, students learn about the history of photography, as well as the elements and principles of art through photography. Through a series of projects, students gain proficiency in working with digital single lens reflex (DSLR) cameras, digital photo editing, and basic photo composition. Students explore the use of shutter speed, ISO, exposure, focal length, depth of field, and lighting. (0.5 credit)

Photography 2: Using the working knowledge obtained in Photography 1, students build their skills as they transition from studying techniques to exploring photography further as an art form. Students learn advanced editing skills, use studio equipment, explore the art of composition and create a comprehensive portfolio by the end of the semester. Prerequisite: Photography 1 (0.5 credit)

Sculpture and Mixed Media: Students utilize and integrate the elements and principles of visual art in the concentrated area of sculpture and mixed media art. The relationship between form, space, and concept is explored as students expand their understanding of three-dimensional art processes and materials. This course involves project construction, lecture, and critique. (0.5 credit)

Studio Art 1: This course introduces students to the elements of visual art through an exploration of foundational skills and techniques in various media including drawing, painting, collage, and/or sculpture. This course includes project construction, lecture, critique, and becomes the foundation needed to progress through other art courses. (0.5 credit)

Studio Art 2: Students build on their knowledge gained in Studio Art 1 to further utilize and integrate the elements of visual art while being introduced to the principles of design. Emphasis is placed on color mixing, painting techniques, direct observation, mixed media concepts, as well as further understanding of composition, color theory, critical thinking, and problem-solving. This course involves project construction, lecture, and critique. Prerequisite: Studio Art 1 (0.5 credit)

Studio Art 3: Students expand skills acquired in Studio Art 1 and 2 by further developing their drawing and conceptual abilities. In this course, students explore intermediate to advanced techniques in drawing and various art media while focusing on compositional principles of visual art and strengthening visual problem-solving skills. A variety of media are explored including graphite, pen and ink, colored pencil, charcoal, oil pastel, acrylics, collage, sculpture, and/or mixed media. This course requires advanced commitment, focus, and drawing capabilities. Prerequisites: Studio Art 1 and Studio Art 2 (0.5 credit)

Advanced Studio Art 1: In this year-long course, students enhance technical and conceptual skills, develop a personal artistic style, and refine the direction of his or her art. Students develop portfolio pieces and delve into advanced media techniques. This course requires a high level of commitment which may require out of class work and project time. Prerequisites: Studio Art 1, Studio Art 2, and Studio Art 3, or permission of instructor (1.0 credit)

Advanced Studio Art 2: This year-long course develops the student-artist. Each student collaborates with the instructor to develop a body of artwork in the medium of his or her choice. Media pursued may include drawing, painting, sculpture, computer generated graphics, photography, mixed media, or a blend of art disciplines for which the student has a particular passion. Each student develops a portfolio and an artist statement, builds an artist resume, and possibly plans a gallery show (in his or her senior year). This course is highly recommended for students who are planning to study art in college and/or possess a deep passion for art. This course requires a high level of commitment which may require out of class work and project time. Prerequisites: Studio Art 1, Studio Art 2, and Studio Art 3, plus one additional visual arts course (Sculpture and Mixed Media, Graphic Design, Photography, or Advanced Studio Art 1), or permission of instructor (1.0 credit)

General Electives

Advanced Placement Computer Science A: The course introduces students to computer science with fundamental topics that include problem solving, design strategies and methodologies, organization of data (data structures), approaches to processing data (algorithms), analysis of potential solutions, and the ethical and social implications of computing. The course emphasizes both object-oriented and imperative problem solving and design using Java language. These techniques represent proven approaches for developing solutions that can scale up from small, simple problems to large, complex problems. This class meets during zero period. Prerequisite: Algebra 2 recommended but not required. (1.0 credit)

Psychology: This one semester course is designed to introduce students to the psychological study of human thought, feelings, mental processes, and behavior at an individual and group level. By the completion of this course, the successful student will be able to identify fundamental psychological concepts and frameworks as well as their day-to-day applications. The course will be highly interactive and discussion-based, and emphasis will be placed on considering common human experiences through various lenses offered by psychology, such as biological, behavioral, cognitive, psychodynamic, and sociocultural perspectives, as well as through a Christian worldview. Topics will include consciousness, learning, memory, emotion, personality, mental illness, and social behavior. Open to juniors and seniors only. (0.5 credit)

