

Cottage Hill Christian Academy

High School Elective Courses – 2024-2025

Courses designated in **blue** are new offerings for the 24-25 school year.

****** These courses are weighted for GPA purposes.

§ These courses have an additional course fee.

General Electives

**** Academic Teams** - Counts as a weighted elective credit for GPA calculation. Students who are on the Scholars Bowl team, Hi-Q Team, and/or Math Team are invited to join this elective course. Students will use this daily class time to study and prepare for upcoming competitions, participate in practice competitions, and learn strategies for “game day.” Students will compete in local, district, and state competitions under the direction of the faculty advisor. *Note that there is a tryout process in order to be on the final roster for each academic team.*

ACT Prep - This course is designed to equip students with the skills and strategies necessary to achieve their best possible score on the ACT exam. This course provides targeted instruction and practice in all four sections of the ACT: English, Math, Reading, and Science. Through a combination of content review, test-taking strategies, practice tests, and personalized feedback, students will gain the confidence and proficiency needed to excel on the ACT. Students are encouraged to take the ACT during the semester and at the conclusion of this course.

Childcare Work Study - Available for juniors and seniors only. Students who serve as employees in the Extended Care program at CHCA in the afternoon may earn elective credit. Students must complete EEC employment paperwork, interview with the director, be accepted into the program, and provide their own transportation to the church campus. *CHCA does not offer a general work-study option. Early dismissal for other work schedules will not be permitted.*

Creative Writing - This course introduces students to the various forms of creative writing, including short stories, poetry, and personal essays. Through interactive workshops, writing exercises, and constructive feedback, students will develop their writing skills, hone their creativity, and discover their unique voice as writers.

§ Drivers Education - Available for grades 10-12 only. The goal of the Drivers Education program is to equip students to be safe, responsible drivers who are competent and more confident behind the wheel. Throughout the semester, students will complete the course of study laid out by the Alabama State Department of Education. Instruction will consist of two main components: classroom instruction and on-the-road experience. Students must have their learner’s permit in order to participate. There is an additional course fee of \$300.

Finance for Teens - This is a practical course designed to equip teenagers with the essential knowledge and skills to make informed financial decisions and build a strong foundation for their financial future. This course provides an introduction to key financial concepts such as budgeting, saving, investing, and managing debt.

**** Forensics** - *Available for juniors and seniors only. Counts as a weighted elective credit for GPA calculation.* Forensic science is the use of scientific methods to investigate crimes or examine evidence that might be presented in a court of law. This elective is a hands-on laboratory and project-based learning course that will explore what forensic scientists do. Students will study the history of forensics and modern scientific advances in the field. The collection and analysis of crime scene evidence such as hair, fibers, DNA, ballistics, poisons, drugs, arson, fingerprinting, and entomology will be studied. The scientific method, data analysis, and powers of observation and critical thinking to solve problems are addressed in all aspects of the course.

Fundamentals of Speech - This course is designed to provide students with a strong foundation in public speaking and interpersonal communication. Through a combination of theory, skill-building exercises, and real-world presentations, students will develop the confidence, clarity, and persuasive abilities necessary to excel in various speaking situations. Students will gain an understanding of body language, gestures, eye contact, and facial expressions in conveying confidence and engaging the audience.

Life Skills - This course focuses on practical skills that are fundamental to personal growth, well-being, and success in various aspects of life. Through interactive exercises, discussions, and real-life applications, students will develop a wide range of skills that are crucial for personal and professional development. Units of study include interview skills, sending professional email, basics of car maintenance, personal finance, sewing basics, and much more!

Office Assistant - *Available for seniors only.* Students enrolled in the Office Assistant program will be assigned to serve alongside office staff and/or faculty members. Students will exhibit professionalism while assisting with the day-to-day operations in the office to include answering phones, taking messages, running errands, making copies, filing documents, and more.

\$ Varsity Athletics - Students who are on the final roster for any JV or Varsity sport will be assigned to the corresponding Varsity Athletics class. Under the direction of the coach and/or supervising faculty member, student-athletes may use this time to begin sports-specific practices, prepare for game day, and complete academic responsibilities.

