



# What to Expect in 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

(The Year of the 2 night 3 day class trip)

## Class

- Students are expected to participate in class discussions. This requires them to be prepared for class.
- Debate: This challenging course requires research outside of class as well as presenting resolutions in debate format before judges. This course also consists of several required Saturday debate tournaments.

## Homework

- Students are expected to do more studying, writing, and researching outside of class.
- Homework is more than “assignments.” Students are expected to review their notes from class, organize their thoughts, take notes on reading assignments, and formulate questions they can ask the next day.
- Students should be nearly self-sufficient in their work.
- Students are encouraged to request time to meet with teachers for additional help as needed.
- Students may be recommended by the teacher to take Honors English.

## Fund-Raising

- Parents are encouraged to motivate their students to begin raising funds for forthcoming events such as the senior trip. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class serves one (1) catered lunch at the upper school each week to assist seniors who are preparing for their spring Europe trip.
- All fund-raising events must be presented for approval and registered with the school *before* implementation. Forms and explanations can be found at the front desk.

## Events

- **PSAT**- Students will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test in October during their sophomore and junior years.
- **CTP 4** - Summative assessment test taken at the end of each school year.
- **Protocol** - In the spring students will participate in protocol training. They will learn how to navigate a place setting for a five-course meal, conduct appropriate conversation at a formal event, escort, ballroom dance, and interview for a job. These skills give our students confidence as they enter the adult world ready to serve and present the kindnesses of Christ to others. Possessing and displaying manners is formal public kindness. It is learning how to show others that they are valuable, worthy, and created in the image of God. At the end of the week, the students will be invited to attend the program portion of the soiree wearing honors dress at the upper school. The per student cost for protocol training is included in tuition and fees.
- **9<sup>th</sup> Grade Class Trip** - 9<sup>th</sup> grade marks the conclusion of the dialectic years and the beginning of the rhetoric years. To celebrate what has been learned and look ahead to what is yet to come, the

students take a three-day (two-night) trip. One portion of the trip focuses on either a science or history topic. Another portion focuses on a professional theatre presentation as students prepare to learn eloquent communication skills. The final portion of the trip is a unique time to unite the class as they learn to encourage one another to conquer obstacles that may lie ahead. This portion of the trip is often seen as the “entertainment.” However, the activities are planned with a purpose to stretch the individuals in a way that will encourage them to work together as a team toward a goal, often stretching them beyond their comfort zone. This trip is planned carefully with purpose by the class sponsor and officers. The cost is approximately \$300.

- **Community Service Hours** - Thirty hours of community service are required yearly with a total of 120 hours of community service required in order to graduate. These hours must be submitted within the quarter in which they were earned.
- **Other events** to look forward to include a fall retreat and Battle Cry Week.

### Additional Expenses:

The following estimates are additional expenses that will occur throughout the year.

Event	Cost	Time Frame
Retreat Electives	Approx. \$10 each Dependent upon student choice	Retreat is September 21-23. Notice about choices and total cost coming soon.
Freshman Trip	Approx. \$300/student \$200/Chaperones	Money due in March Trip end of March
Field Trips	Varies	Varies





# What to Expect in 10<sup>th</sup> Grade

## (The Year to Provide Food for the Ring Ceremony and Graduation)

### Class:

- Students are expected to be self-motivated as they participate in class discussions and bring their own perspectives to class. This requires them to be prepared for class.
- Speech: Students take a formal speech class. They will be presenting a variety of speeches as well as evaluating famous speeches of the past. These oratory skills prepare students for research and thesis grades 11 and 12.

### Homework:

- Students are expected to expand their skills in the areas of studying, writing, and researching.
- Homework is more than “assignments.” Students are expected to organize and review their notes from class, organize their thoughts, take notes on reading assignments, and formulate questions to ask the next day. Assignments require students to apply, analyze, and synthesize.
- Students should be self-sufficient in their work.
- Students are encouraged to request time to meet with teachers for additional help as needed.
- Students may select honors level classes. These classes require students to think deeply, read widely (purchase of extra reading material may be required), participate with greater depth in class discussions, improve written communication, and work independently. Students should be ready to work in class and put in extra hours of homework if they choose to take these courses.

### Fund-Raising:

- Parents are encouraged to motivate their students to continue raising funds for forthcoming events such as the senior trip. The 10<sup>th</sup> grade class serves one (1) catered lunch at the upper school each week to assist seniors who are preparing for their spring Europe trip.
- All fund-raising events must be presented for approval and registered with the school *before* implementation. Forms and explanations can be found at the front desk.

