

PHCA High School Course Catalog



*To teach biblical truth in an environment of academic excellence
that prepares students to impact the world for Christ.*

Plaza Heights Christian Academy
1500 SW Clark Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816)228-0670

School Information

Plaza Heights Christian Academy
1500 SW Clark Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015
(816)228-0670
www.plazaheightschristianacademy.org

Mission Statement

The mission of PHCA is to teach Biblical truth in an environment of academic excellence that prepares students to impact the world for Christ.

School Sponsorship and Affiliation

Plaza Heights Christian Academy is a non-denominational, independent Christian school. PHCA is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Cognia, and is a member of the Great Plains Alliance of Christian Schools (GPACS).

Identifying Information

Plaza Heights Christian Academy is an independent, non-denominational, private Christian school that serves the Blue Springs and surrounding areas. We are dedicated to striving toward academic excellence as we teach from a Christ-centered perspective.

We believe the promises and commands God gives us in His Word. We believe “children are a heritage from the Lord” as it says in Psalm 127:3. We believe you should impress God’s commandments and values on your children and Plaza Heights Christian Academy desires to come alongside with parents to fulfill the instruction of “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

(Discrimination clause: Since God’s love extends to all people, Plaza Heights Christian Academy welcomes and encourages all children regardless of sex, race, color, nationality or ethnic origin to apply for admission, financial aid, and any/all programs of the school and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of any program of the school.)

Schedule Changes

All changes in student schedules are to be made within the first three days after the start of each semester. Students need parent, teacher, counselor, and administrator approval to change classes. The required form can be found in the counselor's office.

Course Offerings

Not all courses listed in this handbook are offered each year.

Additional Course Offerings

In the event a course is not offered or a student is unable to take a course at its offer time, additional courses are offered via Bob Jones University as well as dual credit options through Grand Canyon University. These courses come at an additional cost to the student and will be taken as an online course.

English Language Arts

Students will glorify God by reading and writing fluently with expression to demonstrate an understanding of God's word in order to apply it to their lives.

Grammar and Composition

Text: *Fundamentals of Literature* - Bob Jones Press

Grammar and Composition builds on skills acquired in middle school English and adds dictionary skills, library skills, and study skills. Students will focus on grammatical concepts within the writing process by writing assignments such as: compare/contrast, personal narrative, research essay, and a personal response to literature. Students will learn to be a discerning reader by focusing on the fundamentals of literature: conflict, character, theme, structure, point of view, and moral tone. Contemporary and classic American, British, and world authors will be studied in four genres: fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. A focus will be placed on critical thinking skills through Scripture application.

World Literature

Text: *Elements of Literature* - Bob Jones Press

World Literature focuses on reading, grammar, and writing as well as further development of critical thinking skills through the analysis of various selections from all literary genres from authors around the world. Significant review and refinement of the writing process will occur as well. Various novel studies and papers will be assigned throughout the year. A formal research paper is also required.

American Literature

Text: *American Literature* - Bob Jones Press

American Literature focuses on the themes and motifs in several major American literary works including: fiction, poetry, drama, and nonfiction from the beginning of America to the present. Students will be responsible for several essays, responses to literature, and poetry selections. Through these, revision and editing skills will be strengthened. A formal research paper is also required.

British Literature

Text: *British Literature* - Bob Jones Press

British Literature focuses on a small selection of literature from the earliest British/English texts. Students will develop the reading and writing skills needed to read college-level texts and write in college-level writing courses. A small portion of this class will be spent on creative writing through which students will be taught concision through descriptive writing. A formal research paper is also required.

Creative Writing

Length: 1 semester

Because of the close relationship between the ability to read critically and the ability to write intelligently, Creative Writing combines reading instruction with writing instruction. Over the course of the year, students will consider several genres as readers and writers. Analytical activities and commentaries provide students with a comprehensive rhetorical introduction that prepares them to write an essay of their own in each genre.