Fine Art Electives – *Students must earn 1.0 fine art credit to fulfill graduation requirements.*

Art I, II, III, IV - Students explore various techniques and mediums to create original artwork, while also learning about famous artists and the techniques they mastered. As students progress through the levels of instruction, they will use increasingly advanced techniques. *The previous level of art serves as a prerequisite for higher levels.*

**** \$ AP Studio Art** - This course is designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation at the end of the school year. The AP Studio Art Program consists of three portfolios – 2-D Design, 3-D Design and Drawing – corresponding to the most common college foundation courses. There is an additional fee for this course. Students enrolled in the course are required to submit the final portfolio. *Students must have successfully completed Art II and obtain approval from the art instructor in order to be enrolled in this course.*

Drumline - Students will explore various musical styles, including marching band, cadences, and drumline showcases. Students will develop the ability to interpret and perform these pieces with flair, precision, and musicality. Students will learn the basics of percussion instruments, including but not limited to the snare drum, quads, bass drum, cymbals, and other percussion instruments. Students will be expected to attend extracurricular activities in order to perform.

Music Appreciation - This course offers a comprehensive exploration of various musical genres, styles, and historical periods, providing students with the tools to appreciate, analyze, and understand the rich tapestry of musical expressions throughout history. Through active listening, engaging discussions, and immersive experiences, students will develop a deep appreciation for music's beauty, cultural significance, and its ability to shape societies. Students will develop the ability to recognize and appreciate various musical elements, including melody, harmony, rhythm, texture, dynamics, and timbre.

Performing Arts - In this course, students will cultivate essential performance techniques across disciplines. Students will learn stage presence, projection, timing, and audience engagement while exploring the nuances of physical expression, emotional depth, and artistic interpretation. Students will also develop the ability to collaborate effectively within a group and adapt to different performance spaces. Students who would like to participate in Fine Arts performances should enroll in this course to prepare for Christmas Magnificent and the annual spring production.

\$ Pottery - This is an engaging and hands-on course designed to introduce students to the fundamentals of ceramics and pottery making. This course provides a comprehensive overview of the techniques, tools, and processes involved in creating ceramic art pieces. Emphasis will be placed on developing basic skills in shaping, molding, and refining clay to create functional and decorative pottery pieces. In addition to practical skills, students will learn about the properties of clay, glazes, and firing methods. Course is available for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.

Worship Training - Students will serve as leaders during our weekly chapel services. Students learn how to effectively lead their peers in worship, while also assisting in the technical aspects of a worship service. Students enrolled in this course should be willing to use their musical talents to enhance the spiritual atmosphere on campus. Students who may not have a musical background can participate in the setup of the stage, preparation of PowerPoint slides, and other technical aspects. This course is led by CHCA faculty in conjunction with pastoral staff from Cottage Hill Baptist Church.

Technology Electives – *Students must earn ½ technology credit to fulfill graduation requirements.*

Business Technology - This is a foundational course designed to provide students with essential skills and knowledge for effectively using computer applications in various personal and professional contexts. In today's digital world, computer literacy is essential for success in nearly every field. This course aims to familiarize students with common software applications and empower them to leverage these tools to enhance productivity, communication, and problem-solving capabilities. Students will use their school-issued laptops and Office 365 accounts to go deeper in their understanding of Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, One Note, and more.

Multimedia Design - Students will gain the skills and knowledge necessary to bring creative ideas to life in the digital world by learning the fundamentals of graphic design, including color theory, typography, composition, and visual hierarchy. Students will develop skills in using graphic design software such as Photoshop and Canva to create visually appealing designs for print and digital media.

Sports Marketing - This course provides insight into the principles, strategies, and techniques involved in promoting and managing sports brands, events, athletes, and organizations. Students will learn how to create and manage strong sports brands, including team logos, mascots, and uniforms. Students will understand the intricacies of sports event marketing, from planning and promotion to execution and learn how to create compelling event experiences and attract audiences through branding and digital marketing.

Technology for Teens - Students will sharpen their skills in a variety of technology platforms, including basic computer applications, videography, and podcasts. Students will also learn about digital citizenship and using technology responsibly. Throughout the course, students will engage in hands-on projects and collaborative activities to apply their learning, solve real-world problems, and unleash their creativity. By the end of the course, students will emerge with a deeper understanding of technology's role in their lives and the world around them, equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to navigate and contribute to an increasingly digital society.

Yearbook Production - This is an engaging and creative course that immerses students in the process of creating a memorable and meaningful yearbook. This course provides hands-on experience in all aspects of yearbook production, including content creation, layout design, photography, writing, and editing. Through collaborative projects and real-world application, students will develop the skills necessary to produce a high-quality yearbook that captures the essence of a school year and preserves cherished memories. Students will be required to attend extracurricular events to serve as student-photographers.