### Events:

- **PSAT** - Students will take the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test in October during their sophomore and junior years.
- **CTP 4** – Summative assessment test taken at the end of each school year.
- **Protocol/Soirée** - In the spring students will participate in protocol training. They will learn how to navigate a place setting for a five-course meal, conduct appropriate conversation at a formal event, escort and be escorted, ballroom dance, and interview for a job. These skills give our students confidence as they enter the adult world ready to serve and present the kindnesses of Christ to others. Possessing and displaying manners is formal public kindness. It is learning how to show others that they are valuable, worthy, and created in the image of God. At the end of the week, the students will take part in the soirée. The per student cost for protocol training is included in tuition and fees.

- The Soiree is an evening of wonder and excitement as well as learning. To reduce the pressure of the “need for a date,” escorts will be assigned for the evening to students in grades 10 and 11. This allows an opportunity to learn how to honor classmates as they practice being a ladies or gentlemen. The evening generally is separated into three parts: A program during which 10<sup>th</sup> grade students receive class rings, a formal dinner, and a ballroom dance. The class president will present a formal speech at this event as part of the ring ceremony.

The soirée is a formal event. Sophomore, junior, and senior ladies wear staff-approved formal gowns. Gentlemen may wear a tuxedo or black suit with a white shirt, black tie, and dress shoes. The cost ranges from \$75-\$100/student.

**Customarily, the sophomore class provides hors d’oeuvres for the evening event as everyone arrives and pictures are taken. The class sponsor will work with the parent representative and class officers to organize the event.**

- **Class rings** – Optional class rings are ordered in October and presented at the soirée in May. They include the SCA crescent, symbolic of our desire for the Word of God to be central in students’ lives. Rings have a wide range of costs.
- **Graduation** - The sophomore class **creates the ambiance** for the graduation ceremony. **This includes decorating the reception hall, providing refreshments, and clean-up following the ceremony.** The class sponsor, parent representative, and class officers work with the academic counselor in accomplishing these tasks.
- **Community Service Hours** - Thirty hours of community service are required yearly with a total of 120 hours of community service required in order to graduate. These hours must be submitted within the quarter in which they were earned.
- **Other events** to look forward to include a fall retreat and Battle Cry Week.

## Additional Expenses:

- The following estimates are additional expenses that will occur throughout the year.

Event	Cost	Time Frame
Retreat Electives	Approx. \$10 each Dependent upon student choice	Retreat is September 21-23. Notice about choices and total cost coming soon.
Class Ring	Varies according to choice	Ordered in Oct. Deposit due Delivered in April. Remainder due
Protocol/Soirée	Approx. \$75-\$100	Money due in March Event in April (required attendance)
College Trips (fall/spring)	Varies	(Voluntary) September and March
Field Trips	Varies	Varies





# What to Expect in 11<sup>th</sup> Grade

## (The Year to Plan the Soiree)

### Class:

- Students are expected to be self-motivated as they participate in class discussions and bring their own perspectives to class. This requires them to be prepared for class.
- Rhetoric Research - Students learn research skills, rhetorical writing skills, and components of the senior thesis. As students learn to research possible future careers, they take part in a mentorship program and a survey/test to help them think through possible choices. Students spend six hours with a mentor in their chosen field. **Students should begin looking for a Christian mentor to shadow during the summer before their junior year.** Students also work closely with the academic counselor to begin writing the high school résumés in preparation for college applications.

### Homework:

- Students are expected to do more studying, writing, and researching outside of class.
- Homework is more than “assignments.” Students are expected to review their notes from class, organize their thoughts, take notes on reading assignments, and formulate questions they can ask the next day. Assignments continue to become more rhetorical in nature.
- Students should be self-sufficient in their work.
- Students are encouraged to request time to meet with teachers for additional help as needed.
- Students may select honors level classes. These classes require the student to do more in-depth study, read more (purchase of extra reading material may be required), participate more in class discussions, meet for extra discussions, and write more. Students should be ready to work and put in extra hours for homework if they choose to take these courses.

