

Course Catalog



Valley Lutheran High School
2024-2025

This catalog is designed as a guide to typical projected course offerings at Valley Lutheran High School. Please note that course offerings and descriptions are subject to change without notice. Some courses may not be offered every year.

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Advanced Placement

Valley Lutheran High School offers the following classes for Advanced Placement credit. Successful completion of the Advanced Placement Exam can result in the student earning college credit for that course.

AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Language & Composition
AP Literature & Composition
AP US History
AP American Government and Politics
AP Computer Science A
AP Computer Science Principles
AP Biology
AP Chemistry
AP 2D Art and Design

Students enrolled in an Advanced Placement course who are not enrolled in Dual Credit are required to take the Advanced Placement exam, and pay the applicable fee, in order to receive AP/Honors credit for that course.

Dual Enrollment

Valley Lutheran High School offers the following classes for dual college credit through Concordia University Nebraska.

Honors PreCalculus
AP Calculus AB
AP Calculus BC
AP Language & Composition
AP Literature & Composition

Students enrolled in these classes will receive additional information the first week of class, including any additional requirements and fees to receive dual enrollment credit, and will be able to select at that time if they wish to enroll for dual enrollment credit.

Additionally, Valley Lutheran High School offers online dual credit courses through Concordia University Wisconsin and Grand Canyon University. These programs offer great opportunities at a fantastic value for the college-bound high school student, and allow high school students, to get a head start on college, and save time and money by combining accelerated high school courses into a collegiate career.

Through flexible online classes taught by Concordia and GCU online faculty, high school students can complete coursework during the day, or at home. Please visit <https://www.gcu.edu/individual-courses/dual-enrollment> or <https://www.cuw.edu/admissions/undergraduate-admissions/high-school-students/pre-college.html> for more information about classes and fees.

More information and full course descriptions are available from the Principal's office.

Theology

Theology 1A: Christian Foundations 9, 10 101

Theology 1A: "Christian Foundations" offered in the Fall semester for Freshmen and transfers, is the foundational class of the VLHS Theology Department. Students will become familiar with the life of Jesus, the culture and background of the Bible, and various principles of Biblical interpretation. Students will apply these principles to some tough passages of scripture. Students will have the opportunity to produce a video recalling the life of Jesus and lead fellow students in the study of the Bible.

Theology 1B: The Old Testament 9, 10 102

Theology 1B: "The Old Testament," offered in the Spring semester for Freshman surveys the Old Testament focusing on key narrative events pointing to the coming of Jesus. Students will identify key principles from Genesis, dwell on the central OT story of the Exodus, and recount the rise, fall, and exile of the Israelite kingdoms. Students will trace God's promises and covenants and consider what it is like to live as an exile. **Prerequisite:** Theology 1A: Christian Foundations

Theology 2A: The New Testament 10 111

Theology 3: "The New Testament", offered in the Fall for Sophomores, takes a dynamic look at the early church from Luke-Acts through the ministries of Peter, Paul, and John. The letters and books of the New Testament are examined in the context of God's mission in the world through the church. Students will compare and reflect on the various themes of the New Testament. Students will create and explore chances to launch innovative ministries today.

Prerequisite: Theology 1A: Christian Foundations

Theology 2B: The Pillars of Christian Belief 10 112

Theology 4: "The Pillars of Christian Belief" systematically explores in depth what Christians believe about God, scripture, humanity, salvation, the sacraments, the church, and Christ's return. Students will formulate a coherent Christian worldview and apply it to their lives and future decisions. **Prerequisite:** Theology 1A: Christian Foundations, Theology 1B: The Old Testament, Theology 2A: The New Testament

Junior and Senior Theology Electives:

Juniors and seniors are required to select 2 of the following electives each year.

Christian Decisions and Relationships 11, 12 141

This course allows students to study topics like social media, dating, marriage, family relationships, abortion, and gender identity in an open forum. This course welcomes honesty and tough questions from students. Upon conclusion, students will be able to articulate God's will for human creatures in relationships from an orthodox Christian perspective. Students will develop concrete plans for their own relationships and future lives. Students will gain insightful and godly wisdom into many of today's hot button issues beyond talking points and assumptions.

Defending the Christian Faith 11, 12 142

Students will engage in an intellectually rigorous study of the arguments for the truth of the Christian faith. Students will explore and establish the resurrection of Jesus as a matter of high historical probability. Students will look at and answer common objections to the Christian faith. Students will examine the contemporary intellectual environment of the west and its various worldviews. Students will survey world religions and beliefs. This course allows students to grow in confidence and knowledge of their faith. This course features a number of field trips and guest speakers.

