



**Student Academic
Course Selection
Packet**

2009 - 2010

HCS Mission Statement:

*Hearts straightened by Jesus Christ
Minds sharpened through academic challenge*

Lives aimed at God's purpose

(Based on Psalm 127)

Packet Contents:

- ❖ Letter to the Parents

- ❖ Letter to the Students

- ❖ Guidelines and Procedures for Scheduling

- ❖ Course Catalog

- ❖ Course Selection Form

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

The more and more I look at the academic offerings at Harrisburg Christian School, the more my heart is filled with gratitude to the Lord for His faithfulness in allowing us to offer a high quality, college-preparatory program for your child. There are certainly many Christian schools around the country who desire to offer the level of courses that we offer here at Harrisburg Christian School. With that said, I am excited what the Lord will do in the days and years ahead to develop further our courses, our curriculum, and our instruction as we seek to glorify Him in all that we do.

Enclosed is information to help you assist your child in selecting courses for the 2009-2010 academic year. Please review the material carefully and do not hesitate to contact me with any questions you may have. I will have met with your child in the days preceding your receipt of this material to guide them in their course selection. I encourage you to assist your child in selecting an academically challenging schedule as this is the best way to prepare them for college entrance exams and the rigors of college. *Please return the Student Selection Form to the main office by **Monday, May 18th***. Please note on the selection form if you wish to schedule an appointment to discuss your child's schedule. Over the summer, I will review your child's schedule and send you an official schedule prior to Back to School Night on ***Thursday, August 27st***.

Please understand that the schedule is reflective of our desire for academic excellence in an environment of limited resources, space, and personnel. Despite that, I encourage you to continue to rely upon the Lord to prepare your child, academically and spiritually, for the challenges that lie ahead. Please do not hesitate to contact me if questions arise during this process. Join me in praying that the Lord will use your child's courses next year to further his purposes for their life.

In His Service,

Philip G. Puleo
MS/HS Principal

Dear HCS Student:

I know, who wants to think about the academic responsibilities next year when we haven't had opportunity to richly enjoy the fullness of the summer months. Well the summer months will be here soon enough and until that comes, let's do a little planning together.

I am excited about what the Lord has enabled us to offer you by way of challenging, college-preparatory courses. Our Advance Placement course offerings continue to expand. In addition to *Advanced Placement Art Studio*, *Advanced Placement Biology*, *Advanced Placement Computer Science A*, *Advanced Placement English Literature*, and *Advanced Placement Environmental Science*, and *Advanced Placement Music Theory*.

I encourage you to make the most of your course selection by challenging yourself academically. When asked by a student the best way to prepare for the SAT and the rigors of college, a College Board Representative said, "Take challenging courses!" I would encourage you to challenge yourself and to take a diversity of courses. I have found in my life that the Lord has used even the smallest, seemingly inconsequential, experiences for His purpose and my ministry. I believe the Lord will do the same for you.

Please review the scheduling material carefully with your parents. Please do not hesitate to stop in and see me, to call (717-545-3728) or to e-mail (ppuleo@hcs.nu) if you want to discuss your schedule. Complete the enclosed **Student Course Selection Form** and return to the main office by **Monday, May 18th**.

I hope you are as excited about next year as I am as we continue our journey in preparing you for the special plan God has for your life. I pray that the Lord will guide you in the course selection process and will grant you a restful summer serving Him.

In His Service,

Philip G. Puleo
MS/HS Principal

Guidelines and Procedures for Scheduling:

Below is critical information related to scheduling. Please review it carefully before scheduling.

- 1. Graduation Requirements:** Students must satisfy the requirements below in order to be eligible for graduation from Harrisburg Christian School

Subject	Credits
Bible	4
English	4
Science	3
Math	3
History	3
Senior Sociology	1
Fine Arts	1
Physical Education/Health	2
Computer Science	.5
Electives	3.5
Total:	25 Credits

- 2. Typical Course Selections:** The typical college bound student will take the following course selections in each of their four years. These samples do not include the satisfaction of all graduation requirements as it relates to electives.

- 3.**

Freshman Year	
Subject	Course
Bible	Christian Faith and Disciplines
English	English 9
Science	Biology
Math	Algebra I or Geometry
History	American Government & Economics
Physical Education	HS Physical Education
Foreign Language	Spanish I
Computer Science	Computer Applications I
Electives	1 Credit in Electives
Total:	8 Credits

Sophomore Year	
Subject	Course
Bible	Bible Study and Survey
English	Survey of American Literature
Science	Chemistry or Physical Science
Math	Algebra II; or Geometry
History	World History
Physical Education	HS Physical Education
Foreign Language	Spanish II
Electives	1.5 Credits in Electives
Total:	8 Credits

Junior Year	
Subject	Course
Bible	History of Christian Theology
English	Survey of British Literature (Honors) or Survey of British Literature
Science	Physics; Chemistry or AP Environmental Science
Math	Pre-Calculus; Algebra III/Trigonometry; or Algebra II
History	AP U.S. History or U.S. History
Physical Education	HS Physical Education
Electives	2.5 Credits in Electives
Total:	8 Credits

