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High School Course Description Guide

9th Grade

ELA I

Grammar & Composition Two vital abilities, the ability to express one's ideas creatively as well as correctly and the ability to comprehend and interpret the written word skillfully, are built upon the elements studied in ELA I. *Grammar and Composition III* provides foundational practice of proper grammar and develops the basic composition skills utilized in outlining, researching, and composing a variety of rhetorical expositions and creative writing.
Vocabulary, Spelling, Poetry The lists of challenging words in *Vocabulary, Spelling, Poetry III* emphasize the application of several spelling rules, the addition of specific suffixes, and the necessity of learning frequently misspelled words. To expand students' vocabulary, words and definitions are taken from *Themes in Literature* and other ninth-grade subjects. The goals of poetry recitation and memorization are an enjoyment and appreciation of poetic beauty and excellence.
Literature *Themes in Literature* reflects these twelve themes: truth and wisdom, courage, power of words, humility, beauty, love, justice, temperance, joy and peace, perseverance, faith and hope, and time and eternity. As the student becomes familiar with classic literature selections, he/she learns to appreciate a well-written presentation of a theme. This appreciation not only aids in increased enjoyment of literature but also provides the foundation needed to critically analyze it. This then can serve as a stimulus for corresponding creative essays.

Algebra I

Algebra I provides a foundation that students need to enjoy success in future mathematics courses and includes topics such as polynomial arithmetic, factoring, equations, inequalities, graphing, statistics, rational expressions, radicals, functions, and quadratic equations. Algebra supplies the language and patterns of reasoning used in the sciences and other branches of knowledge. Practice and review problems in each lesson give sufficient opportunity for students to develop and maintain their skills while learning to work quickly and accurately. Word problems, problem-solving strategies, and critical thinking throughout the text ensure that students can apply their mathematical skills to everyday situations and encourage students to connect varying types of mathematical knowledge.

World History

Taught from Abeka's *World History and Cultures*, which is written and taught from the Christian perspective. Basic to this perspective is the conviction that God is the Creator of the universe and the Controller of history. Because the focal point of history is the birth of Christ, *World History and Cultures* takes the view that all history is either pointing toward the birth of Christ or looking back to it. Students study how God used events before the birth of Christ to prepare the world for His coming. Then, after His birth, they trace the impact of Christianity on the events of world history. The Christian

perspective of this course helps students see the sovereign hand of God in history, as well as the consequences of man's choices. The Providence of God has guided history for His glory. Yet each person is free to choose whether to obey God and be used by Him, or to disobey and suffer the consequences. Thus world history also illustrates the truth of Proverbs 14:34: "Righteousness exalteth a nation: but sin is a reproach to any people.

Earth Science
Abeka's *Science: Earth and Space* lays a foundation for future study of the nonliving world. The text begins "from the ground up," starting with soil science and geology. Students learn how geology and the fossil record support the biblical record of a worldwide Flood—not the hypotheses of evolution. The exploration of the seas includes studying currents, tides, and ocean floor. An investigation of the atmosphere and processes that cause weather includes overviews of several weather phenomena and of measuring and forecasting the weather. The solar system, stars, and galaxies are examined as the creation of God; evolutionary hypotheses of solar- system formation are briefly discussed and shown to be scientifically unsound. Students learn about man's study and use of astronomy, including an overview of manned and unmanned spaceflight. The text concludes with a study of environmental issues, thus teaching students to be good stewards of the natural resources God has provided.

10th Grade

ELA II
Grammar builds upon the foundation established in previous years and introduces new concepts to further enhance the students' knowledge of basic grammar. This includes the grammatical study of religious writings and terms, mastery of substantives, diagramming of objective complements and nominative absolutes, and a focus on diction.
Composition with Vocabulary and Spelling is focused on advancing students' writing and spelling skills, and features lessons demonstrating the importance of clarity and logic. Annotated project examples guide students through the process of drafting concise and coherent compositions. Throughout twenty units, students also apply spelling rules and etymology while learning vocabulary terms from fields of history, fine arts, science, and business.
Literature concentrates on analysis of literature by studying a variety of literary and rhetorical terms and devices. Students will read classics from the literary canon which reflect the historical and cultural viewpoints of authors from around the world analyzed through a biblical worldview. Art appreciation is also an important part of the literature study in ELA II. As the author uses words to paint visual images in our minds, the artist uses his brush to paint a story. World Literature includes great works of art that reflect each unit

Algebra II building from a foundation of basic algebra, develops confidence in problem-solving strategies through application of in-depth algebraic skills. Students will gain thorough exposure to algebraic techniques applied in many branches of mathematics. Concepts such as matrices, linear programming, and hypothesis testing will pique student interest in mathematical application. An increased understanding of algebraic concepts will result in thorough preparation for further study in

mathematics. Algebra II builds from mathematical ideas to practical problem solving with applications in business, science, sports, medicine, and statistics. Students will learn to analyze results and make informed decisions for everyday life.