Yearbook Editor: Yearbook Editor is an application-only course, and instructor permission is required. The yearbook editor plans, directs, and executes the Upper School yearbook and performs the following the required duties. Manages the publication's content and quality as well as a staff of peers during JanTerm; creates a theme and plans for using the theme; designs or oversees the cover design, endsheets, and any theme-related spreads, including opening, closing, and dividers; attends weekly meetings with yearbook advisor to review deadlines, as well as upcoming photo and copy coverage; edits ladder as needed and approves any changes to the ladder as coverage develops; together with advisor, plans JanTerm schedule and builds yearbook excitement; checks and prepares all spreads for submission; completes and submits pages by final deadline; helps with yearbook distribution. (1.0 credit)

History

H 9 Honors Ancient and World History: In this course, students learn the foundations of Western Civilization by examining ancient cultures in the Near East, Greece, and Roman world. Students explore how the foundation of complex societies, the innovations of Democracy and Roman Republicanism, and Christianity have contributed to modern western culture. The class also includes a study of worldviews critical to our own time and cultural milieu, the Islamic worldview, the Vedic worldview, and the Buddhist worldview. Students develop skills in source analysis, academic reading comprehension, research based writing, and persuasive speech. (1.0 credit)

H 10 Honors European History: In this course, students study the story of European civilization from the beginning of the Middle Ages through the Age of Discovery. With the Fall of Rome as the historical precursor, students analyze the juxtaposition of Roman and Christian worldviews and how these two realities both clash and synthesize in the European context. In addition to historical content, students develop skills in analyzing primary sources, engage in seminar discussion, and construct deductive essays that develop historical acumen and critical thinking. (1.0 credit)

H 10 Advanced Placement European History: This challenging course is intended to be the equivalent of an introductory-level college course. Students develop the intellectually virtuous habits of reading carefully, clearly analyzing both evidence and ideas, and expressing historical understanding orally and in writing. Students cultivate a love of and a respect for the past and gain a thorough understanding of the main events and ideas in modern European history. (1.0 credit)

H 11 Honors United States History: This course is an in-depth study of United States history and is designed to provide students with a solid understanding of the development of the United States. Students explore geographic, political, cultural, and economic characteristics of American history from the settlement of Jamestown through the presidency of Bill Clinton. Readings from the text and primary sources, discussions, lectures, and written critical analysis are utilized to facilitate the study of U.S. history. (1.0 credit)

H 11 Advanced Placement United States History: This course is a rigorous study of U.S. history from the early settlement of the nation through the presidency of Ronald Reagan. Students work to master content, which requires a significant amount of reading. Reading is primarily drawn from our classroom text, but also includes some primary sources. The Advanced Placement exam requires the writing of three essays, so in preparation for the exam, students will work to hone their writing skills. In this course, students gain knowledge of the history of the U.S. and learn to critically assess issues verbally and through written work. (1.0 credit)

H 12.1 Art History, Culture, and Appreciation: In this course, students survey western art and aesthetics from the Renaissance to the present. The course introduces students to the broad artistic and cultural heritage of Western Civilization and particularly challenges students to reflect on beauty and how it relates to truth and goodness. (0.5 credit)

H 12.2 United States Government and Politics: This course is a survey of the origin, structure, and functions of the United States government. Students are introduced to basic economic concepts, a comparison of other types of political systems, and an overview of American foreign policy. Readings in current events, seminar discussions, and robust classroom simulations are key components of the course. (0.5 credit)

Languages

French I: In this course, acquisition-driven language instruction methods are used to introduce students to the French language and Francophone cultures. Students learn to communicate as they are exposed to comprehensible and contextualized language. By focusing on communication at the Novice proficiency level, students will be able to engage in basic conversation and both ask and answer questions in French. They will write simple thoughts, ideas, and stories in complete sentences. The goal for the end of French I is the Novice High proficiency level based on national (ACTFL) standards. No prerequisite. (1.0 credit)

French II: Building on French I, students continue to be exposed to high frequency language through acquisition-driven language instruction methods with the goal of gaining Intermediate Low proficiency level based on national (ACTFL) standards. Their study of grammar will give them the skills to better understand and express themselves in French, in the present and past tenses. Students will continue to study the history, traditions, cultural practices, and values of Francophone cultures across the globe. Prerequisite: French I (1.0 credit)