### Fund-Raising:

- Students should be well on their way to saving money for the senior trip. The 11<sup>th</sup> grade class helps seniors serve a catered lunch at the upper school each week. The profits from these are applied toward the seniors’ Europe trip. After spring break the junior class takes over the responsibility and fund-raising of the snack cart.
- All fund-raising events must be presented for approval and registered with the school *before* implementation. Forms and explanations can be found at the front desk.

### Events:

- **PSAT** - Students will take the PSAT in October. This year is very important. Their scores will be entered in the National Merit Scholarship program with the possibility of earning national recognition. Study and review before taking the test is highly encouraged. During the spring they must register for and complete their first SAT and/or ACT for college entrance.
- **Protocol/Soirée** - In the spring students will again participate in protocol training. They will review how to navigate a place setting for a five-course meal, conduct appropriate conversation at a formal event, escort and be escorted, ballroom dancing, and more. These skills give our students confidence as they enter the adult world ready to serve and present the kindnesses of Christ to others.

Possessing and displaying manners is formal public kindness. It is learning how to show others that they are valuable, worthy, created in the image of God beings. At the end of the week of training, the students take part in the soiree. The per student cost for protocol training is included in tuition and fees.

The Soiree is an evening of wonder and excitement as well as learning. To reduce the pressure of the “need for a date”, escorts will be assigned for the evening to students in grades 10 and 11. This allows an opportunity to learn how to honor classmates as they practice being a ladies or gentlemen. The evening has three parts: A program during which 10<sup>th</sup> grade students will be presented with their class rings, a formal dinner, and a ballroom dance.

The soiree is a formal event. Sophomore, junior, and senior ladies wear staff-approved formal gowns. Gentlemen may wear a tuxedo or black suit with a white shirt, black tie, and dress shoes. The cost ranges from \$75-\$100/student.

**The junior class sponsors this event.** They determine the theme, decorations, venue for the meal, music and other details. This is an involved undertaking and will require much cooperation between the class sponsor, parents, and class officers. The students will also present a special recognition to the seniors during the program portion of this event.

- **Graduation** - The junior class **participates in the graduation ceremony**. They will be required to attend practice and the ceremony. Student attire: black suit and tie for gentlemen, dresses for ladies.
- **Community Service Hours** - Thirty hours of community service are required yearly with a total of 120 hours of community service required in order to graduate. These hours must be submitted within the quarter in which they were earned.
- **Other events** to look forward to include a fall retreat and Battle Cry Week.

## Additional Expenses:

The following estimates are additional expenses that will occur throughout the year.

Event	Cost	Time Frame
Retreat Electives	Approx. \$10 each Dependant on student choice	Retreat is September 21-23. Notice about choices and total cost coming soon.
Protocol/Soirée	Approx. \$75-\$100	Money due in March Event in April (required attendance)
SAT	Approx. \$50	Pay to CollegeBoard.com Test in March
Washington DC field trip	Approx. \$50	Trip in April. Money due in March
Plan ahead for Senior Europe Trip	Approx. \$4000	Registration due Sept. 15 of senior year
College trips (fall and spring)	Varies (voluntary)	September and March
Field Trips	Varies	Varies





# What to Expect in 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

## Class:

- Students are expected to be self-motivated to participate in class discussions and to bring their own thoughts/reactions to class. This requires them to be prepared for class.
- Students are expected to orally present in class and to teach others.
- Rhetoric Thesis - Throughout the year, students will complete then present their senior thesis. This 15+ page persuasive paper is presented and defended before a board. Expect to spend extra time preparing for this project.
- Parents are encouraged to allow their students to be their own advocates as they learn to take responsibility for their grades and work.

## Homework:

- Students are expected to do studying, writing, and researching outside of class.
- Homework is more than “assignments.” Students are expected to review their notes from class, organize their thoughts, take notes on reading assignments, and formulate questions they can ask the next day.
- Students should be completely self-sufficient in their work.
- Students are encouraged to request time to meet with teachers for additional help as needed.
- Students may select honors level classes. These classes require the student to do more in-depth study, read more (purchase of extra reading material may be required), participate more in class discussions, meet for extra discussions, and write more. Students should be ready to work and put in extra hours for homework if they choose to take these courses.

## Fund-Raising:

- Students should have been working diligently to earn and save money for the senior trip. The 12<sup>th</sup> grade class receives the profit from all catered lunches at the upper school each week, which is applied toward the senior trip and/or other costs which the class incurs.
- All fund-raising events must be presented for approval and registered with the school *before* implementation. Forms and explanations can be found at the front desk.
- The senior class is responsible for the snack bar. All proceeds through March go towards their trip. The snack bar is turned over to the juniors after spring break.
- By tradition, the senior class also conducts a ‘yard decoration’ each year.

