

Curriculum

Bible

The aim of the Bible curriculum is to familiarize each student with the Bible as scripture and literature.

Since the Bible holds a central position in our understanding of God and His work, we believe that students should be encouraged to examine how the Bible's message relates to their lives.

We provide instruction in the basic teachings of Christian faith and guide students in thinking through the implications of this faith as a basis for living.

Freeman Academy is a Mennonite school and explores scripture from a background of Anabaptist thought and practice. We do, however, respect the teaching of other Christians and assist their students in studying the teachings of their church and the reasons why Christians disagree.

The Bible curriculum focuses on six main emphases. Each course will in some manner foster a clearer understanding of these topics and skills. These emphases are:

- Bible Literacy
- Bible Study Methods
- Faith and Discipleship
- Relationships with God and Mankind
- Peacemaking
- Missions and Service

Courses

Old Testament Survey

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1

This course is a survey of the history and literature of the Old Testament. Students will learn the major events and characters of Biblical history as part of God's unfolding plan for mankind. They will also recognize the unique features and teachings of the Psalms, wisdom literature and prophesy.

New Testament Survey

Offered to: Sophomores

Credits: 1

This course is a survey of the history, teachings and literature of the New Testament. Students will study the life and ministry of Jesus and its central place in

Christianity. Additionally, they will study the expansion of the church and the writings of the apostles in fulfilling the Great Commission given by Jesus.

Church History

Offered to: Juniors

Credits: 1

This course is a survey of the events, people, and ideas that have brought the church to its present place in society and history. Students will focus on how characters and ideas drive the major events and changes in the church's thought and structures. The Anabaptist Reformation and the growth of the Mennonite church shall be a major focus of the second trimester.

Christian Living

Offered to: Seniors

Credits: 1

This course presents an overview of Christian theology with special attention to issues that have distinguished Mennonites and/or Anabaptists from other Christian groups. Students will analyze Bible and church teachings through discussions and writing. The desire is to lead students to take ownership of their faith and learn how to grow in their relationship with Jesus. Students are also given opportunities to participate in worship leadership positions.

English

Freeman Academy seeks to integrate the study of language arts and writing into all areas of the curriculum.

English Theme Verse

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. – John 1:1

MCC Essay Winners

We would like to congratulate all of our past MCC Essay Winners at Freeman Academy. Freeman Academy seniors compete in the annual MCC (Mennonite Central Committee) essay contest for the central region states. The essay contest highlights the perspectives of youth on significant public policy issues and promotes the involvement of young people in faithful witness to government authorities.

Courses

English I

Offered to: Freshman
Credits: 1

This course is designed to give students a complete overview of English grammar and an introduction to various genres of literature, including short stories, novels, poetry, and drama. Students will develop academic writing skills through a number of writing assignments, implementing the Six Traits of Writing. Throughout the study of these areas, students will expand their vocabulary and develop spelling skills.

English II

Offered to: Sophmores
Credits: 1

This course is divided into two separate trimesters

Speech

Offered to:
Credits: 1/2 Credit

In speech, students will focus on communication skills and learning the basics of public speaking. Students will apply these basics to a variety of public speaking experiences. Students will learn to build strong, logical arguments and improve their listening and evaluation skills.

Writing and Composition

Offered to:
Credits: 1/2 Credit

To enhance their writing, students will continue to review English grammar, expand their vocabulary, and develop spelling skills. Students will complete a number of writing assignments designed to prepare them for college writing. Through the study of novels, students will examine quality writing, learn to

identify literary elements, and apply reading strategies to comprehend and interpret text.

English III: Composition and American Literature

Offered to: Juniors

Credits: 1

Students will read a survey of American literature, exploring the different periods, authors, and genres. Students will study the principles and skills involved in effective writing and will be required to apply these skills to selected writing assignments. Students will continue to work on vocabulary and spelling, as well as grammar.

English IV: Composition and British Literature

Offered to: Seniors

Credits: 1

Students will read a survey of British literature, exploring the different periods, authors, and genres. Students will complete a variety of writing assignments designed to prepare them for college level writing, including application essays, resumes, business letters, and a major research paper to be entered in the Mennonite/Brethren in Christ Public Policy Essay Contest. Students will continue to work on vocabulary and spelling, as well as grammar.

Fine Arts

Freeman Academy has taken bold steps to strengthen its academic program and emphasize the arts in an expanding curriculum. This move not only improved Freeman Academy's ability to prepare students for college, but also provided students with a school setting which fosters creativity.

