

CURRICULUM GUIDE

“Every TCA classroom prioritizes critical thinking while fostering intellectual and spiritual growth, producing graduates who are servant-leaders for the kingdom of God in the marketplace, in the home, as well as in the Christian community.”

Dr. Fran Legband  
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

PreK	KINDERGARTEN	FIRST GRADE	SECOND GRADE	THIRD GRADE	FOURTH GRADE	FIFTH GRADE	SIXTH GRADE	SEVENTH GRADE	EIGHTH GRADE	NINTH GRADE	TENTH GRADE	ELEVENTH GRADE	TWELFTH GRADE					
<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, book experiences, interactive read-a-louds, shared reading, emergent writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, three- and four-phoneme blending and the reading/writing connection	<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, independent reading, emergent writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library	<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library	<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	<b>Language Arts</b> Phonemic awareness, interactive read-a-louds, reading mini-lessons, shared reading, phonics/word study lessons, guided reading, independent reading, process writing skills Focus on listening, speaking, vocabulary, fluency and comprehension plus the reading/writing connection through whole group/small group instruction and individualized library, research skills, literature studies	<b>English/Language Arts/Literature</b> Word study, integrated reading, grammar, spelling Focus on thinking skills, speaking, vocabulary, fluency, comprehension, research skills, writing process, whole group/small group instruction, multiple literature studies, integrated iPad technology	<b>History/English</b> Humanities curriculum covering historical time period from 600 to 1600 AD: development of Arabian Peninsula, European Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, world geography Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through novels Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, research and narrative essays, response to literature, creative writing, poetry Integrated iPad technology	<b>History/English</b> Humanities curriculum focused on early American history: colonization, American Revolution, government formation, citizenship, the Constitution, expansion of the US, Texas history, Industrial Revolution, slavery, Civil War Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through short stories and novels Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, response to literature, historical inquiry, creative writing, poetry Integrated iPad technology	<b>History/English</b> Humanities curriculum with thematic units integrating history, literature and writing: Reconstruction, western expansion/eastern industrialization/immigration, World War I, Roaring 20s/Great Depression, the Holocaust, World War II, the Cold War, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War/the 1960s and the modern world Writing processes and skills including 6 traits, literary analysis, historical narrative and research, creative writing, poetry Reading skills, comprehension strategies, vocabulary instruction, literary analysis through classic novels and thematic literary readers Integrated iPad technology	<b>Classical Humanities: Antiquity to the Middle Ages</b> Ninth-grade humanities focuses on the ancient world from the beginnings of recorded history through the fall of the Roman Empire to the High Middle Ages. Students read both the pagan and biblical accounts of man's origin, including literature that compares and contrasts the heroes, customs, laws, morals and philosophies of ancient civilizations. In addition, students learn to write analytical essays, including full process papers, timed writings and test essays.	<b>Modern Humanities: Renaissance to the present</b> This course begins with a review of the Late Middle Ages and surveys European history beginning with the Renaissance and concluding with modern day. Students will engage with various historical primary sources and historical analyses. Every student in this course produces a major research paper on the modern world during the third trimester as a review of twentieth century figures. This course stresses historical analysis and synthesis in writing skills in order to produce success on the optional Advanced Placement exam given at the end of the year.	<b>American Humanities: Pre-Colonialism to the present</b> Eleventh-grade students focus on American history and literature in an integrated course beginning with the colonization and development of our nation and continuing to the present day. Designed to provide students with the analytical skills and factual knowledge necessary to deal critically with the problems and materials in US history and literature, this course emphasizes rhetorical and writing skills through original compositions and analytical essays.	<b>Senior Literary Capstone</b> The four exemplary genres—epic, lyric, tragic and comic—present the noble struggle to found and maintain a community, the splendor and diversity of love, the insight possible out of suffering and the hope that sustains a broken world. Students will spend several months crafting their senior thesis, combining a thoughtful treatment of a classic novel or play with a survey of critical statements.  American Government and AP American Government/Economics Government is designed to survey the American national political system. An examination of the philosophical and historical underpinnings of our constitutional system is combined with current political, social and economic aspects of policy-making from a Christian perspective.					