## Events:

- **Senior Thesis** - The culminating event of the classical education is the senior thesis presentations. Writing and presenting with wisdom and eloquence with a Christian worldview is evidenced as students formally present their work before parents, friends, and judges. Please note the explanation of this vital event at the end of this document.

- **Protocol/Soirée** - In the spring students will again participate in protocol training. They will review how to navigate a place setting for a five-course meal, conduct appropriate conversation at a formal event, escort and be escorted, ballroom dancing, and more. These skills give our students confidence as they enter the adult world ready to serve and present the kindnesses of Christ to others. Possessing and displaying manners is formal public kindness. It is learning how to show others that they are valuable, worthy, created in the image of God beings. At the end of the week of training, the students take part in the soirée. The per student cost for protocol training is included in tuition and fees.

The soirée is an evening of wonder and excitement as well as learning. This is a required formal event. Seniors are allowed to invite a guest from outside SCA. Ladies wear formal staff-approved gowns. Senior gentlemen wear tuxedos or black suits. The cost of the event ranges from \$75 - \$100/student.

- **Senior Trip!** The estimated cost for the trip is \$4000/student. The reservation is due mid September along with the first \$450 payment. The remainder of the cost is due in February. It is highly recommended that students apply for their passports immediately. Chaperones pay the full amount.
- **Graduation-** Takes place a week before the end of the school year. Participation is based on completion of all graduation requirements. Student attire: dark black pants, white shirt and tie for gentlemen, white dresses and white shoes for ladies. Each student is expected to set up a “memory table” at the graduation reception. Parents and students are expected to develop a disc or thumb drive with pictures of seniors past and present. The class sponsor will assist with ideas.

## Other Senior Items:

- **SAT/ACT** - Prior to graduation, students must submit SAT and/or ACT test scores.
- **Cap/gown and graduation announcement orders** are taken in October.
- **Senior pictures** - All seniors will have a formal photo taken with a professional agency provided by the school. This photo will be used in the yearbook. If students elect to have these formal pictures taken at a photographer of their choice, please submit to SCA yearbook staff prior to December. Attire in formal pictures: Ladies - black drape. Gentlemen: black tux with white shirt and black bow-tie.
- **Senior Yearbook Ads** - Parents may purchase a special ad to be printed in the yearbook honoring their student. Ad purchase forms are available at the front desk and must be submitted with payment and pictures prior to Christmas.
- **Class Picture** - The senior class may choose the location of their formal senior class pictures. Gentlemen are to wear a black tux or black suit with white shirt and black tie; ladies are to wear their white graduation dress and white shoes. These pictures will be available for parents to purchase.
- **“Life” pictures** - A set of 3-4 pictures showcasing the senior’s life from infancy through senior year is due to the academic counselor no later than February 28. These will become part of the graduation ceremony slide show.

- **College Transcript Requests** - Each application the senior submits to a college requires a separate transcript. The transcript request form must be completed and submitted to the academic counselor a week or more before the transcript is due to arrive at the selected university. Remember to allow time for mail. Plan carefully.
- **Community Service Hours** - The required 120 hours of community service required for graduation must be **submitted before the senior trip**.
- **Other events** to look forward to include a fall retreat and Battle Cry Week.

## Additional Expenses:

- The following estimates are additional expenses that will occur throughout the year.

Event	Cost	Time Frame
Retreat Electives	Approx. \$10 each Dependent upon student choice	Retreat is September 21-23. Notice about choices and total cost coming soon.
Protocol/Soirée	Approx. \$75 -\$100	Money due in March Event in April Required attendance
Senior Europe Trip	Approx. \$4000	Payments due in September, December, January, February
Graduation Pictures	Varies	Formal picture due to SCA by December
Graduation Announcements	Varies	Ordered in October. Deposit due. Delivered in April- remainder due.
Senior Yearbook Ad	Varies	Payment and pictures due to yearbook staff prior to Christmas break.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Grade Bible and the Senior Trip, Summit Christian Academy

The senior year at Summit Christian Academy is an exciting one, not just because of the anticipation of college and life beyond, but also because of the classes and the subject matter in a year of application and future-life preparation. While the senior thesis presentation is a unique culmination of Summit's classical elements and focus for the art of soul-moving, the senior class Bible curriculum, reaching its zenith in the "Francis Schaeffer Tour of Europe" in the Spring, is a challenging, yet rewarding, examination of the ideas that have shaped Western Civilization and the world into which the students will soon embark as high school graduates.