French III: Continuing their study of the French language and global Francophone cultures, French III students will grow in their ability to comprehend, speak, and write more complex content. By studying more advanced grammar, including the past and future tenses, and the conditional mood, as well as an introduction to the subjunctive and the literary past, students will begin to produce more complex patterns of language. The proficiency goal at the end of the year is Intermediate Mid based on national (ACTFL) standards. Prerequisite: French II (1.0 credit)

French IV: In this course, students develop accuracy in speaking and writing through the use of more abstract vocabulary and more advanced grammatical structures. Class content and discussions revolve around the stories, novels, and current event articles the students will read. Students will express their opinions, compare and contrast, reflect, and formulate original thoughts both in writing and speaking, including spontaneous, interpersonal discourse. The proficiency level goal is Intermediate High based on national (ACTFL) standards. Prerequisite: French III (1.0 credit)

Latin II: This course provides an introduction to the complex sentence. Students master the basic uses of the cases in all declensions, many pronouns, and the use of the relative pronoun. They learn indirect statement, active and passive voice of verbs, all tenses of the indicative, and the perfect participles. Students also can expect to double their Latin vocabulary, to learn many Latin quotations, and to continue to build their fluency with English derivatives. Students explore Roman to early medieval political history, Roman literature and mythology, classical education, art, architecture, and early Christian writings. Prerequisite: Latin I equivalency (e.g., Middle School Latin 8, outside course, or approval of Upper School Latin teacher) (1.0 credit)

Latin III: In this course, students master the components of the complex sentence. They learn the subjunctive mood and its uses in purpose clauses, indirect command, and question. Students continue to master the indirect statement and its sequence of tenses. Latin vocabulary increases significantly along with student mastery of Latin word roots in English. Besides adapted passages from medieval and Renaissance authors, students read unadapted passages of classical Latin literature. Students are introduced to Latin literature and integrate what they already know about Western civilization and Christianity with their reading. Prerequisite: Latin II (1.0 credit)

Latin IV: This course involves continued introduction of new Latin grammatical structures, as well as reading selections from classical Latin literature and working on Latin compositions. Students are expected to know the components of the complex sentence and work towards mastery by reading original Latin passages. Students begin to understand the range of meanings available in Latin vocabulary and how this affects the reading of literature. Students learn to notice and think about genre, figured language, and quantitative meter. The importance of classical literary style in the Renaissance is considered. Through assigned reading, students continue to apply and extend what they know about Western civilization and Christianity. Prerequisite: Latin III (1.0 credit)

Latin V: Students strengthen their command of Latin grammar by reading canonical works of Latin literature (Virgil's *Aeneid* or Caesar's *Gallic Wars* and Horace's *Odes*). Students develop their abilities in translation, sight-reading, composition, and preparation for formal translation. The history, culture, and politics of the late Republic will be covered in depth through assigned readings in English. Students will also critically examine post-classical engagement with Latin literature, tracing the sometimes confluent, often divergent, influences of Christian and classical pagan worldviews on modernity. Prerequisite: Latin IV (1.0 credit)

Spanish I: In this course, the immersion method is used to introduce students to the spoken language. Students learn to communicate on topics related to their lives, such as greetings, descriptions of physical characteristics and character traits, family, numbers, likes/dislikes, and preferences. Students learn to interact in the target language as they internalize grammatical structures. Throughout the year, students will work individually, in pairs, and in groups to learn about various Spanish-speaking cultures and their histories, traditions, and current events through graded novels and hands-on activities. This course exposes students to high-frequency vocabulary in the aural and written input and grammatical features such as nouns, regular and irregular present tense verbs, adjectives, personal pronouns, direct and indirect objects, and possessive adjectives. (1.0 credit)

Spanish II: In this course, students continue with the immersion model. While students continue to communicate about their personal lives, families, feelings, and emotions, they discuss current events, legends, and cultural traditions. This course expands on vocabulary and grammar targeted in Spanish and introduces the preterit, imperfect, and future tenses. Students read graded novels that highlight cultural issues in Spanish-speaking countries. Prerequisite: Spanish I (1.0 credit)

Spanish III: Students comprehend and communicate orally and in writing about a wide variety of personal, cultural, and ethical concepts. Grammar study continues throughout Spanish III, focusing on expanding concepts such as the past tenses, reflexive verbs, and if-clauses, as well as introducing the subjunctive mood. The topics discussed include relationships among family and friends, work and the community, the future of technology and medicine, and challenges facing the environment. Students make a deeper study of the world's social, political, and economic realities by reading online news articles in the target language including, but not limited to, CNN, BBC Mundo, and National Geographic. A book based on a true story is introduced for reading and analysis. Films may include *La Misma Luna*, *Los Sobrevivientes*, and *McFarland USA*. Class is conducted 95% in Spanish. Prerequisite: Spanish II (1.0 credit)

