

KEYSTONE NATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL

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(CEEB Code: 102045)



STUDENT MANUAL **PARENT MANUAL** **POLICIES & PROCEDURES** **MANUAL**

Message from the Director:

Dear New Student,

Welcome to Keystone National High School! You have made a very important step toward self-improvement and personal success! And we here at Keystone are anxiously ready to make sure that your education fulfills all of your expectations and more! As Director/Counselor of Keystone National High School, I want to be the first to commend you for your commitment to personal excellence. I have a deep personal admiration for men and women like yourself who are willing to do what it takes to achieve their goals, and I am glad that you choose Keystone as your path to success. You can depend on my word, that all of us here at Keystone are dedicated in assisting you in accomplishing your goal.

Please also read the Student Handbook and Planning Guide. This guide is design to provide useful information as you plan your high school course of study. The next few years are extremely important in charting a course for future academic successes and career choices. With assistance from our high school counselors and advisers, the planning guide is a great tool to be used by your parents and/or guardians to assist you in developing your plan of action. The acquisition of a quality education is the gateway to a successful future. I hope you will use the information in this guide to make informed decisions about your high school experience.

Best wishes to you,

Sincerely,

Clarence Watson

Clarence Watson, Ph.D. (Director/Counselor).

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GETTING STARTED

Believe it or not, you have already taken the biggest step on your path to a better education. Just by enrolling, you have achieved more than thousands of other men and women, because you have gone from dreaming about a better life to doing something about it! Now, all you have to do is begin studying. To assist you in getting the most out of your lessons, and for you to study more productively, we have developed this comprehensive handbook and planning guide to guide you through your studies. They are just guidelines, but if you put the information contain in this guide, into practice, you will find that your confidence will be greatly enhanced and you will therefore get the most out of your time and effort.



STUDENT-PARENT HANDBOOK

The student handbook was designed to give you general information and procedures in pursuing your Goal at Keystone National High School. You do not need to read every page consistently. However, this handbook serves as a reference manual to assist you in answering questions you may have about your program. We are looking forward to a great educational partnership with you. Good luck with your studies!

PLANNING GUIDE

The planning guide was designed to provide useful information as you plan your high school course of study. The next few years are extremely important in charting a course for future academic successes and career choices. With assistance from our high school counselors and advisers, the planning guide is a great tool to be used by your parents and/or guardians to assist you in developing your plan of action. The acquisition of a quality education is the gateway to a successful future. I hope you will use the information in this guide to make informed decisions about your high school experience.



Keystone's Educational Philosophy and Faith

The educational philosophy and faith of Keystone National High School is dependent upon the Bible for providing the viewpoint for interpreting any subject or any school activity. The entire process of education is seen as a means used by God to bring students to Himself through personal faith in Christ and to develop a Christian mind in them so that they can fulfill God's will for their lives personally and vocationally. The mandate for Christian education comes from God's command that children are to be taught to love God and to give Him first place in their lives and from the biblical teaching that parents are responsible for the total education of their children. Christian parents are commissioned by God to bring up a child in the way he should go, and are promised that when he is old he will not turn from it (Proverbs 22:6). God says this of His commandments: Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up (Deuteronomy 6:7). The Christian school augments and continues the training begun in the Christian home.

We believe that students should be provided with an educational program that stresses basic academic skills and an appreciation of the arts to develop all the abilities God has given to each person as a uniquely created individual. We believe that students learn best by active participation in the educational process. The teacher should endeavor to teach the students according to their abilities and achievement level. All subjects are taught from the viewpoint of God's revealed truth, with the goal of developing in students a love for learning that fully challenges their God-given abilities.

Students

God has entrusted the children who attend Keystone National High School to their parents for love, nurture and training. The School serves parents by offering to these students a focused educational program to expand their horizons, improve their unique abilities, and encourage their life-long learning to the glory of God. Child development through education is a diversified process, involving spiritual, physical, emotional, mental, and social dimensions. These should not be treated as disconnected compartments. Students should be treated as whole persons of infinite worth and accountable before God. Even the youngest Christians are Disciples of Christ who need to learn to serve Him with all that they are and have.