Science

Students will reason from a scientific standpoint recognizing that God is Ultimate Truth who reveals Himself through His creation.

Biology

Text: *Biology* - Bob Jones Press

Biology is a combination of the study of life and God's creation. This course covers topics ranging from cell study to complex interactions. There will be a focus on cell biology, genetics, origins, and ecology. A variety of laboratory equipment will be used such as: microscopes, dissection equipment, laboratory glassware, and a variety of models.

Physical Science

Text: *Physical Science* - Bob Jones Press

Physical Science focuses on the fundamental concepts of chemistry and physics. Areas of study and activities include: laboratory skills, problem solving, scientific method, scientific measurement, mechanics, electromagnetism, periodic phenomena, and an introduction to chemistry.

Chemistry

Text: *Chemistry* - Bob Jones Press

Chemistry is a study of the materials in God's creation and the changes that they undergo when they interact. This course will cover atomic structure, the periodic table, molecular structure, nomenclature, chemical reactions, and stoichiometry. Laboratory work will be used to help illustrate these principles. (Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra I).

Environmental Science

Text: *Environmental Science* - Suburban Science

Students learn about major environmental issues in modern society. Units cover the four spheres of the earth (lithosphere, hydrosphere, atmosphere, and biosphere), and human impacts on the environment.

Physics

Text: *Physics (3rd Ed)* - Bob Jones Press

Physics provides a systematic introduction to the main principles of physics while practicing and developing problem-solving skills and completing analysis in the laboratory. The main areas of study include: motion, energy, and modern physics. (Prerequisite: Successful completion of 2 years of high school algebra with a B or above).

Anatomy and Physiology**Text: *Suburban Science*****Prerequisite: Successful completion of Biology**

Anatomy and Physiology provides information over the structure and function of the different systems in the human body. Those students interested in health professions are introduced to the concepts which will provide them a foundation for further studies. Students will study and create models and participate in lab dissection.

Social Studies

Students will see God's sovereignty and providence through people and events in history.

American Government

Text: *American Government* - Bob Jones Press

American Government is designed to equip students with the knowledge and thinking skills necessary to understand the structure of the United States government and the politics which drive it. Students will see that government is an important part of being an American citizen and understand that government is included in virtually every day of one's life.

World History

Text: *World History* - Bob Jones Press

World History begins with creation and continues to the present day. Through notes, reading assignments, maps, primary documents, and current events, students gain an understanding of the world views throughout history.

American History

Text: *United States History* - Bob Jones Press

American History is explored from a Christian worldview beginning with the first European settlers and ending with the modern era. The course touches on the various people groups and cultures who made up the North Americans. There is an emphasis on why things happened and how the world view motivated historical decisions.

Economics

Text:

Economics uses various means to teach students about the production, consumption, and transfer of wealth through a Christian worldview. This course covers economics terms and ideas, money, the pros and cons of various types of economic systems, the benefits of the free market, and the importance of financial stability in the world and personal finance.

Civil War

Civil War highlights the various points of view in regard to the Civil War. An understanding of the homefront and battlefield is developed. The course emphasizes major battles and highlights those taking place in Missouri as well as the major leaders in these conflicts.

Cold War

Cold War covers the origins of communism and the Cold War chronologically with an in-depth look at the Berlin Wall, Korean Conflict, and Vietnam War. The course includes notes, primary resources, analysis of propaganda, and videos. Students will be able to explain the inherent differences between the free world and life behind the “Iron Curtain”.

Current World Issues

The current events course is designed to provide students with the opportunity to discuss, understand, and explore local, national, international, political, economic and social issues in a respectful and meaningful way. The course aims to assist students in becoming more informed citizens and to give them the historical background of events necessary to better understand current situations. Students are encouraged to look at these events through a Biblical worldview.

Law

A high school law class (often titled Law Studies, Street Law, or Constitutional Law) provides a survey of the American legal system, focusing on constitutional rights, criminal law, and civil law to foster civic engagement. Students analyze real cases, participate in mock trials, and debate legal principles. This elective course is designed to empower students to be informed citizens and may include study of the philosophy of law and ethics.