<b>Mathematics</b> One-to-one correspondence, number recognition, simple addition, recognizing numbers to 20, counting aloud to 100, attributes, positions, shapes, patterns, measurement, graphs	<b>Mathematics</b> Recognize, write and order numbers; compare and sort objects; describe position and patterns; construct and use graphs; compare measurements; use time; identify money; describe geometric shapes; model addition and subtraction; recognize and understand place value; identify fractions; problem solve	<b>Mathematics</b> Addition, subtraction, comparing geometric shapes, measurement, counting and grouping units, number patterns and relationships, problem solving, place value	<b>Mathematics</b> Addition, subtraction, place value, money, time, fractions, linear measurement, geometry, area, weight, multiplication, division, problem solving, data analysis, individualized math software	<b>Mathematics</b> Addition, subtraction, multiplication, multiplication memorization, division, geometry, comparing measurements, fractions, graphs and tables, problem solving, logic, estimation, individualized math software	<b>Mathematics</b> Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, money, time, geometry, measurements, angles, fractions, decimals, graphing, numeric patterns, problem solving, individualized math software	<b>Mathematics</b> Topics include place value concepts, numerical expressions, operations with decimals, operations with fractions, units of measure, patterns in the coordinate plane, volume and two dimensional shapes. (Grades and standardized test scores help to determine 7th-grade math placement.)	<b>Mathematics</b> Topics include numerical expressions and factors, fractions and decimals, ratios and rates, percents, algebraic expressions and properties, equations, area, surface area and volume, integers, number lines and the coordinate plane, statistical measures and data displays. (Grades, standardized test scores and an end-of-year diagnostic test help to determine 7th-grade math placement.)	<b>Pre-Algebra Concepts</b> Topics include mastering basic skills, integers, expressions, equations, inequalities and graphing. (Students will take <i>Intro to Algebra I</i> in 8th grade.) <b>Pre-Algebra</b> Topics include review of basic skills, integers, expressions, multi-step equations, inequalities, graphing, statistics, probability, geometry	<b>Intro to Algebra I</b> Topics include integers, equations, quadratics, linear equations and systems of equations. (Students complete <i>Algebra I</i> in 9th grade.) <b>Honors Algebra I</b> Topics include numbers and sets, properties of operations, real numbers, irrational numbers, quadratics and radical expressions. (Students receive <i>Algebra I</i> credit for Upper School.)	<b>Mathematics</b> <i>Algebra I</i> (Prerequisite: <i>Intro to Algebra I</i> ) <i>Geometry</i> (Prerequisite: <i>Honors Algebra I</i> ) <i>Honors Geometry</i> (Prerequisite: <i>Honors Algebra I</i> )	<b>Mathematics</b> <i>Geometry</i> <i>Honors Geometry</i> <i>Algebra II</i> <i>Honors Algebra II</i> <i>Pre-AP Trig/Calculus A</i> <i>AP Statistics</i>	<b>Mathematics</b> <i>Algebra II</i> <i>Honors Algebra II</i> <i>Honors Trig/Intro Calculus</i> <i>Pre-AP Trig/Calculus A</i> <i>AP Statistics</i>	<b>Mathematics</b> <i>Trig/Intro Business Calculus</i> <i>Honors Trig/Intro Calculus</i> <i>AP Calculus AB</i> <i>AP Calculus BC</i> <i>Finite Math</i> <i>AP Statistics</i>					
<b>Science</b> Multi-sensory science inquiries including five senses, the ocean, the farm, animals (coverings, movement, classification), insects, plants, space	<b>Science</b> <i>Inquiry-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, classifying, estimation, designing experiments, collecting data, comparing and generalizing. Units of study: animal life cycles, animal characteristics, interdependence, plant parts, weather and air	<b>Science</b> <i>Inquiry-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared exploration. Units of Study: animal life cycles, animal characteristics, interdependence, plant parts, weather and air	<b>Science</b> <i>Inquiry-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: solids and liquids, air and weather, sharks, scientific vocabulary	