Equipping the Christian Faith 11, 12 143

"Equipping the Christian Faith" aims to increase the confidence of students by taking a courageous approach to building individual trust in a God who loves each person tremendously. We will use Mere Christianity and the Screwtape Letters by C.S. Lewis to build our narrative of Christ at work in our lives, around us, and through Christian virtues. These texts bring a new perspective, building confidence and equipping students in the Christian faith. Armed with Lewis' thought, students will practice critical thinking and active discussion with their classmates and world.

The Word and the World 11, 12 144

The theology elective The Word and the World will give students the perspectives, experiences, and tools needed to share the Christian faith in a diverse, global society with a positive attitude. Students will explore world religions, see how Christianity interacts with other religions, examine the relationship between faith and culture, and practice the art of spiritual conversations. Students will leave with heightened global awareness and the ability to share the central ideas of Christianity in a variety of cultural settings.

Worship Arts 10, 11, 12 193/194

Worship arts equips and develops students as current and future leaders in the local church. This semester-long course is designed for students who have a desire to be involved in and learn more about worship by using their given gifts and talents in worship. This course will require students to be involved in at least two chapels each month and one Sunday morning service at Mount Calvary Lutheran Church. Topics of study will also include church history, genres of worship, practical structure of worship, and basic technical set-up. **Prerequisite:** Audition and department approval required. **Note:** Counts as up to 1 semester of theology credit for juniors and seniors only. Additional credits, and credits earned in 10th grade can count as fine-arts or elective credit.

English

English I: Introduction to Literature 9 203/204

Introduction to Literature builds upon reading, writing, listening, speaking and critical thinking foundations established in 8th grade. Included in this course are thematic literature collections related to personal experiences, journey of self and preparing for college and beyond. Reading comprehension strategies and college preparedness writing are emphasized through various writing styles. Active listening and speaking are practiced in formal and informal scenarios and a variety of media presentations are evaluated for social and cultural messages.

English I Honors: Advanced Introduction to Literature 9 206/207

Advanced Introduction to Literature emphasizes literary themes and genres from all types of literature, equipping students with a Biblical view. Skills taught include critical reading, analytical, expository, argumentative, and narrative writing. Students will prepare for the PSAT through grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure development. **Prerequisite:** Teacher recommendation and maintaining a 3.0 GPA in the class

English II: American Literature 10 213/214

American Literature students read stories from the time of Native Americans to the tales of the 21st century, equipping students with a Biblical view. Skills taught include critically analyzing elements of literature and writing, creative, analytical, and research papers. Students will prepare for the PSAT through grammar, vocabulary, and sentence structure development. **Prerequisite:** English I

Honors English II: Advanced American and British Literature 10 216/217

Advanced American and British Literature explores all types of writing from the English-speaking world. Skills taught include critically analyzing literary and poetic elements, and writing creative, analytical, and research papers. They will think critically about the Biblical worldview of the 20th century and apply it to their futures. Students will produce projects and papers that mimic what will be expected in dual-credit and AP courses.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and maintaining a 3.0 GPA in the class

English III: British Literature 11 221/222

Students will be exposed to the development of writing by British authors relative to simultaneous periods of growth and change in the history our nation. Students read typical works of poetry, drama, fiction, and nonfiction from each major era. Vocabulary building is based on Greek roots and ACT Prep. Composition skills are emphasized through numerous and varied writing. All junior level classes include verbal skill test preparation. Juniors will be involved in writing meaningful research papers based on a specific topic chosen in class with the teacher. **Prerequisites:** English I and II.

AP Language and Composition 11

226/227

The AP English Language and Composition course aligns to an introductory college-level rhetoric and writing curriculum, which requires students to develop evidence-based analytic and argumentative essays that proceed through several stages or drafts. Students evaluate, synthesize, and cite research to support their arguments. Throughout the course, students develop a personal style by making appropriate grammatical choices. Additionally, students read and analyze the rhetorical elements and their effects in non-fiction texts, including graphic images as forms of text, from many disciplines and historical periods. Students enrolled in this class will be required to take the Advanced Placement Exam (additional fee required). **Prerequisite:** English I and II, Teacher recommendation required and maintain a 3.0 GPA in the class.

English IV: World Literature 12

231/232

World Literature focuses on literature from over twenty nations. Skills taught include critically analyzing literature, and writing argumentative, informative, narrative, and research papers. Students will be equipped to evaluate cultures they will encounter in and after high school with a Biblical view.

Prerequisite: English I, II, III.