Spanish IV: In this course, students develop accuracy in speaking and writing through the use of more abstract vocabulary and more advanced grammatical structures. Discussions related to the graded novels students read throughout the year encompass topics such as identity, Hispanic customs and traditions, history, and current events that affect Spanish-speaking peoples. Students express their opinions, compare and contrast, reflect, and formulate original thoughts both in writing and speaking, including spontaneous, interpersonal discourse. Prerequisite: Spanish III (1.0 credit)

Mathematics

Geometry: By enhancing logical thinking and deductive reasoning, geometry provides a foundation for problem solving that is necessary for success in subsequent math courses. The first semester focuses on the development of geometric proofs using definitions, properties, postulates, and theorems. Second semester topics include transformations, triangle similarity, right triangle trigonometry, angle and segment relationships in circles, areas of polygons, and volumes of solids. Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (1.0 credit)

Algebra 2: This course includes topics in linear equations, inequalities and functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, matrices and determinants, quadratic functions, polynomials and polynomial functions, powers, roots and radicals, exponential and logarithmic functions, rational equations and functions, quadratic relations and conic sections, sequences and series, and trigonometric ratios and functions. Prerequisite: Geometry (1.0 credit)

Precalculus: This is a traditional precalculus course, uses the same textbook as Honors Precalculus, and covers functions, trigonometry, systems of equations, sequences, probability, and analytic geometry. The course is appropriate for students who want to take the regular (non-AP) calculus course at Bear Creek before college. Students will be well prepared for AP Statistics. Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (1.0 credit)

Honors Precalculus: This course solidifies the student's knowledge of algebra, geometry, and trigonometry in preparation for enrolling in AP Calculus AB the following year. It is rigorous and fast-paced, covering topics such as functions, trigonometry, systems of equations, sequences, probability, analytic geometry, vectors, and limits. The course concludes by introducing students to calculus through limits. Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (1.0 credit)

Calculus: This course is a traditional calculus course and uses the same text as AP Calculus AB. It begins with the study of limits and continuity and includes the study of derivatives and their applications, and definite integrals and their applications. Students will be prepared to continue their study of mathematics at the university level. Prerequisite: Precalculus or Honors Precalculus (1.0 credit)

Advanced Placement Calculus AB: The course of study includes properties of functions, limits, differential calculus, and integral calculus. The use of symbolic differentiation and integration utilities is included where appropriate. Prerequisite: Honors Precalculus (recommended) or Precalculus with additional study and challenge test (1.0 credit)

Advanced Placement Calculus BC: This course is an extension of AP Calculus AB and is offered to students after they have successfully completed AP Calculus AB. Topics include the further study of limits, derivatives, definite and indefinite integrals. Students analyze planar curves given in parametric form, polar form, and vector form. The course includes the study of polynomial approximations and series with error analysis. Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB (1.0 credit)

Advanced Placement Statistics: This course is an introductory college-level statistics class designed to introduce students to the major concepts and tools for collecting, analyzing, and drawing conclusions from data. Course topics include exploring data, sampling and experimentation, anticipating patterns, and statistical inference. Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (1.0 credit)

Multivariable Calculus: In this the third and final course in the calculus sequence, topics covered include vector geometry in three dimensions, introduction to multivariable differential calculus, double and triple integrals in Cartesian and polar coordinates, the chain rule, vector fields, and line and surface integrals. The course culminates in the theorems of Green and Stokes, along with the Divergence Theorem. Prerequisite: AP Calculus BC (1.0 credit)

Physical Education

Health: In this course, students learn the integration of physical, mental, social, and spiritual dimensions of a healthy lifestyle. The information presented covers several health issues that students analyze and discuss. Students assess their personal health habits as well as explore what the biblical view of humanity and the human body. Students become familiar with the eleven body systems. They learn strategies for healthy eating, as well as strategies to avoid unhealthy substance usage/abuse that has a negative effect on health. The course includes student certification by the American Red Cross in First Aid/AED/Hands-only CPR. This course presents current health issues from a Biblical perspective. (0.5 credit)

Physical Education: Students may fulfill the Physical Education graduation requirement by:

- participating on a Bear Creek athletics team (0.5 credit earned per sports season completed),
- enrolling in Strength Training elective (0.5 credit earned per semester)
- participating in 25+ hours (in a semester) outside workout program pre-approved by the Registrar (0.25 credit).