<b>Science</b> <i>Inquiry-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: water, structures of life, measuring matter, scientific vocabulary	<b>Science</b> <i>Inquiry-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: energy and electromagnetism, scientific vocabulary	<b>Science</b> <i>Lab-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, shared explorations. Units of study: scientific method, cells, volcanoes and earthquakes, astronomy, animals and plants, physical science, life science, earth science	<b>Science</b> <i>Lab-based investigations</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, explorations. Units of study: scientific method, designing experiments, metric measurement, cells, body systems, energy, matter, astronomy, Newton's three laws, animals, periodic table, mini-sci-ence fair, flight	<b>Life Science</b> <i>Lab- and project-based curriculum</i> Processes and skills include active observing, discovery, explorations. Units of study: scientific method, cell structure and function, cell transport, genetics, classification, ecology, fetal pig dissection, Rube Goldberg project	<b>Earth/Physical Science</b> <i>Project-centered inquiry</i> Mousetrap car, wood-splint bridge, science methodology, astronomy, geology, engineering, meteorology, introductory physical science	<b>Biology</b> <i>Biology</i> <i>Honors Biology</i>	<b>Chemistry</b> <i>Chemistry</i> <i>Honors Chemistry</i>	<b>Physics</b> <i>Physics</i> <i>AP Physics Mechanics</i>	<b>Science Electives</b> <i>AP Biology</i> <i>AP Chemistry</i> <i>AP Physics Mechanics</i> <i>Honors Anatomy &amp; Physiology</i> <i>Honors Astronomy</i> <i>Honors Engineering Design</i> <i>Field Ecology</i>					
<b>Bible</b> Learn about God through major Bible stories, prayer, Scripture memorization and songs	<b>Bible</b> Learn about God through major characters in Bible stories, apply biblical principles, Scripture memorization	<b>Bible</b> Focus on the gifts from God through his love, Jesus as Lord and Savior, God's care, creation, Scripture memorization	<b>Bible</b> Moses and his leadership of Israel, promises of God, Scripture memorization	<b>Bible</b> Books of the Bible, Ten Commandments, Life of Abraham, Jacob, Joseph, Daniel, Scripture memorization	<b>Bible</b> Life of Christ and Paul, various Old Testament characters, applying biblical principles to personal life, Scripture memorization	<b>Bible</b> <i>Walking with God and His People</i> Old Testament focus; an overview of God and His covenants with His people; integrated within the history course	<b>Bible</b> <i>Walking with God and His People</i> New Testament focus; birth, death and resurrection of the Messiah; Acts; the Apostle Paul and expansion of Christianity	<b>Bible</b> <i>Walking with God and His People</i> Old Testament survey; a look at God's people through all of the Old Testament eras and the inter-testamental period	<b>Bible</b> <i>Walking with God and His People</i> New Testament focus; the Gospels, Acts, selected Epistles, Revelation, Church history and spiritual discipleship	<b>Bible</b> Integrated with Classical Humanities Key sections of Old Testament are studied along with the history and literature of the ancient world.	<b>Bible</b> Integrated with Modern Humanities: Renaissance to the present Key sections of New Testament and early Christian creeds are studied along with the history of the Roman world.	<b>Bible</b> Eleventh-grade Bible considers the gospel message and its implications for the individual and for the church. Students will study Christology, systematic theology and practical theology. Students will discuss culturally relevant topics as they apply their theology to biblical and modern issues. We will explore a variety of subjects found throughout the New Testament and in mainstream media today.	<b>Bible</b> This final Bible course aims to prepare our seniors for life in college and beyond by developing a holistic Christian worldview in pursuing truth, goodness, beauty and justice. In achieving this goal, the class will study apologetics, worldviews and C.S. Lewis. Students will be challenged to strengthen their own Christian worldview and also be informed of other worldviews they will encounter while in college.					