Math

Students will recognize the precision language of God's creation language through mathematical discovery acknowledging God as the source of Absolute Truth.

Algebra I

Text: *Algebra I* - Bob Jones Press

Algebra I is the foundation for high school mathematics. This course focuses on the structure of the real number system. The course introduces the student to the basic structure of Algebra through the use and application of real numbers, inequalities, factoring, operations with polynomials, linear and quadratic equations, and graphs. Appropriate technology will be used to enhance mathematical understanding and problem-solving skills.

Geometry

Text: *Geometry* - Bob Jones Press

Geometry is a course designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Areas of study include tools and language of geometry, reasoning and proof, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent triangles, relationships within triangles, polygons and quadrilaterals, similarity, right triangles and trigonometry, transformations, surface area and volume, circles, and probability. Emphasis will be placed on developing critical thinking skills as they relate to logical reasoning and argument.

Algebra II

Text: *Algebra II* - Bob Jones Press

Algebra II will provide a review of advanced algebraic concepts through the study of functions, families of functions, equations, inequalities, polynomials, rational and radical equations, quadratic equations, logarithmic and exponential functions, complex numbers, and sequences and series. Emphasis will be placed on practical applications and modeling throughout the course.

Pre-Calculus

Text: *Pre-Calculus* - Bob Jones Press

Pre-Calculus combines the previous study of algebra, geometry, and mathematical functions into a preparatory course for calculus or other college math. The students will study the properties and graphs of trigonometric, polynomial, rational, inverse, exponential, and logarithmic function, polar coordinates, complex numbers, conic sections, matrices, vectors, sequences, series, and limits. Students will then begin analytic geometry and calculus concepts such as limits, derivatives, and integrals.

Bible

Students will know what they believe about God's truth and why they believe in order to discern and personally apply Scripture.

Worldview

Text: *Understanding the Times* by Summit Ministries

The *Understanding the Times Series* comprehensively covers the biblical worldview, the Great Commission, understanding competing worldviews, and how to engage today's culture and defend the faith with sound biblical theology and powerful apologetics. *Understanding the Times* teaches students how to identify and counter opposing worldviews.

Life and Teachings of Christ (I & II)

This course will explore the life events and core teachings of Jesus as recorded by each of the four gospel writers. We'll learn the background, original audiences, literary themes, and the similarities/differences between Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Revelation

Perhaps one of the most debated books of the Bible is how to understand John's Revelation. In this course, we'll examine the historical context of the book along with the four major interpretations of the text, allowing the most prominent thinkers from each school of thought to present their interpretive case.

Ethics

Text: *Ethics* - Bob Jones Press

Encourages students to grow in character and biblical thinking so they can make wise ethical choices and defend the Christian faith from a biblical worldview. Students will compare different systems of ethics, learn to defend biblical Christianity, and approach ethics in a way that empowers growth and discernment.

Health

Students will gain knowledge about God's design and creation of the human body as well as how He designed it to grow and properly develop physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally.

High School Health

Text: *Total Health: Choices for Winning Lifestyle - Purposeful Design*

Health provides students with a general overview of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health in order to better understand how each section relates to and affects the whole. Students engage with educational videos from Ted Ed as well as clips from sermons, spoken word, testimonials, and research. Students participate in group projects as well as group presentations. Throughout the duration of the class, students will write several research papers to better understand the material covered.

Physical Education

Students will receive opportunities to help develop a passion for lifelong fitness.

High School PE

Text: *Based off the Missouri State Standards*

Physical education courses in the middle and high school provide students with opportunities to incorporate physical activity and lifelong leisure activities into their lifestyle through game play and practice. Focus units include, but are not limited to: badminton, pickleball, volleyball, floor hockey, and kickball. Other team sports will be incorporated as non-competitive activities. Skills and common concepts of each lifelong activity will be presented and developed through practice and match play.