Visual Arts Theme Verse:

And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it. – Psalm 90:17

Vocal Music Theme Verse:

O come, let us sing to the Lord; let us make a joyful noise to the Rock of our salvation! – Psalm 95:1

Visual Art Communications Technology

Offered to: High School

Credits:

Students will apply art elements and design principles in producing digital art work and publications using Adobe Photoshop and InDesign. This includes both photo manipulation and digital art using PCs and pen tablets, as well as producing posters, publications, and the school yearbook. Objectives include developing proficiency with Adobe Photoshop, understanding basic concepts in Adobe InDesign, and making publications ready for printing.

Art

Offered to: High School

Credits: .5

These students will explore and analyze the various tools, techniques and processes of drawing, painting, and ceramics. Students will use drawing processes and techniques, and will be able to explore the basic processes of working with clay, or explore techniques of painting. Ceramics includes preparing clay, hand building, throwing on a potter's wheel, slab building and various glazing techniques. Classroom discussions will include an introduction to art elements, principles of design, and art history.

Instrumental Music Concert Band

Offered to: High School

Credits: 3/10

Band, scheduled 3 days a week, 50 minutes in length, rehearses and performs music from various styles and periods. Performances by the concert band (grades 7-12) include the Fall and Spring Concerts and Yuletide. Members will also work on solo and/or ensemble music preparing for contest. Band members are to play in pep band which plays at home basketball games, unless he/she is a varsity player.

Other performing opportunities include All-State Band, All-State Orchestra, All-State Jazz Band, Regional Band Festival, and Augie Band Festival.

Vocal Music Concert Choir

Offered to: High School

Credits: 3/10

This class meets three times per week throughout the year emphasizing proper vocal technique, choral technique, music history, sight-singing skills, music theory, and music reading. Emphasis is given to age appropriate musicianship/aesthetic response including rehearsal and concert etiquette, and responsibilities associated with membership in a performing organization. Choral literature of various forms and genres will be performed. This class is open to anyone in High School. Attendance is required for all concerts and church visits.

Chamber Choir

Offered to: High School

Credits: 2/10

This auditioned choir meets two times a week all year long. Participants must be enrolled full-time at FA to be eligible to audition. This course provides an opportunity for students to develop advanced and refined vocal and choral techniques as well as intermediate sight-singing skills. Students will be expected to possess intermediate performance skills in both choral and solo singing. They will be required to critique their own and the performance of others. Choral literature of various forms and genres will be performed. This choir represents FA at the Mennonite Secondary Council Choir Festival in spring. Attendance is required for all concerts, church visits, and choir tour.

Drama Theatre

Offered to: High School

Credits: .5

Theatre class introduces students to the basics of theatre including the following: voice development, characterization, stage terminology, play production process, behind the scenes (lights, sound, costumes, make-up, etc.), and theatre

appreciation. The culmination of the class involves putting together a one-act play to take to the region competition.

Theatrical opportunities at Freeman Academy:

- Oral Interpretation competition (extra-curricular)
- Fall play or musical
- Theatre class/One-act play competition
- Poetry Out Loud
- Annual Schmeckfest Musical

Foreign Languages

Foreign Language Courses offered at Freeman Academy develop the necessary skills to cross-cultural barriers in order to communicate, express ideas and take Christian values to our country and abroad.

Foreign Languages Theme Verse

And everyone present was filled with the Holy Spirit and began speaking in languages they didn't know, for the Holy Spirit gave them this ability. – Acts 2:4

Courses

Spanish I

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1

Learn the similarities and differences between our language and Spanish. Study the different traditions, holidays, customs and foods of the different Spanish countries. Develop an appreciation and sensitivity to another culture and people. In addition to class assignments many other activities will happen. Discussions, verb journals, current events, reports and creative skits and dialogs will be part of the activities in the classrooms.

Spanish II

Offered to: Sophomores

Credits: 1

Learn the similarities and differences between our language and Spanish. Study the different traditions, holidays, customs and foods of the different Spanish countries. Develop an appreciation and sensitivity to another culture and people. In addition

to class assignments, the students write in daily journals, weekly speeches or dialogs, class discussions, current events, creative skits, videos and field trips.

Grades 1-3

A safe, caring and nurturing atmosphere prepares students to accept God's call to live a life of compassionate service and discipleship to Christ.

Hands-on Learning
Project Based
Individual Attention
Christian Environment
High School "Buddy Program"
Fun & Affirming
Learning for Life!