AP English Literature and Composition 12

238/239

This course will engage the student in careful reading and critical analysis of imaginative literature through close reading of selective British and American texts from the 16th to the 21st century. The student should be prepared to experience, interpret, and evaluate a few works well in preparation for a year end test possibly leading to college credit. Students enrolled in this class will be required to take the Advanced Placement Exam (additional fee required). **Prerequisites:** English I, II, III, and Teacher recommendation, and maintain a 3.0 GPA in the class.

Electives:

Journalism 10, 11, 12

271

This one-semester course gives students a hands-on introduction to multimedia reporting. Students will be exposed to various mediums such as; text, still photography, video and video blogs, audio, podcasts, graphics and interactive online sites. Students will have the opportunity to work with journalistic organizations and journalists within our community, with a variety of assignments.

Public Speaking 10, 11, 12

290

Students are introduced to public speaking as an important component of their academic, work, and social lives. Skills are developed as fair and critical listeners, or consumers, of spoken information and persuasion. Students will learn to choose speaking topics and adapt them for specific audiences, to research and support their ideas, and to benefit from listener feedback. How to incorporate well-designed visual and multimedia aids in presentations and to maintain a credible presence in the digital world. Students will also learn about the ethics of public speaking and techniques for managing communication anxiety.

Social Studies

Geography 9 301

In this semester-long course, students will learn and utilize skills and disciplines of Geography to discover more about the world around them and their place in it. In this course, students will engage with a variety of perspectives, sources, maps, and data to examine people, places, and environments at local, regional, and global levels. The course will explore patterns and characteristics of physical environments, landforms, climates, and ecosystems, as well as the interrelationships between geographical characteristics and the political, social, economic, and linguistic processes of people impacted by and occupying them. There will be additional emphasis and discussion in the course on how the lens of a Christian worldview impacts one's study of the Geography of places and people. Note: This course replaces Freshman Seminar in 2021-2022. Students who previously completed Freshman Seminar have fulfilled this requirement.

Civics 9 371

In this course, students will learn about and analyze the structures, powers, and responsibilities of federal and state levels of government as well as reflect on what it means to be an active citizen. To do this, students will gain understanding of the history and foundations of the American republic and discuss how citizens can be involved today. Discussions and content will focus on topics like institutions of government, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, the lawmaking process, and American political culture and values, among others. Through addressing a variety of perspectives and viewpoints, students will learn about how they can become active and engaged citizens in Arizona and the United States of America.

World History 10 303/304

The political, social, cultural, and religious history of eastern and western civilization are studied in this year-long course. From creation to the twentieth century, the history of the planet Earth is studied to gain meaning for our lives today. This course also concentrates on the topographical, cultural, and economic characteristics of the various regions of the world. Geographic skills are emphasized throughout the course.

U.S. History 11 313/314

This course covers the history of America dating back to the early explorers and takes us to the current headlines making news today. America's story will be viewed with a special focus on political, economic and diplomatic history.

AP U.S. History 11 318/319

Advanced Placement U.S. History is a college level course. It is meant to introduce students to the major points throughout American History from the Colonial Period to the present day. Students are required to show competency by critically evaluating primary and secondary sources while gaining skills to be successful in college and on the AP Exam. These skills will be taught through interactive assignments, writing essays, studying primary source documents, and actively engaging in class discussions. Students taking AP U.S. History are required to take the Advanced Placement exam held in May. **Prerequisite:** Teacher Approval Required.

Government 12 330

In this course, the student will study our national, state, and local governments. Basic principles underlying a democracy are examined with their application to the contemporary political life as seen by a Christian. The course also deals with the unique problems faced in democratic America. Current news events will be studied to see application of basic governmental principles. This course deals with the basic ideal of political behavior and the operation of American government. It includes such topics as political influence, citizen participation, political parties, the role of the President, and the decision-making process. An in-depth unit focuses on Arizona's history and constitution.

AP United States Government and Politics 12 355

Advanced Placement United States Government and Politics, is a college-level course offered through the College Board's Advanced Placement Program. This course surveys the structure and function of American government and politics that begins with an analysis of the United States Constitution, the foundation of the American political system. Students study the three branches of government, administrative agencies that support each branch, the role of political behavior in the democratic process, rules governing elections, political culture, and the workings of political parties and interest groups. Students taking AP U.S. Government & Politics are required to take the Advanced Placement exam held in May. **Prerequisite:** Teacher approval required.

Economics 12 350

This course covers the basic concepts of economics: scarcity, the market system, business and its organization, production, supply and demand, money, banking, the business cycle, government involvement, competition, and trade. Varying viewpoints on current problems are presented, and opportunities are provided to practice economic skills.