Teachers

Teachers at the Keystone National High School should exemplify biblical wisdom and the love of Christ both inside and outside the classroom. They are professionals who have special instructional gifts and who work constantly to strengthen the art of teaching. They work to avoid the misleading polarity between subject oriented and pupil oriented teaching as well as the false dichotomy between sacred and secular realism. The teachers at Keystone are called to be sensitive to the different levels of curricular difficulty, the diversity of gifts among students, and the various stages of maturation in young people. Teachers know they are dealing with whole persons made in the image of God. By fostering a climate of Christian love, understanding and respect, they assist their students in understanding their infinite value to God. Functioning as a team of colleagues, they seek to lead students into a wide ranging excitement about living in God's world.

Families

Keystone National High School is a World of families as well as a World of students and teachers. Students at this School are first of all children in homes. Because the School exists to aid Christian Parents in the God given responsibility of training their children in the way of the Lord, it is not require that at least one parent/guardian be a confessing Christian. However, Christian philosophy is very important for attending this school. Exceptions are granted for those Upper School students who are believers and desire a Christian education even if their parents are not believers. The School solicits wide-scale involvement of parents in the school program, beginning with regular prayer support and including participation in the online chat room and extracurricular activities, financial support and service.

The World

Keystone National High School is committed to being in the world in the biblical sense of believing that everything God created is good. Christ's redeeming work lifts the curse of sin from the creation, restoring believers to a life of service in God's world the life of science and art, government and the marketplace, industry and human services, family life and recreation. The School wants its students to marvel at the wonder of God's revelation in all aspects of the creation. It wants them to discern and to act upon the will of the Lord in every sector of life. At the same time, the School aims to be not of the world. This does not mean that it ignores the truths and goodness God has graciously allowed to emerge outside the community of believers, nor does it mean ignoring the sin and distortion of truth that occurs within the Christian community. The School defines its philosophy, hires its teachers, develops its curriculum and welcomes its students on a thoroughly biblical basis. The School will evaluate continually all activities and human achievement from a biblical viewpoint in order to help students discern the effects of sin, the difference between good and evil, and the meaning of God's restoring work in various aspects of life. This can only be done if the School seeks faithfully to remain of Christ's kingdom and not of the fallen World. The School stands in the Virtual World as a testimony to God's grace, helping students to grow up as Disciples of Christ, preparing them to serve Him throughout His vast creation, and encouraging them to live by faith, hope and love until He returns to fulfill all things in His Kingdom. Praise the Lord!

Getting started is Easy!

Mission Statement

The mission of Keystone National High School is to provide a positive, supportive, and meaningful learning experience for students who need to complete their high school education in a non-traditional setting. Keystone National High School is committed to providing an academically comprehensive curriculum which is supportive of the diverse individual needs, goals, and learning styles of adult learners and all students. The school relies on a learning environment of independent study, which allows students to take ownership in the process of achieving their educational goals and functioning productively in the working world, in further academic settings, and in their personal lives. Keystone National High School strives to fulfill its mission by providing a solid core curriculum in traditional high school disciplines, complemented by academic and vocational electives. The curriculum is supported by applicable technology, a qualified faculty, and a wide array of student services aimed at the needs of the virtual learner. The school assesses fulfillment of its mission and achievement of institutional effectiveness through ongoing studies of student learning, this mission is supported by an admissions policy that allows students with a minimum eighth grade education to enroll in the program without regard to race, religion, gender, color or creed.