Freeman Academy offers a grades 1-3 program in a unique "one-room schoolhouse" setting with integrated project based learning. Learning comes to life as students experience academics through hands on activities in addition to more traditional learning techniques. Field trips occur frequently to help integrate the learning experiences with "life outside the classroom". Supervised recess occurs 2-3 times a day with PE classes held multiple times per week. Music and Art classes are also held multiple times per week.

Health & Physical Education

Physical Education is an integral part of all students' education. It provides an opportunity to meet the challenges of life by enhancing recognition of overall health. Not only is the physical self improved through activity, but development of mental, social and spiritual awareness occurs as well. It is our mission to empower students to sustain a lifelong goal of physical, mental and spiritual well-being and fulfillment.

Grades 1-4 and Grades 5-6 have physical education class three times a week for the first half of the year and two times a week for the second half of the year. Grades 7-8 have physical education class two times a week throughout the school year.

Freeman Academy's high school physical education curriculum is guided by national and state standards in physical education. These standards outline for students what they must demonstrate, value and maintain in order to lead a physically active lifestyle. High school students at Freeman Academy are required to take one trimester class of health/physical education both their freshmen and sophomore year.

Independent Study and Dual Credit Courses

Apex Independent Study

Freeman Academy utilizes the Apex Independent Study Courses as a means for students to:

1. Take electives.
2. Obtain credit recover.
3. Allow for transfer students to get make up necessary courses for graduation.
4. Meet student needs if we are unable to meet needs any other way.

For an Apex course catalog please visit the following website:

http://www.apexlearning.com/Catalog.htm?id_catalog=5

Information Technology

Students need to be technologically literate in order to be successful in the 21st century.

They will need to be able to research, analyze, communicate, and create using technology. The goal of the Information Technology Department is to maximize technology's contributions to improving society and give students a strong foundation in computing and information systems.

Courses

Introduction to Computers, Coding & Keyboarding

Offered to: 5th & 6th Grades

Credits: 1

Students experience hands on learning focusing on keyboarding, digital safety and responsibility, basic software applications including Word, Excel, and PowerPoint, file management, and Google Drive. Computational and critical thinking are developed through coding skills. Students use coding modules such as Tynker,

Scratch, and Khan Academy's JavaScript to interpret code and develop algorithmic language.

Computer Software Applications and Coding

Offered to: 7th & 8th Grades

Credits: 1

This course is designed to provide students with a firm foundation in computer technology and show how computers can be used to produce meaningful information. It also familiarizes students with computers, their applications, and the security, ethical and responsibility issues surrounding them. Students will learn a variety of computer applications including word processing, spreadsheets, databases, and multimedia presentations. Computational and critical thinking are developed through coding skills. Students use coding modules such as Tynker, Scratch, Alice, and Khan Academy's JavaScript to interpret the basic skills of computer science and develop algorithmic language.

Freshmen Computers & Technology

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1

Students will learn to use the Windows operating system, file management, the World Wide Web and its resources including email, web browsers, and search engines. Application software studied includes word processing, spreadsheet, database management, presentation graphics, web design, and programming. Students have the opportunity to visit web-based practice quizzes, chapter reviews, and PowerPoint presentations. Also, the class uses Online Bulletin Board Discussions to develop an understanding of skills through input from student peers.

Advanced Computers & Technology

Offered to: Sophomores – Seniors

Credits: 1

Basic programming concepts are presented which are transferable to other programming languages. Foundational concepts and fundamentals of computer programming including logic, design, coding, structure, and controls are addressed. Practical computer network skills are also learned, together with projects such as building a PC.

Web Design

Offered to: Sophomores – Seniors

Credits: 1

This course is an introduction to building web sites using web design productivity software. Students will be able to make web pages for their own use or organizations. Some topics covered include graphical tools for building web pages, and writing HTML and CSS for greater control over page content and appearance.

Mathematics

The goal of mathematics instruction at Freeman Academy is to develop students' skills in thinking and logic, organization, problem solving techniques, carefully following directions, neatness, precision, and attention to details.

Mathematics provides a language for expressing the ideas and relationships that involve numeric and geometric ideas that occur frequently in many areas of life. Once an idea is translated into the appropriate mathematical representation, mathematics provides tools for manipulating those ideas and providing solutions to problems. Therefore mathematics builds a strong framework for life-long thinking and problem solving.

Three high school math credits are required for graduation from Freeman Academy.

Courses

Pre-Algebra

Offered to: 7th Grade

Credits: 1

Textbook: Saxon Math 87, An Incremental Development

Description: Pre-algebra builds a solid foundation for algebra I and II and geometry by reinforcing the rudiments of computation and expanding the understanding of the use of variables. Word problem applications are included in almost every lesson to regularly expose students to the application of mathematical concepts.