Electives:

Psychology 11, 12 360

This is an introduction to the basic foundations of psychology. Learning these concepts is useful for understanding others and beneficial for application to our daily lives. The examination of human behavior points us to the reality of God who has made man in His image. In Psychology 1, we will discuss History, Research, Developmental, Mind Body Connection, Learning and Cognitive Processes, Motivation and Emotion, and Personality and Stress.

History and Film 10, 11, 12 390

This course will provide an introductory look at how Hollywood and History interact. A variety of historical time periods, settings, and film genres will be explored. This course is taught with an emphasis on the Christian perspective and how faith relates to the topics of both history and film.

Math

Note regarding honors math classes:

All honors level classes are for high-achieving math students. They will move at a faster pace, will be challenged with more rigorous problems, and cover extra topics.

Placement into an honors math class requires the recommendation of your previous math teacher, and the following grades in the previous math class:

Honors Class: A or B

Non-Honors math class: A

At the discretion of your teacher, students not meeting the above grade requirement may become eligible for honors on completion of a summer assignment, and satisfactory performance on a test about that assignment. See your math teacher for details.

Algebra Prep 9

401/402

This course is designed to prepare students for success in Algebra 1 and future high school math courses. We will begin with fundamental topics such as integers, decimals, fractions, equations, inequalities, proportions, and percents. We will then move into the Algebra 1 curriculum, covering the first semester of Algebra 1, including solving equations and inequalities, functions, and solving systems of equations.

Students who earn a 90% or higher in this course, and complete the second semester of Algebra 1 over the summer, may progress to take Geometry during their sophomore year. Students who complete this course but either don't meet this requirement or choose not to complete a summer course will be well prepared to take both semesters of Algebra 1 their sophomore year.

Algebra I 9, 10, 11, 12

413/414

Algebra helps us solve problems efficiently. The value of Algebra as a real-life problem-solving tool will be introduced. Solving algebraic equations and graphing these solutions will be emphasized throughout the study of the algebraic process.

Ninth grade students who successfully complete this course with a year-average grade of 95% or higher will be given the option to take Geometry Honors and Algebra 2 Honors simultaneously in 10th grade, allowing them to advance to higher level mathematics courses.

Geometry 9, 10, 11, 12

423/424

HONORS: 426/427

Geometry is an overview of two and three-dimensional geometry. Use of geometric rules and formulas will be emphasized. This course will include topics such as Parallel lines, Polygons, Similarity, Pythagorean Theorem, Circles, Area, Volume, and Proof. **Prerequisite:** Algebra I

Algebra II 10, 11, 12

433/434

HONORS: 436/437

Algebra II is an extension of Algebra I. This course moves forward by integrating into basic Algebra such topics as geometry, statistics, trigonometry, probability, matrix theory, relations and functions. Students will be asked to think critically at all times. **Prerequisite:** Geometry

Pre-Calculus 11, 12**HONORS: 456/457**

This course is a continuation of Algebra II, covering complex numbers, relations and functions, systems of equations, exponential and logarithmic functions, and trigonometry. Pre-Calculus is designed to prepare the student for Calculus. **Prerequisites:** An A or B in Honors Algebra II or an A in Regular Algebra II, and teacher recommendation. **Offered for Dual Enrollment Credit through Concordia University Nebraska.**

Calculus AB (AP) 11, 12**HONORS: 466/467**

Calculus AB is a course in single-variable calculus that includes techniques and applications of the derivative, techniques and applications of the definite integral, and the Fundamental Theorem of Calculus. Algebraic, numerical, and graphical representations are emphasized throughout the course. Students not participating in Dual Credit will be required to take the AP exam in May. (Additional Fee Required). **Prerequisites:** A or B in Honors Pre-Calculus and teacher recommendation. **Offered for Dual Enrollment Credit through Concordia University Nebraska.**

Calculus BC (AP) 12**HONORS: 476/477**

AP Calculus BC includes learning topics covered in AP Calculus AB to a greater depth, plus includes a study of additional integration techniques; L'Hôpital's Rule; improper integrals; infinite series; and parametric, vector, and polar functions. Students not participating in Dual Credit will be required to take the AP exam in May. (Additional Fee Required). **Prerequisites:** AP Calculus AB and teacher recommendation. **Offered for Dual Enrollment Credit through Concordia University Nebraska.**

Explorations in Mathematics 12**483/484**

This course is designed for seniors who seek a non-honors mathematics class to fulfill their high school graduation requirement. It is designed to prepare students for math after high school, both in college and in the workplace in a variety of fields. We will spend time reviewing math topics that typically appear on the SAT and ACT. We will then explore many different areas of mathematics, including critical thinking skills, logic, number theory, the metric system, consumer mathematics, probability, and statistics. Explorations in Mathematics is an approved math class by the NCAA Clearinghouse. **Prerequisite:** Algebra II or department approval

Foreign Language

Spanish I 9, 10, 11, 12

503/504

Spanish I is an introductory course into the Spanish language. Students will be building fundamental skills in listening, speaking, comprehension, reading and writing the Spanish language. Students will also be introduced to the Spanish culture through task-based activities, collaborative communication and authentic materials.