On the Road to Success

You have started a journey toward a better future a future that brings more money, security, and greater career satisfaction. All of us at Keystone National High School will do everything we can to make that journey a rewarding one. But, there may be times when you find it hard going... maybe your job or family is demanding more of your time, or completing your program seems too far out of reach. If you start to feel that way, just remember these important facts:

- ✚ A good way to stay motivated is to remember why you enrolled. You have a dream of building a better life for yourself, and you have already shown you have the dedication. Do not let anything stop you from achieving your goals.
- ✚ Anytime you have a problem with something in your lessons or a question about your Keystone National High School experience, contact the school Every student is important to us and we want to see you achieve success. You can always turn to your instructor or our helpful Student Service staff for help.
- ✚ Stick to your study schedule as much as you can but it is okay to give yourself a day off now and then, too. Holidays, special occasions, or just a day to “recharge your batteries”... but do not take too many, because you want to keep moving toward graduation.
- ✚ Most of all, take pride in what you are accomplishing. So many people never try to make their dreams come true just by enrolling, you have shown you are someone who sets goals and works to achieve them. You have much to be proud of.

✚ You have already taken the most important step toward success making the decision to enroll. Now you are ready to begin your Keystone National High School program. Getting started takes only a few minutes. First, let's look at what is on your student homepage:

✚ ***Your Student Handbook :***

Important - valuable information on Keystone National High School experience.

✚ ***Program Outline :***

The information you will learn in your program and the order in which you will learn it.

✚ ***Accessing your Lesson Materials:***

All you need to get started.

✚ ***Taking your Tests Online:***

Detail on submitting your exams.

Information on contacting **Keystone National High School: Website: www.myknhs.com**

Phone: (866)-257-6011 **Registrar:** (866) -257-6012 **Fax:** (866) -257-6013

Otherwise, it is time to move on please read the next page and you are ready to begin.

Here is all you have to do, just follow these few simple steps below and you will be on your way

1. Your Student ID and Password:

Will be e-mail to you as soon as you are accepted at Keystone National High School

2. Find your Program Outline:

Your Program Outline lists all of your courses and the order in which you should study them.

3. Follow the Program Instructions for the first subject:

As you read the first study unit, make sure to use the self-test in your lessons to help you prepare for your first exam. If you have any questions about your

lessons, please e-mail your instructors, or visit www.myknhs.com your resource for answers to any questions you might have.

4. *You will find an exams at the end of each Study Unit:*

When you feel you are prepared, please **Click** on the exam number to submit your answers to the school for grading.

That's all there is to it. The rest of this manual contains useful information on contacting Keystone, taking exams, and answers to other questions you might have. You already know everything you need to begin your first subject, but feel free to read on and learn more about your school.

Course Descriptions

In this section you will find descriptions of the core and elective subjects offered in this High School Program. Each entry features the name of the course, the number of credits you will earn, the number of examinations and the name of any prerequisite subject. The High School subjects and curriculum are frequently updated. Although we try to keep this listing current, it may not include the most recent changes. We reserve the right to revise the program of study and all instructional materials, and to withdraw or substitute for subjects offered.

Algebra I (1 credit)

A study of basic operations with signed numbers, monomials, and polynomials. Also Include formulas, equations, inequalities, graphing, exponents, roots, quadratic equations, and algebraic fractions. **Six exams**

Algebra II (*prerequisite Algebra I*) (1 credit)

A study of algebraic functions, ratios, proportions, logarithms, variations, progressions, theorems, matrices, determinants, inequalities, permutations, and probability. **Four-exams**

American History (1 credit)

Discussion of people, events, and sociopolitical forces that have shaped America, from its discovery to the present. Shows how American history affects today's events and global conditions. **Four exams**

American Literature (1 credit)

Includes a study of literary terms, structural elements of genres and interpreting selected works to read more effectively for both knowledge and enjoyment. Discusses what it has meant and now means to be an American as shown through each major period of American Literature. Discuss each major period of American literature. **Seven exams**

Appliance Repair (1 credit)

Get a head start toward a business of your own repairing home appliances. Includes detail on using tools, testing electric appliances, relays, and motors. **Seven exams**

Artist (1 credit)