			<b>Spanish</b> Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, Spanish customs and culture	<b>Spanish</b> Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, Spanish customs and culture	<b>Spanish</b> Conversational Spanish, Spanish literature, writing, Spanish Bible verses, translating simple sentences, Spanish customs and culture	<b>Latin</b> Latin vocabulary, study of the Roman Empire, Latin derivatives, introduction to reading Latin	<b>Latin</b> Begin a two-year study of the language and its structure, gaining a foundation in Classical literacy through the study of ancient people, places, quotes and abbreviations.	<b>Latin</b> Continue two-year reading program; at the end of the eighth grade, the students have completed the first year of a high school-level Latin course and receive credit on their Upper School transcript.	<b>Latin</b> Continue two-year reading program; at the end of the eighth grade, the students have completed the first year of a high school-level Latin course and receive credit on their Upper School transcript.	<b>World Languages</b> <i>Spanish I</i> <i>French I</i>	<b>World Languages</b> <i>Spanish II</i> <i>Honors Spanish II</i> <i>French II</i> <i>Honors French II</i>	<b>World Languages</b> <i>Spanish III</i> <i>Honors Spanish III</i> <i>French III</i> <i>Honors French III</i>	<b>World Languages</b> <i>Spanish IV</i> <i>AP Spanish IV</i> <i>Honors French IV</i> <i>AP French IV</i>					
<b>Art</b> Create original art works, explore various materials, learn about color and shapes	<b>Art</b> Create original works of art using various materials, develop an enjoyment of art experiences	<b>Art</b> Create original works using a variety of media including clay and two- and three-dimensional objects	<b>Art</b> Refine art skills in painting and drawing, creative understanding of two-dimensional designs	<b>Art</b> Fine tune art skills using a variety of media: clay, fabric, watercolor, acrylic, specialty papers	<b>Art</b> Composition and design skills; careful observation; color theory applied to a variety of media including drawing, painting, collage and hand-building techniques	<b>Fine Arts rotation</b> (one trimester of each) <b>Art</b> - Introduction to art making: drawing, painting, printmaking, collage and sculpting <b>Band</b> - Introduction to basic band instruments through exploring a classroom set of band instruments <b>Choir</b> - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, end-of-trimester concert <b>Speech/Drama</b> - Introduction to speech via informative, persuasive and impromptu speaking; introduction to drama via improv skills, presentation skills, monologue, dialogue and scene work	<b>Electives</b> Students choose one of the following: <b>Art</b> - Exploration of art techniques: pencil, paint, charcoal, collage, clay and other media <b>Band</b> - Learn to play instrument and perform music <b>Choir</b> - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, performing in concerts <b>Speech/Drama</b> - Basic rhetorical skills, stage presence, confidence, basic acting skills, debate	<b>Electives</b> Students choose one of the following: <b>Art Methods</b> - Emphasis on drawing and painting: <b>2D/3D Art</b> - Projects have a 2D and 3D component <b>Band</b> - Music fundamentals, concert performance <b>Choir</b> - Worship through singing, basic music theory, sight-reading, performance opportunities <b>Speech/Drama</b> - Basic rhetorical skills, stage presence, confidence, basic acting skills, debate <b>High Tech</b> (see technology below)	<b>Electives</b> Students choose one of the following: <b>Art Methods</b> - Emphasis on drawing and painting: <b>2D/3D Art</b> - Projects have a 2D and 3D component <b>Studio Art</b> - Composition and design applied to drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, mixed media <b>Band</b> - Music fundamentals, concert performance and competition <b>Choir</b> - Worship through singing, sight-reading, music theory, performance opportunities <b>Speech/Drama</b> - Develop performance and communication skills, debate, mock trial <b>High Tech</b> (see technology below)	<b>Visual Arts</b> <b>DESIGN COURSES:</b> The design courses are for those students with no or little art experience; therefore, there are no prerequisites for these courses. All grades are welcome to participate in any of the design courses. Design courses are Product Design, Studio Design, 3D Design, and Media Design. <b>HONORS COURSES:</b> The honors art courses are for those students with advanced art experience and have taken at a minimum either eighth-grade Studio Art or one of the four Upper School prerequisite design courses. The Honors courses are: Drawing I-Painting I-Printmaking I, Photo and Documentary, Digital Art and Animation, Sculpture and Ceramics and Drawing II-Printmaking II-Painting II. <b>AP ART - PREPARATION, PRACTICUM, EXHIBITION:</b> This is an advanced course in studio art with the equivalent demands of an introductory college level course. This course is for highly motivated seniors capable of independent work. The two primary goals of this course are first, to create a portfolio, which can be submitted for college application; and second, to create a cohesive body of work, which will be displayed in the senior show. <b>Performing Arts</b> <b>MUSIC:</b> Women's Chorus, Men's Chorus, Honors Chorale, Advanced Band, Honors Advanced Band <b>THEATER ARTS:</b> Drama I: Theater and Production, Drama II: Performance and Production, Honors Advanced Drama <b>Other Electives</b> <b>HONORS LEADERSHIP:</b> This course aims to develop each student's leadership practice and philosophy through seminar-style lessons, matched with a practicum approach where students apply theory to practice as they complete internships and lead across TCA's campus. <b>YEARBOOK AND HONORS ADVANCED YEARBOOK:</b> Students learn to collect and edit material of interest for presentation through the medium of the school yearbook.								