Spanish II 10, 11, 12

513/514

Spanish II builds upon the skills and concepts taught in Spanish 1 with an emphasis on communication, building vocabulary and the linguistic structures of Spanish. Students will gain understanding of the Spanish culture and language through learning activities that enhance the language experience. **Prerequisite:** Spanish 1

Honors Spanish III 11, 12

526/527

Spanish III has been carefully designed to focus on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading and listening as well as thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Each unit embodies all of these standards. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the student meets all standards. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading and writing short stories, reading short novels,, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, quizzes and exams. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme. **Prerequisite:** Spanish I & II and teacher recommendation.

Honors Spanish IV 11, 12

536/537

Spanish IV has been carefully designed to focus on successful communication through speaking, writing, reading and listening as well as thorough grounding in aspects of culture. Each unit embodies all of these standards. Unit activities blend different forms of communication and culture to ensure that the student meets all standards. Course strategies include warm-up activities, vocabulary study, reading & writing short stories, reading short novels, threaded discussions, multi-media presentations, self-checks, practice activities and games, oral and written assignments, projects, written and oral quizzes & exams. Learning activities in each unit are focused upon a specific theme. **Prerequisite:** Spanish I, II & III and teacher recommendation.

Physical Education

PE 9 550

Students will participate in a variety of individual and team sports, learning the basic rules and skills of each sport. These sports include but are not limited to soccer, football, badminton, basketball, volleyball, track, golf, weightlifting, president's fitness testing, and endurance fitness. This course is designed to begin a student's lifelong appreciation of physical activity.

Advanced PE 10, 11, 12 555

Students learn advanced concepts and strategies for a variety of sports. They will use teamwork and strategic planning to help accomplish specific objectives included in each of these sports. Each student is expected to participate at a higher expertise in those areas. This class will help students to develop their core body strength, balance, and coordination.

Health 9 560

Emphasis is on establishment of a lifelong wellness lifestyle that is based on a Christ-centered balance of intellectual, physical, emotional, and social needs. Students will learn nutritional issues and become familiar with basic First Aid. Course will include activities that promote a healthy lifestyle.

Weight Lifting 9, 10, 11, 12 575 or 576

This course begins as an introduction to weight training and moves to an intermediate level as the semester progresses. Students learn the basic core lifts and write their own specific workouts to strengthen their bodies in the individual's desired area. This course is highly recommended for all student athletes.

Interscholastic Sports 9, 10, 11, 12 580-589

(1/4 credit per season, maximum of 1/2 credit per year, maximum career total of 1 credit)

Students may earn 1/4 credit for each season of interscholastic sport, provided they are active participants in practices and games for the entire season. No more than one sport may earn credit per season. No more than 1/2 credit of credit for interscholastic sports may be used to fulfill the physical education requirement.

Technology

Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) 9, 10, 11, 12

612

The Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) course provides students with the hands-on experience needed for word processing using Microsoft Word, spreadsheets using Microsoft Excel, and presentation skills using Microsoft PowerPoint. Students will develop skills to research information from various web-based resources. Students will analyze and create documentation resulting from their findings. The students will have the opportunity to earn business and industry-recognized Microsoft Office Specialist certifications (MOS).

Recommended prerequisite: Algebra 1.

Intro to Coding (Python) 9, 10, 11, 12

650

This course offers an introduction to computer science. Students will learn the basics of computer programming along with the basics of computer science. The material emphasizes computational thinking and helps develop the ability to solve complex problems.

This course covers the basic building blocks of programming along with other central elements of computer science. It gives a foundation in the tools used in computer science and prepares students for further study in computer science, including AP Computer Science Principles and AP Computer Science A courses. The course allows students to work independently in text-based Python and in EarSketch, the musical coding platform designed by Georgia Tech, which is integrated throughout the course.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

AP Computer Science Principles 11, 12

646/647

The AP CS Principles course is a full-year AP course geared towards 10th-12th graders. CS Principles is a year-long high school course that fully addresses the five "Big Ideas" of computer science and six "Computational Thinking Practices", as specified by the College Board's AP Computer Science Principles curriculum framework. The lessons and materials used throughout this course incorporate Project-Based Learning, a pedagogical approach that actively engages students in the educational process, improves retention and develops problem-solving, critical thinking, and group communication skills. Through this collaborative, learner-centric approach, students are encouraged to explore the advantages and societal impact of computational technology while developing their own programming and computational thinking skills.