Strength Training: This course offers students the opportunity to participate in weight and conditioning programs. The instructor guides the students to create their own sound, efficient weight training programs that meet their specific goals and objectives. Students will engage in the lifting program three days each week (two regular blocks and one extended block) and participate in a study hall session one day each week. This course may be taken more than once. (0.5 credit)

Science

S 9 Conceptual Physics: This lab-based course approaches the subject of physics by emphasizing the *concepts* of physics, thus stimulating students' higher level cognitive skills. The value of teaching physics conceptually is not in minimizing mathematics but in maximizing the use of students' personal experience in the everyday world and their everyday language. Students apply algebra daily in this course. This course challenges students to study, understand, and articulate the concepts of mechanics, matter, heat, sound, light, electricity, magnetism, and nuclear energy. (1.0 credit)

S 10 Chemistry: Students learn basic concepts of general inorganic and physical chemistry including the structure and nature of matter, the periodic table, formula naming, stoichiometry, atomic structure, gas laws, kinetics, and solutions in this lab-based course. Laboratory demonstrations and experiments help students understand and apply the principles of chemistry, as well as supply them with frequent practice in the scientific method. Prerequisite: Algebra 1 (1.0 credit)

S 10 Honors Chemistry: This is an accelerated lab-based chemistry course designed for students with strong skills in the science and math disciplines. The course covers the fundamental concepts of chemistry in greater breadth and depth, including stoichiometry, mole calculations, molecular shape, thermodynamics, redox reactions, acid-base theory, and kinetics. Students acquire an excellent foundation for the SAT Subject Test in Chemistry and the AP Chemistry course. Concurrent enrollment in Algebra 2 or higher required. (1.0 credit)

S 11 Biomedicine: In this lab-based biology course, students investigate and articulate core biology topics through the framework of human anatomy and physiology. Foundational biology topics include biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, and genetics. In addition, students will apply their understanding of biology to topics related to the field of medicine such as human diseases and disorders and medical technology. Lab experiences include dissections and microscopy, among others. Prior year enrollment in Chemistry or Honors Chemistry strongly recommended. (1.0 credit)

S 11 Marine Biology: In this lab-based biology course, students understand and articulate core biology topics through the framework of marine biology. Foundational biology topics include biochemistry, cell and molecular biology, genetics, evolution, and ecology examined through the lens of marine organisms and ecosystems. Lab experiences include studies of ocean circulation, development and physiology of marine life, and ocean ecology. This year-long class culminates with a series of off-campus ecological field studies to evaluate, and ultimately appreciate, the Salish Sea ecosystem. (1.0 credit)

S 11 Advanced Placement Biology: Topics covered in this lab-based course include biochemistry, cell structure and function, cell division, cell signaling, molecular genetics, Mendelian genetics, evolution/origins, and ecology. These topics are covered in significant depth and breadth with extensive emphasis placed on descriptive and experimental laboratory exercises. Students learn a variety of skills such as experiment design, data recording and interpretation, statistical analysis, and operation of technical equipment. The AP Biology course is equivalent to a two-semester introductory biology course usually taken by science students during their first year of college. Prerequisite: prior or concurrent enrollment in Honors Chemistry (1.0 credit)

S 12 Advanced Placement Chemistry: Topics covered in this lab-based course include equilibrium, kinetics, thermodynamics and thermochemistry, atomic structure, molecular structure, electrochemistry, phases of matter, and solution behavior. These concepts are explained and tested in a laboratory setting using experiments aimed at expanding the understanding of the current model and also applying that understanding to new situations and predicting the results. Emphasis is placed on understanding how and why substances act in particular ways and modeling those actions and interactions, as well as understanding how to predict results using mathematical models. The AP Chemistry course is equivalent to a year-long college-level general chemistry course taken by most science students. Prerequisites: Chemistry or Honors Chemistry, also Algebra 2 (1.0 credit)