Civics seeks to give students a clear understanding of the historical and philosophical elements that make the United States a unique nation. Only when students fully understand these foundational elements will they be able to love and appreciate our republic. Abeka's *American Government in Christian Perspective* traces the roots of our political institutions and examines the Constitution itself. Through a clear explanation of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of government, students learn how a republic actually functions. Students will also study state and local government and be better able to understand their local systems, which will in turn develop a better understanding of and a greater appreciation for American philosophy and ideology.

Biology deals with one of the most fascinating subjects known to man. Students begin with a combination of field, text, and lab work to take a closer look at plants. They will use the microscope and dissections as they study the Creator's provision for plants and animals. A detailed study of the anatomy and physiology of the human body will lead students to understand that they are "fear fully and wonderfully made." Students will look deeper into the micro-cosmos as they learn some of man's latest discoveries about the most complicated structure in all of creation: the living cell. They will see the intricate detail that God has built into living things and His master plan for transmitting information within an organism and from one generation of organisms to the next. Students will also understand just how far man still has to go to gain a complete understanding of God's living creation.

11th Grade

ELA III

Grammar & Composition focuses on the abilities to express ideas creatively and to skillfully comprehend the written word. The text builds upon the grammar foundation established in previous years and introduces new concepts to further enhance the students' knowledge of basic grammar. In addition, *the Handbook of Grammar and Composition* emphasizes writing through assignments in argumentative essay, narrative essay, exposition of a process, literary character analysis, critical book reviews, and a research paper. Several smaller writing assignments are also included throughout the course.

Vocabulary, Spelling, Poetry lessons greatly help students in their writing, speaking, and reading comprehension. Students will memorize nine poems throughout the year. The benefits of reciting and memorizing poetry are learning an appreciation of poetic excellence, enriching their personal lives, and laying a foundation for future literature studies. Students will also further develop their ability to analyze words by studying prefixes, roots, and suffixes.

Literature in ELA III uses Abeka's *American Literature* which presents a variety of selections that reflect the faith, doubts, longings, accomplishments, and emotions of the American people. Students will further develop their skills in analyzing literature as they study several genres and time periods of American literature. In addition, students will learn about significant American authors and their

influential works while reading classics such as *Moby Dick, Ben Hur, Uncle Tom's Cabin, The Innocents Abroad,* and *The Song of Hiawatha*.

Geometry teaches students how to use known facts to verify the truth of additional facts, to solve geometric problems, and to use deductive reasoning for drawing correct conclusions. Students learn to think naturally, logically, and systematically whenever they encounter a proof to write, a construction to make, or a problem to solve. They are then equipped throughout life to perform such tasks as determining which car is the better buy or identifying truth and flaws in politics. Students will also spend time during this course reinforcing skills that will prepare them for the ACT.

United States History provides a positive, narrative approach to American history that is reinforced by factual accounts of events, people, and ideas essential in shaping the success of America today. Special emphasis is placed on America's Christian heritage and patriotic pursuit of freedom, helping students identify the values that are the foundation of the United States of America.

Physical Science builds a foundation for future studies in physics, chemistry, and other fields. The Christian perspective of this course naturally rejects the unproven hypothesis of evolution, recognizing special creation as the only reasonable explanation for the universe's origin. This position is presented throughout the text and highlighted in a chapter on origins, which provides evidence against evolution and for the reality of the Genesis Creation account. Abeka's *Science: Matter and Energy* also recognizes God's command for man to have dominion over creation. Thus the purpose of science becomes the application of scientific knowledge for mankind's benefit. From physics to chemistry, the goal is to learn how man might extend his "dominion" and make better use of creation. With man's dominion over the earth comes a responsibility to tend, manage, and conserve resources. However, the ultimate purpose of creation must not be forgotten—the earth was made for man to inhabit, and its resources were made for man to use

12th Grade

ELA IV

Grammar and Composition is designed to incorporate a program of English literature, composition, grammar, vocabulary, and outside reading into a senior-level English class. The study of grammar is not stressed in the senior year as much as in earlier years because of the extensive background that students should have gained from previous study; however, grammar is still taught briefly each day. Grammar instruction includes correcting homework exercises and briefly presenting new material from the *Handbook of Grammar and Composition*.