Prerequisite: Algebra 2 **OR** Intro to Coding (Python). Teacher approval required.

AP Computer Science A - Java 11, 12

656/657

AP CSA is a full-year AP course geared towards 11th-12th graders who are serious about programming. Java requires a good mathematical background and strong problem-solving skills. The course will prepare students for the Advanced Placement Computer Science exam, level A. Students will learn to design and implement computer programs that solve problems relevant to today's society, including art, media, and engineering. AP Computer Science A teaches object-oriented programming using the Java language and is meant to be the equivalent of a first semester, college-level course in computer science. It will emphasize problem-solving and algorithm development, and use hands-on experiences and examples so that students can apply programming tools and solve complex problems.

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 AND Intro to Coding (Python) or AP Computer Science Principles. Teacher approval required.

Desktop Publishing (Yearbook) 9, 10, 11, 12

633/634

In Desktop Publishing, we will gain desktop publishing experience as we produce Valley Lutheran High School's yearbook, the Blazing Flame. We will use desktop publishing software extensively throughout the year. We will also learn other critical skills necessary for the production of a yearbook, including photography, copywriting, copyediting, and page layout and design.

Digital Imaging 10, 11, 12

960

See complete listing in Visual Arts section. May be taken for fine arts or computer credit.

Music / Performing Arts

Theatre Arts I 9, 10, 11, 12 760

Theater provides students with a myriad of experiences and skills that support individual development into productive, positive and successful 21st century citizens. Students who engage with drama build empathy, critical thinking skills, self-confidence, collaborative teamwork, time management and cultural competence. Introduction to Theatre will give students an overview of theatre arts. This fall semester course is designed to be an introduction to the various elements of theatre. Students will leave the course with a wealth of theatre vocabulary and the basic elements of theatre such as ensemble acting, improvisation, text analysis, audition techniques and storytelling. Students will be required to participate in the theatre production.

Theater Arts II 9, 10, 11, 12 761

Theater Arts II is an advanced theater class. Students will study topics including script analysis, character development, specific acting styles, stage movement and directing. Students will participate in performance pieces throughout the semester. This is a production class that will produce a one-act show and will perform in-class monologues, duets, and group scenes. Students will be required to participate in the theatre production. This class may also design their own productions to present to our feeder schools. **Prerequisites:** *Theatre Arts I or instructor approval*

Exploring Music 9, 10, 11, 12 791

This one semester course is for any student (grades 9-12) who wishes to experience music in a variety of contexts. Utilizing a project-based approach, students will be exposed to composition, music and media, music history, world music, and performance. These projects will be designed by the students with direction and facilitation provided by the instructor. Individual and group meetings will occur regularly for students to bounce ideas off of the instructor as well as each other; creating a setting which allows them to consistently ask questions and explore what they are working on in the classroom. Students will have the opportunity to share their projects with the community in our concert settings that occur once per semester if they choose to do so.

Concert Choir 9, 10, 11, 12 733/734

This one year course is designed for students who wish to explore the art of choral music in depth through preprint music for performance. With an emphasis on creating an aesthetic experience for the audience and performers, students will continue to build on their confidence with group singing, sight reading, and challenging themselves with music across a variety of genres. This choir will prepare music for two concerts during the school year, church services (3 per semester), and a tour which will be taken every other year. Further depth of music theory as it relates to choral music will also be covered.

Concert Band 9, 10, 11, 12 758/759

This one year course is designed for students who wish to express themselves through participation in this instrumental ensemble. Depending on size and instrumentation, students will be exposed to music from different eras and genres. Students will also work to grow as expressive players on their instrument and explore with how to provide aesthetically pleasing performances for themselves and the community. They will have the opportunity to participate in two concerts during the school year and even in chapel as the situation allows.

Beginning Guitar 9, 10, 11, 12

741

This one semester course is for any student (grades 9-12) who wishes to explore the world of playing guitar. Students will engage with the instrument in a variety of ways and learn the varying styles and techniques for utilizing the guitar in both individual and group settings. The students will set individual goals for themselves for the semester and work with the instructor to figure out how to plan and meet their intended goal. Students will be able to express themselves in the concert at the end of the semester in either individual or collaborative settings. A combination of direct instruction and individual exploration will be utilized.

Science

Biology 9, 10, 11, 12

803/804

Biology is the study of living things. This course introduces students to the created living world and is designed to build a basic understanding of microbiology, genetics, zoology, and botany. Students in Biology are encouraged to appreciate life as a marvelous work of a wise Creator. Students will develop an understanding of science as a tool for comprehending the Natural World. This course is a graduation requirement, and fulfills a lab requirement.