S 12 Advanced Placement Environmental Science: In this lab-based course, students examine the interrelationships of the natural world. Students learn to think like environmental scientists: making predictions based on observations, writing hypotheses, designing and completing field studies and experiments, and reaching conclusions based on the analysis of data derived from these experiments. Students apply the concepts of environmental science to their everyday experiences, current events, and issues in society. Students identify and analyze environmental problems and their effects and evaluate the effectiveness of proposed solutions. The course provides opportunities for guided inquiry, worldview analysis, and student-centered learning to foster critical thinking skills. Prerequisites: one year biology and one year chemistry (1.0 credit)

S 12 Advanced Placement Physics 1: This lab-based course is equivalent to a first-semester college course in algebra-based physics. The course includes an extensive exploration of Newtonian mechanics (including rotational dynamics and angular momentum) as well as an examination of work, energy, and power. Prerequisite: Algebra 2 (1.0 credit)

Note: Interested students may take the AP Physics C: Mechanics (with calculus) exam with teacher approval; requires independent study. Prerequisite: AP Calculus AB

S 12 Engineering: This full-year lab-based course will engage students in authentic engineering practices in a project-based learning (PBL) environment. Using curriculum developed by a team of University of Texas faculty at the Cockrell School of Engineering and NASA engineers, students explore the breadth of engineering fields, learn the narrative of engineering, and develop engineering design skills and habits of mind. Students design products with users in mind and learn how engineered solutions evolve over time, analyze data using Excel spreadsheets for design solutions, design the products of our everyday lives exploring reverse engineering, use computation and programming skills to program Arduino microcontrollers to solve fun and important challenges, and work in teams to solve complex, system-level design challenges. (1.0 credit)

Senior Capstone Project

Senior Capstone Project: Bear Creek's Senior Capstone Project provides an opportunity for seniors to develop and pursue a challenging, meaningful, and self-directed project during the last few weeks of the spring semester. Each senior develops a project that exhibits a significant level of personal challenge and advances his/her ability to articulate how his/her worldview has been challenged or changed by the project experience. The project begins in the seniors' Christianity and Culture class which tracks the submission and acceptance of the project proposal (and any revisions), parental acknowledgement, timeline, first two advisor meetings, and a project worldview analysis paper. Students will continue their work with a faculty mentor and chronicle their work and progress in a project journal and advisor meeting logs. The project culminates with a presentation to a panel of faculty and peers and will receive pass, fail, or pass with honors marks. To meet the graduation requirement, students must receive a passing score (70) as measured by the project rubric. Seniors who receive the distinction pass with honors will be recognized at An Evening of Honors. (0.5 credits)

Concurrent Credit Program

See Concurrent Credit on school website for most the up-to-date list of courses available for concurrent credit.

Northwest University

Since 2018, The Bear Creek School and Northwest University (NU) have partnered to offer concurrent college credit for select Bear Creek classes.

The following courses were available for concurrent credit during the 2023 – 2024 school year. *

AP English Language and Composition (Norris)
Honors Enlightenment and American Literature (Norris)
AP English Literature and Composition (Summers)
Philosophical Theology (Urban)
Christianity and Contemporary Culture (Burns, Dunn, Higley, Norris, Urban)
AP Biology (Blakeley)
AP Chemistry (Bell)
AP U.S. History (Price)
AP European History (Sorensen)
Graphic Design 1 and 2 (Plourde)
Film and Animation (Plourde)

* Each fall Northwest University will review and update the list of Bear Creek courses available for concurrent credit. Courses listed above may or may not be eligible in 2024 – 2025, while additional courses may be added. NU applications must be submitted and registration fees paid in the fall.

University of Washington

In 2023 – 2024, one Bear Creek course was offered for concurrent credit through University of Washington's "UW in the High School" program. See the school website for UW course numbers, titles, and descriptions.

Honors Senior English (Summers)

Advanced Placement® (AP) Program

Students at Bear Creek may challenge themselves in areas of particular aptitude and passion by enrolling in several Advanced Placement courses. AP courses are college-level courses taught by Bear Creek faculty with content guided by The College Board. AP courses culminate each May with a national examination in each subject area by which students may earn college credit based on their exam score (typically a 3 or higher).