World Languages

Students will acquire communication skills and valuable cultural perspectives to enhance their usefulness in God's service both in their own community and abroad.

Spanish I

Text: *Avancemos!* Level 1 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Spanish I utilizes multiple oral and written language acquisition techniques to introduce students to the language. Basic grammar structures will be taught. Students will be able to formulate and answer questions and compose original dialogues in Spanish. Students will learn about opportunities they have to broaden their ministries for the Lord beyond their own culture while they learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Spanish II

Text: *Avancemos!* Level 2 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Spanish II is a high-beginning to low-intermediate study of the Spanish language and its many cultures. This course builds upon the vocabulary and grammar concepts learned in Spanish I. In the beginning of the course, basic vocabulary and grammar learned in Spanish I are reviewed before proceeding with the instruction of new concepts in both of these areas. In addition to broadening their knowledge of the Spanish language, students will also gain deeper insight into the many cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Recognizing that students are uniquely designed to communicate with God, fellowship with each other, and spread the gospel, this course aims to enhance a student's usefulness in God's service, in addition to improving his/her vocational opportunities.

Spanish III

Text: *Avancemos!* Level 3 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Spanish III is an intermediate study of the Spanish language and its many cultures. In addition to recycling the basic grammar learned in Spanish I and II, new vocabulary and more complex grammatical structures will be learned through thematic units. Emphasis is placed on the four basic skills: speaking, writing, reading, and listening with the goal of improving students' comprehension and expression of opinions and concepts. Students will also continue to learn about various aspects of Spanish-speaking cultures including traditions/customs, nuances, and dialectal differences. Recognizing that students are uniquely designed to communicate with God, fellowship with each other, and spread the gospel, this course aims to enhance a student's usefulness in God's service in addition to improving his/her vocational opportunities.

French I

Text: *Bien dit!* Level 1 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

French I students will engage in interactive cultural experiences such as creating a French dessert or exploring the greater Francophone world through 3D virtual reality field trips. This course is based on communication, connections, comparisons, and communities. These will be emphasized through grammar, vocabulary, and solid pedagogy.

French II

Text: *Bien dit!* Level 2 (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

French II picks up where French I leaves off. Students will continue their study of French by further expanding their knowledge of key vocabulary topics and grammar concepts. Students will not only begin to comprehend listening and reading passages more fully, but they also start to express themselves more meaningfully in both speaking and writing. The structure of the course includes vocabulary, grammar, and cultural components. Students will practice the skills of speaking, listening, reading, and writing by using authentic resources and real-world based activities.

Fine Arts

Students will discover the unique expression and application of their gifts, mirroring God's creativity, and empowering ambassadors who are artistically prepared to be salt and light in their generation.

High School Concert Choir

Concert Choir is an audition-only daily vocal ensemble class for grades 9-12. Students will learn proper vocal techniques, posture, breathing, and tone quality. Students learn solfege and sight singing, vocal blending, harmony, rhythm, key signatures, and scales. Students will be expected to perform during annual concerts, various special events, music festivals, and contests with proper performance etiquette and cooperation. Students are expected to wear a nice black long-sleeved button up shirt and black dress slacks for performances. In the spring, students will also learn and practice large ensemble vocal parts and choreography for our annual spring musical.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate band is a musical instrumental ensemble designed for students with prior band experience to build upon foundational skills and introduce more complex musical concepts and repertoire. Intermediate band focuses on developing and refining musical skills beyond the basics, including sight-reading, articulation, harmonies, and performance techniques. The music played in intermediate band is typically more challenging than that of beginner band, often including a wider range of musical styles and genres. The instructor will be responsible for making recommendations for advancement from beginner to intermediate band.

Music Appreciation

Music appreciation is the ability to listen to and enjoy music, understanding its emotional impact and appreciating its various styles and forms. It emphasizes the subjective experience of music, encouraging listeners to develop their own musical tastes and preferences. The course will explore elements of music theory, form, and analysis.