Vocabulary & Poetry stresses that knowing and using a selection of choice vocabulary words gives high school students an advantage, whether it is in a job interview, on a college entrance exam, or simply in meeting today's expectations for expression and communication. Mastering the vocabulary words in this course will help students in their writing, speaking, and reading comprehension. Many of the words are taken from English literature. Students will study the antonyms and synonyms included with the definitions and learn prefixes, root words, and suffixes, expanding their vocabulary even

further. Students will also memorize ten poems throughout the year. The students will benefit from reciting and memorizing poetry.

Literature presents a chronological study of English literature from the Anglo-Saxon period to the Modern Age (twentieth century). Classics such as *Beowulf, The Importance of Being Earnest, Pride and Prejudice, Paradise Lost, Robinson Crusoe, David Copperfield,* and *The Canterbury Tales* were chosen not only for their literary value but also for their character development. Students will learn about a variety of literary genres and will further analyze literature through in-depth studies of a tragedy, an allegory, and a novel. In order to help students visualize the works and time periods they are studying, lessons contain a variety of illustrations and photographs of English people, places, and art.

Precalculus teaches the student how to select and apply various techniques to solve mathematical problems in a skillful, systematic, and logical manner. Students will learn the underlying principles of trigonometry and interrelationships of lines and functions with graphical and analytical problem-solving techniques from a study in analytical geometry. The study culminates with an introduction to selected calculus topics.

Economics & Personal Finance

Economics teaches basic economic principles and gives students a clear understanding of free-enterprise capitalism, individual moral responsibility, and the biblical work ethic from a conservative Christian perspective. This course emphasizes God's Word as the one standard for man's thoughts and actions and encourages man's dependence upon God rather than upon government. It stresses acceptance of moral responsibility and accountability to God and man. Finally, this course strengthens the link between economic freedom and the political and individual freedoms Americans enjoy.

Personal Finance provides a comprehensive foundation in the principles and practices of financial management, framed within a biblical worldview of stewardship. Students are engaged with the central domains of personal finance—including income, budgeting, saving, credit and debt, insurance, and investments—through a sequence of appropriate, application-oriented exercises. These exercises include constructing a high-school budget, evaluating occupational pathways, comparing college and skilled-trade opportunities, managing bank accounts, implementing zero-based budgeting, purchasing a vehicle, assessing rental options, establishing financial credibility, retiring debt, selecting appropriate insurance cover age, assembling a diversified investment portfolio, and many more. Each activity is designed to develop competence while growing the habits of analysis, planning, and discernment. Students are encouraged to evaluate financial choices through the lens of biblical stewardship, supporting the formation of both practical skill and character. In uniting a balanced biblical framework with real-world financial literacy, this course aims to prepare young adults to navigate economic complexities with confidence, wisdom, and purpose.

Electives

Architectural Principles
This elective introduces students to the world of architectural history, building design, and model construction. Through hands-on projects and the study of iconic structures around the world, students learn how architects blend creativity, engineering, and problem solving to shape the built environment.

Art Appreciation
Students explore art history, visual culture, and creative analysis through a guided study of major artworks, artists, and movements. The class builds confidence in looking closely, thinking critically, and expressing ideas about art in a warm, discussion-based environment. Students learn art elements & principles, major art movements, complete artist studies, and hone the skills of analysis and creative response.

Bible I
This course focuses on the kings of Israel charting the course of Israel's history. The material covers the lives of Saul, David, and Solomon–the kings of the United Kingdom of Israel–up to the division of the kingdom between Israel and Judah. Also included are the kings of Israel and Judah, the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, and the return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem. Information is given in an easy-to-follow outline format. Numerous applications are given for nearly every outline to help students understand how these portions of Scripture relate to the temptations and problems they face every day.

Bible II
Guided by Abeka's *Jesus and His Followers*, students trace the life of Christ from His arrival as a Babe in Bethlehem, through His death on the cross at Calvary, to His ascension into heaven. This practical, personal study of the gospels is designed to reach both the head and the heart of the student. Through the teachings of Jesus and the example He set for His followers, the student learns how to live a more abundant and fruitful Christian life. Practical applications and thought-provoking questions encourage the student to examine his walk with Christ and apply God's Word to his life. Memory passages have been selected to correlate with the topics discussed to help the student become grounded in the Scriptures.