Two defining elements of the AP program at Bear Creek are the scope of our AP offerings and the fact that enrollment is, essentially, open to all students. Bear Creek offers the following AP courses each year:

AP Calculus AB*
AP Calculus BC*
AP Statistics*
AP Biology*
AP Chemistry*
AP Environmental Science*
AP Physics 1*
AP Language and Composition
AP Literature and Composition
AP European History
AP U.S. History
AP Music Theory*
AP Computer Science A*

Additionally, students who are passionate about a subject not listed above may choose to study independently for any** of the AP Exams offered by the College Board, e.g., AP Psychology, AP Macroeconomics, or AP Art History. Bear Creek will administer the AP Exam in May at the designated time. As usual, graduating seniors may submit their official AP Score Report to colleges to demonstrate mastery. Contact the Office of College and Academic Advising for more information.

Advanced Placement courses require personal discipline and independent study techniques. Students will experience an increased reading load and longer writing assignments in most AP classes. AP courses attract students who are academically motivated, personally invested, and diligent. They must be able to read perceptively and independently. Additionally, students need to be proficient in writing concise and clear essays. Students must earn at least a “B” in prior academic department coursework to qualify for AP course enrollment. See course descriptions for additional prerequisites.

Given the high commitment level and increased demand, course selection should be considered carefully. Students who succeed in AP courses generally do well in college as a result of the exposure to collegiate teaching and testing methodology and increased academic preparation. All AP courses are noted on the official Bear Creek transcript.

* See course descriptions for prerequisites.
** Except AP Chinese Language and Culture and AP Japanese Language and Culture exams which cannot be administered at Bear Creek.

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Graduation Credit and Course Requirement Details

Subject	Credits Required	Courses Required and Notes
English	4.0	• Grade 9: Honors Ancient Literature (1.0) • Grade 10: Honors Medieval Literature (1.0) • Grade 11: Honors Enlightenment and American Literature (1.0) or AP English Language and Composition (1.0) • Grade 12: Honors Senior English (1.0) or AP English Literature and Composition (1.0)
History	4.0	• Grade 9: Honors Ancient and World History (1.0) • Grade 10: Honors European History (1.0) or AP European History (1.0) • Grade 11: Honors U.S. History (1.0) or AP U.S. History (1.0) • Grade 12: U.S. Government (0.5) • Washington State History (0.5), taken by Bear Creek students in grade 8
Christian Studies	3.0	• Grade 9: Historical Theology (0.5) • Grade 10: Systematic Theology (0.5) • Grade 11: Philosophical Theology (0.5) • Grade 12: Christianity and Contemporary Culture (1.0) and Senior Capstone Project (0.5)
Science	3.0	• 1.0 credit in a physical lab science • 1.0 credit in a biological lab science
Math	3.0	• Algebra 1 • Geometry • Algebra 2
Languages	2.0	• 2.0 credits in the same language taken while in grades 9 – 12.
Fine Arts	1.0	
Health	0.5	• Health is taken in grade 9.
Additional Credits	2.0	• Additional credits may be taken in any subject including General Electives.
Physical Education	1.5	

Course Planning Worksheet

Courses listed in **bold** are required.

	Grade 9	Grade 10	Grade 11	Grade 12
1	**Honors Ancient Literature (1.0)**	**Honors Medieval and Renaissance Literature (1.0)**	Honors Enlightenment and American Literature **or** AP English Language and Composition (1.0 each)	Honors Senior English **or** AP English Literature and Composition (1.0 each)
2	**Honors Ancient and World History (1.0)**	Honors European History **or** AP European History (1.0 each)	Honors U.S. History **or** AP U.S. History (1.0 each)	**U.S. Government and Politics (0.5)** Other course: Art History (0.5) suggested
3	Conceptual Physics (1.0) *	Chemistry or Honors Chemistry (1.0 each) *	Marine Biology, Biomedicine, or AP Biology (1.0 each) *	Engineering, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, or AP Physics 1 (1.0 each) *
4	Math course	Math course	Math course	Math course
5	**Historical Theology (0.5)** **Health (0.5)**	**Systematic Theology (0.5)** Other course	**Philosophical Theology (0.5**) Other course: Rhetoric (0.5) suggested	**Christianity and Contemporary Culture (1.0)** and **Senior Capstone Project (0.5)**
6	Language course (French, Spanish, or Latin) Level ___	Language course (French, Spanish, or Latin) Level ___	Language course (French, Spanish, or Latin) Level ___ Or other course	Language course (French, Spanish, or Latin) Level ___ Or other course
7	Other course Other course	Other course Other course	Other course Other course	Other course Other course

Physical Education

Fall				
Winter				
Spring				

* Recommended science course sequence. Alternatives course sequences are available.