The first semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade Bible is a thorough examination of major worldviews that have had significant impact on Western Civilization. Through the curriculum *Understanding the Times*, students analyze ten major components of every worldview: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, psychology, sociology, law, politics, economics, and history. Students also see how those categories are developed in six major contemporary worldviews: Secular Humanism, Marxist-Leninism, Postmodernism, Cosmic Humanism, Islam, and Biblical Christianity.

After a semester of difficult, yet remarkably enriching analysis of ideas, students see how those ideas have been enacted and lived throughout Western Civilization chronologically, turning second semester to Francis Schaeffer's classic *How Should We Then Live? The Rise and Decline of Western Thought and Culture*. Finally, after critically studying the ideas that have shaped their world, students actually go to the key sites of Western Civilization's greatest (and not-so-greatest) moments. On the "Francis Schaeffer Tour of Europe," students visit parts of Italy, Germany, and France. In Italy, students see Rome and its secular and religious heritage, Florence and Pisa as the cradle of the Renaissance, and Venice, with its unique culture and religious history. In Germany, students travel to Wittenberg and the nascence of the Reformation, as well as a Nazi concentration camp, experiencing firsthand both the noble and ignoble sides of Germany. In France, students focus on Paris, seeing the history of the town with the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame, as well as the cultural monument of the Louvre.

The senior trip of Summit Christian Academy is not merely a selfish expression of "getting through" high school by relaxing and sightseeing. Instead, it is a life-changing, educational, and enjoyable experience of the ideas and people that have

plotted the tumultuous course of Western Civilization. Having studied the philosophies of the world and experiencing first-hand those ideas expressed in Europe, Summit students have a stronger, more personal understanding of their own Biblical worldview, and a greater appreciation for God's control over history and His creation.

### **Senior Thesis, Summit Christian Academy**

The senior thesis component of Summit Christian Academy provides graduating students with a unique opportunity to research, prepare, and present a thesis topic in front of an adjudicating panel as well as a live audience. Students identify a relevant, debatable issue about which they feel strongly, and then frame the issue within the context of their Christian worldview, and finally state the issue in the form of a thesis statement or question. Students then research the topic from a variety of perspectives they learned earlier in the year, focusing on intrinsic proofs (logical, emotional, and character proofs) and extrinsic proofs (statistics, data, authoritative support). After gathering confirmatory proofs for their perspective of the issue, students then identify existing and possible opposing arguments to their perspective then refute those opposing arguments, working those refutations into their actual presentation. Next, the students prepare necessary background information for their presentation, defining important terms and giving a historical context for the issue at hand. Students then divide their arguments both for and against their perspective for the audience. Finally, students create an appropriate introduction and conclusion for their thesis presentation. Students submit their thesis in both a written essay as well as the aforementioned public presentation in front of a panel, who then ask questions about the presentation that the students must adequately field.

There are many valuable benefits for graduating students of Summit because of the senior thesis aspect of their education. Not only does it provide an opportunity to defend an issue about which they already feel strongly in a difficult, officiated setting, but also it requires students to think about both sides of an issue, reflecting on opposing viewpoints and refuting them prior to engaging in the presentation. Students must also do research on the topic, a necessary skill in today's academic world. The Christian worldview framework each student uses on his or her topic helps the student think critically through the eyes of faith, recognizing that their Christian beliefs are applicable and relevant in any and all aspects of human experience. The writing format of the paper and verbal presentation requires students to think in terms beyond the typical 5-paragraph essay, expanding their abilities to communicate through writing. Students must memorize at least 60% of their 10-12 minute presentation, giving the students much-needed practice in basic interpersonal oral communication, such as eye contact, poise, and a thorough knowledge of the matter of which they are speaking. The proficiency in communication skills, both oral and written, needed for the senior thesis presentation helps prepare students not only for rigorous post-secondary academic tasks, but also helps prepare students to think well on any issue, defend it or refute it logically, and communicate their perspectives and Christian faith in a way few high school graduates can. The student who succeeds in the senior thesis presentation is not merely prepared for college, but for life itself. (Updated 8/12/14)