Honors Biology 9

806/807

Biology is the study of living things. This course gives students an in-depth look at the created living world and is designed to build a thorough understanding of microbiology, genetics, zoology, and botany. Students in Honors Biology are encouraged to appreciate life as a marvelous work of a wise Creator. Students will develop an understanding of science as a tool for comprehending the Natural World. This course is a graduation requirement, and fulfills a lab requirement.

Prerequisite: Placement Exam.

Human Anatomy and Physiology 10, 11, 12

813/814

All high school students have at least one thing in common: each has a body. How does it work? How is it organized? What can go wrong with it? Human Anatomy and Physiology is a course that explores in some detail the glorious gift given to each of us, a human body, in terms of its anatomy and physiology. This course fulfills a lab requirement. **Prerequisite:** Biology

Environmental Science 10, 11, 12

843/844

Environmental science is a course dedicated to understanding the interactions between earth's natural systems and the demands placed on them by the human population. This course examines the scientific principles behind natural phenomena and resource cycles, explores how we utilize these systems and our impact, and potential solutions for the resulting consequences of resource mismanagement and exploitation. We will explore ways in which people can act as responsible caretakers of Earth's resources and what it means to be agents of reconciliation to all of God's Creation. This course includes elements of ecology, earth science, chemistry, and social science and focuses on breadth and interrelatedness of relevant current events. Concepts will be explored through inquiry based laboratory exercises, environmental health assessment techniques, student presentations and projects. This course fulfills a lab requirement. **Prerequisite:** Biology **Corequisite:** Algebra 1

Chemistry 10, 11, 12

823/824

Chemistry is the study of stuff: the matter that makes up our world and the universe. Students in Chemistry learn how matter is classified, how it changes and how chemists use notation to document changes. Chemistry is a laboratory science; students will become familiar with basic chemistry notation, measurement, calculation, lab procedures and safety. Chemistry is a fundamental science. Success in chemistry is important to college-bound students, and essential for students who intend to pursue further studies in the natural sciences.

Grades 11 and 12 Corequisite: Algebra 2 and teacher approval required.

Grade 10 prerequisite: Algebra 1 with a grade of "A" in 9th grade, or currently enrolled in Algebra 2 (or higher), and teacher approval required.

Physics 11, 12

833/834

Physics is the study of how matter and energy are related and how they interact. In Physics, students explore some of the most fundamental questions of science, such as: How can we “know” anything with certainty? What is matter? What is energy? What causes things to move? How can we measure and quantify (put into numbers) ordinary events? What is the universe like? Students in Physics will spend much of their time learning by doing: measuring, manipulating, seeing and thinking through how the physical world works. **Prerequisites:** Algebra II and teacher approval

Advanced Placement Biology 11, 12

856/857

Advanced Placement Biology is designed to be the equivalent of a two-semester college biology course usually taken by biology majors during their freshman year. AP Biology is an *elective science course* for students who are highly motivated and have a strong interest in science. Major topics of study include biochemistry, cellular biology, organismal diversity, heredity, and evolution. As in a college biology course, the AP Biology course is designed to have both a lecture and a lab component. Labs conducted by AP Biology students are the equivalent of those experienced by college biology students. Students enrolled in this class are required to take the Advanced Placement Exam in May (Additional Fee Required). **Prerequisite:** Biology and teacher recommendation. **Corequisite:** Chemistry.

Advanced Placement Chemistry 11, 12

866/867

This course provides students with a college-level foundation to support future advanced course work in chemistry. Students cultivate their understanding of chemistry through inquiry-based investigations, as they explore topics such as: atomic structure, intermolecular forces and bonding, chemical reactions, kinetics, thermodynamics, and equilibrium. **LABORATORY REQUIREMENT** This course requires that 25 percent of the instructional time engages students in lab investigations. This includes a minimum of 16 hands-on labs (at least six of which are inquiry based), and it is recommended that students keep a lab notebook throughout. **Prerequisite:** Chemistry. **Prerequisite:** Algebra 2.

STEM Electives

The STEM elective courses are designed to prepare students who express interest in college degrees focused on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Students will be exposed to learning activities that will hone their knowledge and skills in analyzing data, understanding real-world impacts, and conducting research. Through hands-on projects, engaging experiments, and collaborative activities, students will explore the innovative and cutting-edge advancements shaping our world today.