Senior Year	
Subject	Course
Bible	World Religion and Apologetics
English	AP English or English 12
Science	AP Biology, AP Environmental Science or Physics
Math	AP Calculus, Pre-Calculus or Algebra III/Trigonometry
Humanities	Senior Sociology
Physical Education	HS Physical Education
Electives	2.5 Credits in Electives
Total:	8 Credits

NOTE: *College-bound students, even those not majoring in mathematical or scientific fields of study, are highly encouraged to take a fourth year in science and a fourth year in math.*

4. **Taking Advanced Courses (i.e. AP Courses, Pre-Calculus; Algebra III/Trigonometry; Physics; Digital Graphics; Digital Video Production; Introduction to Computer Science; Advanced Hardware & Networks; and Pre-AP Music Theory):** Students are encouraged to take advanced courses. Taking challenging courses is the best preparation for standardized testing (i.e. SAT and ACT), college coursework, and employment responsibilities. College-bound students, even those not majoring in mathematical or scientific fields of study, are highly encouraged to take a fourth year in science and a fourth year in math.

5. **Advanced Placement Courses:** Students are encouraged to consult their teacher and/or the MS/HS Principal to determine whether they should take an Advanced Placement Course. Students are encouraged to take these courses. Advanced Placement Courses provide students with a “taste” of college-rigor while still in high school. All students who take an Advanced Placement Course will be required to take the AP Exam. The cost of the AP Exam for the 2008-2009 school year was \$78. The AP Exam is administered during the first two weeks of May. Students desiring to take other Advance Placement Courses, not offered by HCS, may do so independently online through approved organizations. The cost of the course is paid by the student. In addition, like the student who takes an HCS Advanced Placement Course, the student is required to take the AP Exam.

6. **Advanced Bible Courses:** Some students have chosen to take additional Bible courses while a student at Harrisburg Christian School. Students interested in doing so should contact the MS/HS Principal. Advanced Bible Courses are taken independently through Moody Bible Institute or another Bible College. The cost of the course is paid by the student.

7. **College Courses:** Senior students interested in taking a college course while a student at Harrisburg Christian School should contact the MS/HS Principal. The opportunity to take a college course is dependent upon a number of factors: (1) the student’s current academic record; (2) the student’s ability to meet HCS graduation requirements; (3) the student’s scheduling of advanced HCS courses; and (4) the ability to schedule a college course into their high school schedule. All costs associated with taking a college course is paid by the student. The Administration will make the final determination whether a high school student is eligible to take a college course during their senior year.

8. **Student Service Learning Opportunities:** Service learning opportunities provide students with the co-curricular education experience in a field of interest. Service Learning Positions are limited to the following:
 - Assistant to the Athletic Director
 - Assistant to the Chapel Director
 - Assistant to the Director of Food Service
 - Assistant to the Director of Information Technology
 - Development Assistant
 - Guidance Office Assistant
 - Office Assistant
 - Science Lab Assistant
 - Teacher Assistant – Art
 - Teacher Assistant – Elementary
 - Teacher Assistant – Library
 - Teacher Assistant – Music & Drama

Service learning positions are granted on the following basis: (1) students academic record and current academic schedule; (2) students future field of study; and (3) opportunity availability. Service learning positions are generally given to students in the 11th and 12th grades. Students interested in a *Student Service Learning Position* should contact the MS/HS Principal.

9. **Preliminary Scheduling Meetings:** The MS/HS Principal will meet with the individual high school classes to discuss the scheduling process and the course offerings for the upcoming year. Students will be given a packet of information to take home to their parents. Students will have opportunities to ask questions. Students are encouraged to schedule individual appointments with the MS/HS Principal to discuss specific scheduling opportunities.

10. **Course Descriptions:** Course catalogs are available on the HCS Website or in the school office. The catalog lists the courses offered at Harrisburg Christian School. It is important to note that not all courses are offered each year. The Administration reserves the right to cancel or add courses as the need arises.

11. **Student Course Selection Form:** A student must complete the *Student Course Selection Form* in order to register for courses. **The form must be completed and returned to the MS/HS Office on or before Monday, May 18th.** Students are encouraged to contact the MS/HS Principal for assistance with their schedule. A selection of a course does not guarantee that a student will be admitted into the course. Students should note the following things when completing the form:
 - Students should select all their core courses and courses for graduation first.
 - Students must select one elective from “Choice A” and one elective from “Choice B”.
 - Students must carefully review the course pre-requisites.
 - Students must obtain all the necessary teacher signatures of recommendation.
 - Students must sign the form.
 - Students must obtain their parent signature.

Forms not completed fully will not be processed.

12. **Official Schedules:** After a student completes the *Student Course Selection Form*, an official course schedule will be sent to the students home the end of July or early August. Students are encouraged to review their official schedule carefully. Any questions or changes to the schedule must be completed prior to Back to School Night on August 27th. Schedule changes that evening and after must come by way of an official request using the *Drop/Add Course Form*.

13. **Other Courses Not Listed:** Students interested in taking Advanced Placement Art Studio, Pre-AP Art Studio or Digital Publishing must indicate that request on their *Student Course Selection Form*. An attempt will be made to schedule those courses in a student's schedule.