

# WHAT TO EXPECT IN Ninth Grade

## MATH

In ninth grade, our students will study geometry from the "father of geometry" himself, the ancient Greek mathematician, Euclid. Our primary text is Euclid's *Elements*, which has been the foundational geometry text for 2,000 years. Students will practice their growing rhetorical skills by presenting and defending geometric proofs to their peers using Euclid's propositions. This practice establishes a strong understanding of geometric concepts and encourages students to process material thoroughly. In addition, students will be exposed to contemporary geometry texts with modern applications.

Topics include...

- Spatial Reasoning
- Problem-solving Skills
- Real-life applications
- Geometric concepts relating to the order of Creation
- Proofs
- Definitions, postulates, and theorems
- Angles, parallel lines, congruent and similar triangles
- Polygons, circles, arcs, area, and volume
- Coordinate geometry, introductory trigonometry, and constructions

## SCIENCE

Through the Novare Introductory Physics course, students will explore science through the classical ideals of "wonder, integration, and mastery." Hands-on experiments include making pendulums, measuring acceleration in real time, predicting velocity, and building circuit boards. This approach to teaching science results in high levels of student success and long-lasting memory retention.

Topics include...

- Foundational skills in science computation
- Motion
- Energy & Momentum
- Atoms, Matter and Substances
- Heat & Temperature
- Pressure & Buoyancy
- Sound & Light Waves
- Electricity & DC Circuits
- Fields & Magnetism

## LANGUAGE

Ninth grade students will be taking Greek I as their foreign language. This course is an introduction to the vocabulary and grammar of Ancient Greek and to the ancient Greek-speaking world. By studying Greek, students prepare to engage with some of the greatest minds of all time — Homer, Plato, Aristotle, and more. Greek is especially pertinent for the Christian, for it is the language of the New Testament. If we wish to (in the words of The Book of Common Prayer) "read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest" God's Word, we would do well to engage the Word in its original language. To do so opens up linguistic, rhetorical, and cultural nuance which is not as apparent in translation.

## RHETORIC I

In accordance with the trivium, students begin formal Rhetoric in ninth grade. This course is drawn largely from Aristotle's *Rhetoric* and *Quintilian's Institutio Oratoria*. Students will apply the classical rhetorical canons to many assignments both written and verbal. They will learn how to critically think about persuasive communication through knowledge of the rhetorical process, the common topics, and proofs. This course points to something greater: that winsome speech and writing bring glory to God and can help point others to Christ.



# HUMANITIES III

HCA's Humanities curriculum is a robust, cross-curricular course covering history, literature, and composition, that enters our Logic and Rhetoric students into the Great Conversation. Here students listen as the greatest minds in Western history detail and debate the nature of God, man, meaning, and salvation. From these arise politics, education, virtue, pastime, culture, and everything else. Spanning from creation to Christ, students engage firsthand with primary sources (as well as numerous secondary texts) from ancient Hebraic, Greek, and Roman traditions.

By providing a cumulative, chronological narrative of Western civilization, students are filled with a scope that allows for perspective. What is worthwhile? What is true, good, and beautiful? Since Christ is the Author, Sustainer, and Purpose of all things, history is the Christian's playground. Students travel from text to text, daily delighting in the Lord through this robust and exciting curriculum.

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## HUMANITIES III: HISTORY

Our Humanities History III curriculum is a chronological compilation of some of the most influential texts in Western Civilization, covering the Reformation to the present day. Students engage with a series of primary texts, both secular and sacred, and through these, are instructed in the characters and concepts to which Western Civilization is indebted. Humanities III History focuses on primary source texts and studies the writers, societal context, and of each text in light of Christ. Students will read historical texts, examining the author, context, characters, and worldview all in the light of Christ.

Texts Include:

- *Anti-Federalist Papers*
- *Federalist Papers*
- *The Communist Manifesto*
- *Lincoln: Speeches and Writings*
- *Mein Kampf*
- *Of Plymouth Plantation*
- *Reflections on the Revolution in France*
- "Daniel"

# HUMANITIES III: LITERATURE

In Literature & Composition, students cover classics such as, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *Gulliver's Travels*, and *Pilgrim's Progress*. Humanities III students will consider all literature in light of the Transcendentals which Plato and the Church Fathers alike adored: truth, goodness, and beauty. Since God is true, good, and beautiful, it stands to reason that all his works will bear these qualities. Students will seek out, delight in, and be shaped by these Transcendentals as they encounter them in the characters and concepts of God's world- these are God's fingerprints. All Classics bear the fingerprints of our Maker, and thus may lead us to worship. Yet, this world contains not only the fingerprints of God, but the dark smudges of sin. Thus, when the student encounters falsity, wickedness, and ugliness in our broad curriculum, the student understands just how short man has fallen from the glory of God.

Texts Include:

- *The Old Man in the Sea*
- *1984*
- *The Great Gatsby*
- *Pilgrim's Progress*
- *A Tale of Two Cities*
- *Uncle Tom's Cabin*
- "Jude"
- "Philemon"

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## ENRICHMENT / SPECIALS

- Daily convocation
- Fine Arts offerings include Chorale, Strings, Theater, Art, Photography, and Design Media.
- Health offerings include Health, Physical Education, and Athletics.
- Elective offerings include Mock Trial, Debate, Yearbook, and World Language.
- As part of our Rhetoric Student Life, students will participate in our mentoring program, Rhetoric Seminar, service projects and class trips.