Bible III
Using the seven churches of Asia Minor as an outline of church history, Abeka's *Book of the Revelation* guides the students through the chronicles of the life of the church from the apostolic church of the first century to the Laodicean church of the twentieth century. The course focuses particularly on godly men and women who allowed themselves to be used by God. This gives students a greater appreciation for their Christian heritage and provides them with good role models such as John Wycliffe, George Whitefield, David Livingstone, Fanny Crosby, and Billy Sunday. *Book of the Revelation* continues with a look at the future events revealed to John on the isle of Patmos. The prophecies of Revelation are clearly explained to help students develop a greater desire for the Lord's return and to encourage them to watch and be ready.

Computer Science
Students in Computer Science explore the foundations of computational thinking, programming, and digital problem-solving through hands-on, project-based learning. The course introduces core concepts such as algorithms, logic, data, and simple software design while helping students understand how computers process information and automate tasks. Learners practice writing code, analyzing real-world problems, and building small programs or interactive projects that demonstrate creativity and technical skill. Along the way, students also develop essential skills in digital citizenship, collaboration, and responsible technology use. By the end of the course, students gain confidence in understanding how computers work, how software is created, and how computing shapes the world around them.

Document/Data Processing
Formatting and producing employment and business documents is the focus of this course. Students spend weeks on an office simulation, producing documents for their "supervisor." They also work on their résumé and a cover letter, preparing them to seek employment. The final project is the compilation of a document portfolio which includes many documents that students have worked on in the key boarding and document processing courses.

Health/PE
Health Using the text *Health in Christian Perspective* will enable students to gain a deeper knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the human body. They will be encouraged to reach out to others and to live a happy, healthy life as they maintain a consistent walk with the Lord. They will learn how to maintain their physical health through good nutrition and fitness with an emphasis on cardio-respiratory and musculoskeletal health. A study of the nervous system in light of biblical principles encourages students to maintain good mental and emotional health. Practical aspects of safety and first aid are included in the middle of the course. Students will also learn how the immune system works to prevent disease, how to avoid drug abuse, and how to pursue a right relationship with God and others.
Physical Education concentrates on the cognitive and physical skills required to participate in and enjoy various team sports. Knowledge and application of rules and basic skills, sportsmanship, and an emphasis on participation are the focus.

Keyboarding
This keyboarding course begins with the basics of learning the keyboard—all alphabet and figure keys. Document formatting skills for business letters with special features and other letter and memo styles, unbound reports, and documents with tables are then covered. The main goal of this course is to teach students a skill they will use for life, focusing on basic skills, computer skills, proofreading, and formatting.

Life Management Under God
A successful Christian life is a life under biblical management. Life Management Under God is an application of biblical principles in practical areas of life. Each lesson provides a marvelous opportunity to apply God's truth to everyday problems and situations. Critical topics such as Biblical marriage, navigating personal and professional relationships, balanced living habits, and personal

responsibility are discussed from a scriptural point of view. This study can help each student obtain success by instructing him on how to apply the Word of God, life's greatest certainty, to his/her own life.

Spanish I
Spanish I through Rosetta Stone for Schools introduces students to the foundations of the Spanish language and cultural understanding using Rosetta Stone's immersive, adaptive platform. Students build confidence as they learn practical vocabulary, essential grammar, and everyday communication skills through interactive lessons and speech-recognition practice.

Spanish II
Spanish II builds on the foundations of Spanish I, guiding students toward greater fluency and confidence. Using Rosetta Stone's leveled progression, students expand vocabulary, strengthen grammar skills, and engage in more complex listening, speaking, and reading tasks. The course emphasizes practical communication and deeper cultural understanding.

Speech
This course presents the art of everyday speech in a friendly, conversational style. Experience is the key to developing good speaking skills; students need practice speaking to one another in small groups and before larger audiences. An abundance of speaking exercises, group projects, and selections for interpretation throughout the text provides opportunities for practice and performance. Skills mastered include telephone courtesy, introductions, group discussion, pantomime, monologues, poetry, storytelling, declamations, and devotionals. This course helps students master poise, communication mechanics, and listening skills.

World Geography guides students in exploring the regions of the world through the lens of a biblical worldview. By studying physical features, cultures, and current issues, students gain a clearer understanding of God's world and their responsibility to live and serve faithfully within it. Organized by region, lessons teach physical and cultural geography in a purposeful, structured format. Students examine major landforms, climates, and natural resources alongside each region's history, government, economy, religions, languages, and population. Essential geographic tools, case studies, and discussions of contemporary issues encourage critical thinking and real-world application