Algebra I

Offered to: 8th Grade

Credits: 1

Textbook: Saxon Algebra I, An Incremental Development

Description: Algebra I is an introduction to the skills and problem solving methods of algebra. Students learn to use abstract expressions (mathematical statements involving variables) and open sentences (equations with variables) to perform calculations and solve problems. Several important topics include one-variable equation solving, the laws of exponents, simplifying polynomials, factoring, quadratic equation solving, linear equation solving, and radicals. Simple geometry concepts and applications are included throughout the course.

Algebra II

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1 (two trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Textbook: Houghton Mifflin Algebra Book 2, Structure and Method

Description: Algebra II continues to develop the skills and problem solving methods of algebra. Key topics include the laws of exponents, linear equations and linear functions, systems of equations, polynomials, factoring, quadratic equations and functions, algebraic fractions, radicals expressions and equations, irrational numbers, imaginary numbers, exponential functions, and logarithms.

Geometry

Offered to: Sophomores
Credits: 1 (three trimesters)

Prerequisite: At least one credit of Algebra I
Textbook: Holt Geometry

Description: This course explores basic geometric concepts and relationships including points, lines, planes, angles, polygons, and circles. The course includes the study and use of formal logic, theorems, proofs, transformations, constructions, and applications.

Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry

Offered to: Juniors
Credits: 1 (two trimesters)

Prerequisite: Algebra and Geometry
Textbook: Christy Fundamentals of Algebra and Trigonometry

Description: This course reviews key aspects of algebra and geometry, and then explores trigonometric functions, wave graphs, the law of sines, the law of cosines, trigonometric equations and applications, trigonometric identities, conic sections, and coordinate geometry.

Calculus

Offered to: Seniors
Credits: 1/2 (one trimester)

Prerequisite: Algebra, Geometry and Pre-Calculus
Textbook: Foerster Calculus

Description: This course is designed to give students an overview and foundation in calculus. It is not an AP Calculus course. It explores the concepts of limits, derivatives, and integrals and their applications. The course utilizes computer graphing of functions to reinforce the graphic interpretation of these rudimentary

concepts. It includes the chain rule, the product rule, the quotient rule, and trigonometric derivatives.

Probability and Statistics

Offered to: Seniors

Credits: 1/2 (one trimester)

Prerequisite: Algebra

Textbook: Houghton Mifflin Advanced Mathematics

Description: The course gives students an overview and foundation in combinatorics, probability, and statistics, and includes many practical and even “fun” applications.

Middle School

Freeman Academy’s Middle School provides fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade students with a departmentalized approach for all subjects. Emphasis is placed on preparing students for high school by developing good study skills and discipline for more advanced academic work.

Middle School Academic Program

All Middle School grades start the school day at 8:00 and finish at 3:00.

Grades 5 and 6 have 45-minute periods Monday-Friday with chapels on Monday and Friday.

Grades 7 and 8 are on a rotating class schedule with high school classes.

Requirements

Grades 7-8 students begin the school day in their home room, where they have English Language Arts, Bible, and Social Studies classes. The rest of their day is on a rotating class schedule with the high school students.

In 7th and 8th grade English, students read and study various genres of literature: fiction, non-fiction, plays, poetry. They study grammar, expand vocabulary and develop spelling skills. Students develop their writing skills through various writing assignments: personal narratives, shorts stories, compare and contrast essays, interpretive essays, devotionals, and poetry. Students are strongly encouraged to read, inside and outside the classroom.

Most seventh-graders at FA take pre-algebra. The textbook for the course is Saxon “Math 87” and includes a wide range of topics such as fraction manipulation, ratios and proportions, variables, simple equation solving, areas and volumes, and simple probability and statistics. Although students need to know how to do manual computations, students also learn to use calculators for many computations.

Algebra I is taken by most eighth-graders at FA. The textbook for the course is Saxon “Algebra 1,” but includes both algebra and geometry topics throughout. Major algebra topics include simplifying expressions, laws of exponents, factoring, simple equation solving, quadratic equation solving, linear equation solving and graphing, systems of equations, algebraic fractions, ratios and proportions, radical simplification, function notation, and word problem applications throughout. Geometry topics focus mostly on perimeter, area and volume computations and the Pythagorean theorem.

Students are required to take Computer class two days a week throughout the school year.. 7th Grade students focus on computing fundamentals while 8th Grade students become proficient in office productivity software, basic photo editing, and html coding. Both grades learn about digital literacy and responsibility.

