

Cottage Hill Christian Academy

High School Elective Courses – 2025-2026

Courses designated in **blue** are new offerings for the 25-26 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.

Book of Acts - The Book of Acts is an in-depth Bible elective that explores the birth and expansion of the early church through the power of the Holy Spirit. Students will study key events, people, and themes of Acts, with a focus on practical application. Through discussion, reflection, and Scripture study, students will gain a deeper understanding of how the message of Jesus spread from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth and how that same mission continues today. This course encourages spiritual growth, bold faith, and a heart for God’s work in the world. This course counts towards Bible credits required for graduation.

Business Math - Students master everyday math concepts needed to succeed in business and life. From budgeting to taxes, students apply critical thinking skills and learn to solve real-life problems. While this is a College Prep level math course for seniors, any student who is interested in business and finance would enjoy this course as an elective. Students earning an honors diploma may not use this course to satisfy mathematics credit requirements.

Childcare Work Study - *Available for juniors and seniors only.* Students earn a paycheck as an employee in the Extended Care program at CHCA in the afternoon while earning 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.*

\$ 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. The course will consist of two main components: classroom instruction and on-the-road experience. Students must have their learner's permit or driver's license 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 I and **Forensics II** - *Available for grades 10-12 only.* Forensics 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. Students must have completed Forensics I in order to enroll in Forensics II, which is an extension of the introductory 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.

New Testament Survey - This new Bible elective is designed to equip students with the tools and methods necessary for faithfully interpreting Scripture. Focusing on the New Testament, students will explore the historical, literary, and theological contexts of the text while learning principles of biblical interpretation, including genre analysis, word studies, and the role of the Holy Spirit in understanding truth. This course challenges students to deepen their engagement with Scripture and grow in their ability to handle God's Word with clarity and conviction. This course counts towards Bible credits required for graduation.

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.

Old Testament Survey - This new Bible elective is a course designed to teach students how to interpret the Old Testament with accuracy, depth, and biblical insight. Students will study the major sections of the Old Testament while learning key principles such as context, genre, themes, and the unfolding of God's redemptive plan. Emphasis will be placed on understanding the

original audience and applying timeless truths to today's world. This course helps students build a strong foundation for reading the Old Testament with clarity and purpose. This course counts towards Bible credits required for graduation.

Sociology - Sociology is the study of human behavior, social groups, and societal structures. Through engaging discussions, real-world examples, and interactive projects, students explore key concepts such as culture, socialization, social institutions, and group dynamics. Emphasizing critical thinking and empathy, the course encourages students to examine how societal forces influence individuals and communities, both historically and in the modern world. By the end of the course, students will have a deeper understanding of the structures that shape society and their role within it.

\$ 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 a full year of Art instruction and obtain approval from the art instructor in order to be enrolled in this course.*

Choir – Choir is a new course that offers students the opportunity to develop their vocal skills while experiencing the joy of singing. Through focused instruction in vocal techniques, music theory, and performance practices, students will build confidence in a supportive group setting. The choir will perform a variety of musical styles and participate in school events and community performances, allowing students to share their talents and represent the school through music. No prior experience is required, just a willingness to learn, collaborate, and sing.

Music Theory and Style - 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 variety 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.

§ Pottery I and Pottery II – *Course is available for sophomores, juniors, and seniors.* 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. Students must have completed Pottery I to enroll in Pottery II.

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.*

Computer Applications – 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.

Athletic Media - Athletic Media is a hands-on course where students explore the intersection of sports and digital communication by creating multimedia content that highlights Warrior athletics. Students will learn the fundamentals of video editing, graphic design, photography, and social media strategy as they produce highlight reels, printed programs, promotional graphics, and engaging content for various digital platforms. This course provides real-world experience in sports media production while promoting school spirit and showcasing athletic achievements across the CHCA campus and community.

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.