STEM 1 10, 11, 12 **1101**

The STEM 1 course will focus on real-world applications of STEM principles and develop essential skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, and teamwork. **Pre-Requisites:** Biology, Algebra 1

STEM 2 10, 11, 12 **1102**

The STEM 2 course will explore the ethical and societal implications of STEM innovations, fostering a deeper understanding of the role of STEM in addressing global challenges and promoting social responsibility. Students' final portfolio will be a personally designed STEM project. **Pre-Requisite:** STEM 1

Visual Arts

Introduction to Art 9, 10, 11, 12 940

This one semester course is designed to give incoming students a foundation in order to prepare for further exploration of the arts. Students will work through the basic elements of art and design through drawing, painting, and printmaking. They will also gain a view into how the elements of art have been used in art history. This course is a prerequisite for any future art classes.

Drawing I 10, 11, 12 951

Drawing focuses on black and white or monochromatic rendering from life, pictures, masterworks, and imagination. This course is designed to develop higher-level thinking with an emphasis on studio production. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included. **Prerequisite:** *Introduction to Art*

Drawing II 10, 11, 12 954

Drawing II provides for further development of the concepts taught in Introduction to Art and Drawing I with more intense study of composition and elements/principles of design as applied to the two dimensional form. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Prerequisites: Introduction to Art and Drawing I.

Painting 10, 11, 12 952

Painting includes wet and dry color media with processes such as transparent and opaque painting focusing on the properties of color. Techniques with color media mixing and application will be covered. With an emphasis on studio production, this course is designed to develop higher-level thinking skills. Some art criticism, art history, and aesthetics may be included.

Prerequisites: *Introduction to Art and Drawing I.*

3D Design 10, 11, 12 953

3D Design will explore a variety of mediums, including papier-mâché, plaster, metal and mixed media. Possible other mediums may be introduced. Emphasis will be on basic design elements, function, aesthetics, creativity and craftsmanship using essential vocabulary and exploring art history from various perspectives. This course will also develop a student's ability to analyze space and form relationships within a three dimensional art piece. **Prerequisite:** Introduction to Art

AP 2D Art and Design 12 956/957

Advanced Placement Studio Art 2D Design is a year-long, rigorous experience designed for students who are seriously interested in the practical experience of art and wish to develop mastery in the concept, composition, and execution of their ideas. AP Studio Art is not based on a written exam; instead, students submit portfolios for evaluation in early May. In building their portfolios, students experience a variety of concepts, techniques, and approaches designed to help them demonstrate their abilities and versatility with techniques, problem-solving, and ideation. Students develop work for the three sections of the AP Art Portfolio: Breadth, Concentration, and Quality.

Prerequisite: 2.5 Visual Art Credits, Application, Instructor Approval

Digital Imaging 10, 11, 12 960

In this project based course, students master technical skills as well as experiment with alternative approaches and materials as they compose unique digital artwork with Adobe Photoshop Elements. Several of the assignments will concentrate on a specific theme or problem. Additionally, students will develop a portfolio that demonstrates quality, breath, technical skill, and an expressive voice. May be taken for computer technology or fine arts credit.

Miscellaneous Courses

Teacher Aid 11, 12

099

(1/4 credit – 1 semester course)

Students serve as aides for faculty members by mutual agreement. Student responsibilities are determined by the teacher, and evaluation is on a pass/fail basis. **Prerequisite:** Teacher approval required.

Interim

Knowing that education also takes place outside the classroom, the Valley Lutheran High School faculty has designed Interim. Interim is an exciting one-week learning experience offered between the third and fourth quarter of the school year. Each student will register for one course to be taken during the week. Courses in past years have included:

Outdoors in Arizona

Computers, Computer Games, Computer Crime... Past, Present, Future

Service with a Smile

Trip to Europe

Hiking the Grand Canyon

Serious Bowling

Surf and Serve

Hiking Arizona

Cooking

West Coast Amtrak Tour

Grillin' like a Villian

Life 101

True Crime Forensics

Fishing Arizona

Each year new and exciting courses are added and old courses are improved and offered again. Most courses, but not all, will have additional fees required. Students can earn $\frac{1}{4}$ credit towards graduation for each interim course completed. Interim has become a fun and exciting educational experience for both students and faculty.

Graduation Requirements

Theology	4 credits
English	4 credits
Social Studies	4 credits
<i>Students must pass the American Civics Exam prior to graduation.</i>	
<i>Students graduating prior to 2025 will complete 3.5 credits of social studies, and 0.5 credits of Freshman Seminar.</i>	
Mathematics	4 credits
<i>Students must successfully pass Algebra 2</i>	
Science	3 credits
<i>One (1) unit must be Biology</i>	
Foreign Language	2 credits
Physical Education	1 credit
Health	½ credit
Electives	3 ½ credits
Computer Technology	1 credit
Fine Arts	1 credit
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Total	28 credits