Music History

In music history, students will learn about musical periods (Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romantic, 20th-Century, and beyond), key composers, musical forms and styles, and cultural context. In this course, expect a variety of learning experiences including: lectures and discussions, listening assignments, as well as readings and research. The goal of this course is to develop a deeper appreciation and understanding of music's rich history and its role in shaping cultures and societies.

Music Theory

High school music theory class teaches students to understand, analyze, and create music by studying its fundamental elements like notation, harmony, rhythm, and structure. Students develop "ear training" skills—listening, dictation, and sight-singing—to connect musical sounds with written symbols, preparing them for college-level music studies.

Art I

Art 1 is an introductory course where students will create drawings, paintings, sculptures, collages, and prints while exploring Art History. The class is designed to learn about and gain skills in various mediums of art while gaining confidence in Art Critiques and speaking more about their own art as well as their fellow classmates. Through the completion of this course, students will be able to take other advanced High School Art Courses.

Art II

Art 2 is designed for an extension of Art 1 and to build upon the previous knowledge base of the elements and principles of design. While the class continues to build on previous skills, it will include weekly sketchbook assignments to practice these.

Art III

Art 3: will be an advanced Art Course continuing with Art Concepts, Art History, and more in Depth Artwork. This class will include more choice based Art making. There will be assignments but the students will have more choices in the mediums and styles of art they are choosing to use. While there will be more freedom in Art Making, it will also include a sketchbook with weekly assignments. Students will need the prerequisite of at least two-three other High School Art Classes but will also be at the discretion of the Art Teacher.

Theater

High school students will develop their acting, storytelling, and stage production skills in this year-long theatre course while exploring how drama can inspire, uplift, and glorify God. Students will gain confidence, creativity, and an understanding of theatrical techniques through improvisation, scene work, monologues, and full-scale productions. Emphasizing collaboration and character development—both on and off the stage—this course encourages students to use their gifts with integrity and purpose. Whether new to theatre or experienced performers, students will grow as expressive artists while fostering a supportive community rooted in faith and creativity.

Practical Arts

Students will develop the Biblical application of wise stewardship in real-world situations and choices such as life skills, problem solving, and communication technologies.

Fashion Design

In this course, students will obtain a foundation of the knowledge needed for more advanced studies of fashion apparel, textiles, or interior design. Students will cover the basics of the physical, psychological, social, and cultural reasons for how we dress and where we live, the elements and principles of design, textiles, and fabric construction and selection for apparel and home use, introductory sewing skills that are applied in a variety of samples and apparel or home goods projects. Self-initiative, motivation, time management, planning, independent work, following directions, and evaluating are crucial skills in this course where art, communication, mathematics, science, and technology are applied. Students are responsible for sewing supplies and fabric for class projects.

Foods

Foods includes instruction in nutrition, food preparation, consumerism, and food presentation. Students are introduced to the concepts of safety and sanitation; kitchen tool selection, care, storage, and proper usage; measurements, nutrition, baking basics, and simple food preparation. Major topics covered include: kitchen safety and sanitation, nutrition, reading recipes, standard cooking measurements, and baking.

Child Development

High school child development classes provide a foundational understanding of the physical, intellectual, social, and emotional growth of children from conception through preschool or early adolescence. Courses typically cover parenting responsibilities, prenatal development, nutrition, and child safety, often including hands-on experience through observations or laboratory preschools.

Personal Finance

Text: *Foundations in Personal Finance* (Ramsey Publications)

Foundations in Personal Finance - High School Edition is a complete, turnkey curriculum designed to fully equip students with everything they need for a dynamic classroom experience. Lessons are delivered via video by Dave Ramsey and his team of experts, blended learnings, and a TestGen computerized test bank. In addition, more than 100 activities are included which focus on providing 21st century personal finance knowledge and skills in a student-centered, competency-based approach to learning.