Art class is alternated with Computer class for two out of the three trimesters. Students study the fundamentals of drawing, ceramics, and painting.

Homework

Determining the amount of homework the average student should expect is difficult. Some students need more study time than others. As part of our junior high philosophy, we purposefully provide in-class time for homework to help create a balance in young people's lives.

A general guideline is one to two hours of homework per day, or 20-30 minutes in any one course. These are average figures as it is difficult to divide homework into equal installments. A long assignment may be followed by two or three days with no homework.

Students are expected to keep track of homework assignments for several days in advance, and to plan their study time accordingly. If parents find that their students are consistently spending more than two hours per day on homework assignments, they should consider speaking to their classroom teachers. Parents need to help their students find and maintain a balance with all of the extra curricular activities in and outside of FA.

Natural Sciences

The Natural Science department at Freeman Academy strives to promote and attitude of wonderment and care-taking in all areas of God's creation.

Courses

Physical Science

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1

This class is designed to introduce 9th grade students to the basic laws of chemistry and physics. Topics include scientific method, units of measure, atomic structure, simple chemical reactions, dynamics of motion, simple machines, energy, sound, light, electricity and magnetism.

Biology

Offered to: Sophomores

Credits: 1

Designed to promote appreciation of living plants and animals, and experience in the use of the scientific method. Emphasis is placed on the functional and structural aspects of the living cell as well as a study of the five kingdoms of living organisms. Special attention is given to the subject of origins and evidence of God's design in nature.

Biology II (Anatomy & Physiology)

Offered to: Juniors

Credits: 1

This class is designed to give student a good foundation in the principles human anatomy and physiology. Emphasis is placed on current topics of interest relating to human health and lab activities, which include dissection.

Physics

Offered to: Juniors/Seniors

Credits: 1

The study of energy changes and transfer. Topics of velocity, acceleration, Newton's laws of motion, forces, periodic motion, conservation of energy and momentum, phases of matter, heat, heat engines, waves and electricity.

Chemistry

Offered to: Juniors/Seniors

Credits: 1

This class involves the study of the fundamental concepts of phases of matter, atomic structures, periodicity of elements, chemical reactions and equations, moles, molar solutions, acid-base reactions, and basic organic chemistry.

Social Sciences

Theme Verse

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope. – Romans 15:4

Courses

World Geography

Offered to: Freshmen

Credits: 1/2

In geography we do a broad study on landforms, climate, economics, populations, culture and locations and how all these intermix. In other words, how do people affect their environment and how does environment affect population and culture. These are only a few factors on how we influence and are influenced by environment. Geography is no longer considered just a study of countries and their capitals. It is a comprehensive study of these factors and more and how they interact.

World History

Offered to: Sophomores

Credits: 1/2

We begin with an archaeologist approach to excavating historic sites, such as the early civilizations of the Indus River Valley. We continue on through history hitting major civilizations such as the Greeks and Romans, Mongols, etc—and the reasons for their rise and fall. We discuss on a regular basis what was a common denominator for some of the more successful civilizations and were there also reasons in common for their fall.

United States History

Offered to: Juniors

Credits: 1

We start with the different tribes of the Americas and move through the exploration of the New World. The development of the Americas takes shape as they are colonized by European nations. The struggle for American independence from the British begins in earnest in the late 1770s. Once independence is achieved we work at building a strong democratic nation that is governed by the people. We continue to go through struggles of a young nation, expanding, civil war, and technological advancements. We experience foreign relations on an international level with Spanish American War, World War I, World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. We try to understand the reasons for the domestic and foreign struggles.

Government

Offered to: Seniors

Credits: 1/2

We do a great deal of discussion and current events in this class. I try to make this relevant to the students by bringing it down to how government works in class groups, school, Freeman, South Dakota and of course Washington. I want them to understand that government is not just something out there that we can't touch and do not feel a part of. It really happens around us on a daily basis, and they need to be responsible citizens and participate in the process of democracy fails for lack of involvement. We cover the election process, how the bills become laws, the three branches for government and duties of each of these branches. This class also travels to Pierre to observe committee meetings and sessions in the House and the Senate.

Psychology

Offered to: Seniors

Credits: 1/2

This class does a short study on the history (Structuralism, Functionalism, Behaviorism, Gestalt, and Psychoanalysis) and different types of Psychology (Developmental, Educational, Clinical, etc). We spend most of our time looking at common psychological disorders. Some of the topics we cover are personality, sleep, and consciousness, sensation and perception, emotion and motivation.