<b>iPad devices offer curriculum enrichment and software exploration. All classrooms are equipped with Digital citizenship and online safety are taught at all levels.</b>						<b>Technology/Library</b> Equipping students with technology and information literacy skills using a digital and biblical worldview to facilitate their continual education in all academic classes with focus in digital citizenship, keyboarding skills and enhancing their love for literature			<b>High Tech/STEM Robotics I</b> Build, innovate, create and program robots using EV3 graphical software. Utilize Microsoft Office to document, analyze and present information. Explore basics of 3D printing.	<b>High Tech/STEM Robotics II</b> Build, innovate, create and program robots using EV3 graphical software. Utilize Microsoft Office to document, analyze and present information. Explore basics of 3D printing.	<b>Computer Science/Technology Computer Applications</b> <b>HONORS ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MARKETING STRATEGIES:</b> Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Word, Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, InDesign, Premiere Rush; Google Drive; Wix <b>HONORS TECH STOP INTERN:</b> This is a highly specialized course, taught in the form of an internship and a weekly curriculum that gives students invaluable experience troubleshooting real-life issues with often critical turnaround times. Tech Interns will assist the Technology Department through US Tech Stop, where US students and teachers bring their tablets for repair and training. <b>COMPUTER SCIENCE COURSES:</b> All Computer Science courses utilize the online platform CodeHS. This allows a student to access his/her work from any computer with internet access. Courses are Honors Python Programming, AP Computer Science, Honors Web Computing, and Honors Game Design in Javascript.							
<b>Library, PreK–4th Grade</b> Weekly class visits for story time, guidance and exploration of a variety of literature, print and						electronic research in later grades			<b>Library</b> Collaboration with academic courses to provide cross-curricular connections offering access to wisdom-building resources to strengthen Christian worldview through literature and media		<b>Library</b> Provides print and electronic resources to support classroom projects, personal research and reading interests. Supports students in their research with instruction and assistance, aiming to prepare them for independent library use in college.							
<b>PE</b> Skills development, movement activities, body/spatial awareness, gross motor skills	<b>PE - Skill Stations</b> Progressive skill development and social interaction; emphasis on balance, sequencing, tracking, body/spatial awareness, laterality, gross motor, kinesthetic awareness, hand-eye/foot-eye coordination			<b>PE - Skill Stations</b> Continue sequential and spiraling skill-building curriculum, emphasis on fair play, cooperation and positive social interaction			<b>PE - Skill Stations</b> Students in grades 3–4 work on sports units: flag football, basketball, soccer, track, softball, baseball, tumbling, hockey, tennis, fitness, dance and volleyball Fitness-level assessments are introduced for students.			<b>PE - Introduction to Sports</b> Developmentally appropriate introduction to competitive sports offered at TCA; emphasis on skill development, sportsmanship, team building and intramural play; focus on flexibility, conditioning, core strength development and physical health			<b>7th–8th Competitive Athletic Sports Programs</b> <b>Girls:</b> basketball, cheerleading (8th), cross country, dance, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball <b>Boys:</b> baseball, basketball, cross country, football, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, wrestling  <b>Athletic Development</b> training course and <b>off-campus PE</b> options also available			<b>9th–12th Competitive Athletic Sports Programs</b> <b>Girls:</b> basketball, cheerleading, cross country, dance team, golf, soccer, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, volleyball <b>Boys:</b> baseball, basketball, cross country, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and field, wrestling (Health 1-trimester course also offered through Athletics Department)		