Life Skills

This elective is designed to increase students' knowledge of and ability in using the skills necessary for everyday living. Life Skills emphasizes defining personal values, goal-setting and planning, and solving problems.

Design & Modeling

A Design and Modeling course in high school is an introductory course designed to give students hands-on experience with project-based learning and the design process. It focuses on developing problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation skills while exploring how design principles are applied in various fields. Students learn to use software to create virtual models of their designs and apply the design process to solve real-world problems.

Electives

Speech & Debate

This rigorous and engaging course challenges high school students to develop strong communication, critical thinking, and argumentation skills through competitive speech and debate. Students will explore various forensics events, including interpretation, original oratory, and extemporaneous speaking, while also learning the fundamentals of debate structure, research, and persuasive reasoning. Rooted in Christian values, the course emphasizes respectful discourse, ethical argumentation, and using one's voice to advocate for truth and justice. During the fall semester, students will be expected to participate in tournaments, gaining valuable real-world experience in competition. Whether refining public speaking skills or engaging in high-level debate, students will grow in confidence and poise while representing their school with integrity.

Marketing

In this hands-on, real-world marketing course, students will explore the fundamental marketing principles and apply them creatively and practically. From branding and advertising to social media strategies and consumer behavior, students will learn how businesses connect with their audiences and communicate value effectively. Through collaborative group projects, case studies, and partnerships with local businesses and organizations, students will gain experience in developing marketing campaigns that reflect integrity, ethical decision-making, and Christian values. By the end of the semester, students will have a deeper understanding of how marketing shapes our world and how they can use these skills to make a positive impact in their communities.

ACT Prep

Text: Magoosh

The ACT Prep course will emphasize ACT test-taking strategies, specifically math skills, language skills, reading skills, and science-reasoning skills. Students will study and practice listening and note taking techniques, test taking strategies, questioning and thinking skills, information retrieval, pre-ACT test practice, memory technique, reading in the context areas, and vocabulary development.

Yearbook (Secondary & Elementary)

Yearbook is a production-based course that results in the creation of the UPROAR yearbook. The yearbook staff will learn to work efficiently and effectively while being cooperative, punctual, professional, creative, and productive. Students are responsible for taking digital photos, conducting interviews, managing clerical operations, making announcements, maintaining signage while composing, designing, and editing all elements of text, graphic art, and digital photography layouts. This course may require students to be available outside of regular class

hours to attend extra-curricular activities. Students are expected to be organized, motivated, and possess strong reading and writing skills. They will also become familiar with the online software required to publish the yearbook.

Sociology

Text: *Sociology: A Christian Approach for Changing the World*

Sociology covers the development, structure, and functioning of human society from a Christian perspective. As a part of the culture study, students will analyze various theories of sociology, group dynamics, education, and discrimination specifically considering inequality regarding age, gender, and ethnicity.

Psychology

In this course, students will be given an introduction to the scientific study of human behavior and mental processes, exploring key theories, research methods, and applications relevant to everyday life. Students will contrast the major schools of thought with what the Bible says about human nature and what it means to be human.

AP Psychology

AP Psychology is a college-level introductory course that explores the systematic and scientific study of human behavior and mental processes. Students analyze the biological bases of behavior, sensation, perception, learning, cognition, development, and social psychology to understand how humans think, act, and feel, preparing them for the AP Exam. The course prepares students for the AP Exam, which consists of 100 multiple-choice questions (70 minutes) and two free-response questions—an article analysis and an evidence-based question (50 minutes). **The test will require a fee.

Computer Science

This course will teach a foundation to computer science and basic programming. Students will spend time in the classroom discussing computer science as well as individual time practicing programming.

College & Career

A high school college and career planning class is a comprehensive course designed to help students map their post-secondary paths—college, career, or military—through self-assessment, career exploration, and academic goal-setting. It assists with resume building, job searching, and college applications