Study two-dimensional designs, color theory, animal art, and basic drawing. Easy-to-follow lessons make it simple for even beginners to learn. Include videos, pencils, drawing paper, and charcoal drawing kit. **Four exams**

Auto Repair Technician (1 credit)

Learn about the automobile repair field, engine parts and operation, and engine types. Include a practical exercise. **Four exams**

Basic Electronics (1 credit)

Learn the fundamentals of electricity. You will study conductors, insulators, batteries, circuit analysis, Ohm's law, and multi-meter usage. Include practical exercises, practice kits, and learning aids. **Seven exams**

Basic English (1 credit)

Fundamentals of English for effective communication, capitalization, punctuation, grammar, and spelling are covered, with an aim toward writing clearer sentences. **Four-exams**

Biology (1 credit)

Study of the characteristics of life, chemistry of cells, and the link between life and energy. Discuss evolution, ecosystems, biological kingdoms, and adaptation. Also covers human body systems and activities. **Five exams**

Bookkeeping (1 credit)

Experts show you the basics you need to get into this moneymaking field. Learn about the accounting equation, assets, liabilities, owner's equity, and much more. Includes pocket electronic calculator. **Five exams**

Business Math (1 credit)

A review of basic math skills and principles along with a study of various business maths topics such as income, maintaining a checking account, interest, installment buying, discounts, and markups. **Three exams**

Calculus (*prerequisite Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry*) (1 credit)

Explains the derivative of a function and the applications of derivatives, the integral and how to use it, and methods of integration. **Four exams**

Catering/Gourmet cooking (1 credit)

Learn how to make money in your own food catering business. Topics include an introduction to catering, the dynamics of the catering business, food styles in catering, and alcoholic beverages. **Four exams**

Chemistry (*prerequisite Algebra I*) (1 credit)

Study of the structure and reactions of matter. Discuss elemental symbols, chemical reactions, and the role of energy in those reactions. Also covers organic and nuclear chemistry. **Five exams**

Child Day Care Management (1 credit)

Experts explain everything step-by-step: the benefits of child day care, licensing requirements, managing staff, and details on child growth and development. Features Ages and Stages Chart and Student Observation Guide. **Seven exams**

Civics (1 credit)

Cover the rights, freedoms, and responsibilities of American citizens. Reviews the roots of American government and studies the modern U.S. government its branches; the Constitution and Bill of Rights; the roles of federal, state and local governments; political parties and elections. **Four exams**

Small Business Management (1 credit)

Provides an introduction on how to prepare to start your own business and learn the basics of a business plan. Discuss market research and business connections. **Six- exams**

Consumer Math (1 credit)

Study simple ways to apply mathematics to the everyday areas of life, most of them involving money: employment, purchases, home, car, insurance, savings, and investments. **Three exams**

Dental Assistant (1 credit)

Demand is on the rise around the U.S. for skilled Dental Assistants. Your Career Key elective includes information on dentistry and dental assisting, terms and anatomy, dentists and the law, and basic dental examinations. Learning aids and special supplements included with your program. **Three exams**

Desktop Publishing & Design (1 credit)

This exciting program will introduce you to one of the fastest growing computer career fields! Master the electronic publishing process, the elements of design, and the kinds of graphics and illustrations desktop publishers can create. E-scale/pica ruler, font guide, proportion scale, and special supplements included at no extra cost. **Four exams**

Drafting (1 credit)

You do not need art experience or drawing skills to enjoy security, prestige, and income from this rewarding career field. Learn to use the drafters' world language, understand size and shape description, and project orthographic views. **Five exams**

Dressmaking and Design (1 credit)

Get an introduction to sewing and start toward a moneymaking career in dressmaking. You will learn basic sewing, how to select fabrics, proper care of garments, and more. Include practical exercises and learning aids. **Six exams**

Earth Science (1 credit)

A study of the scientific method, the formation of the solar system, the moons fazes the movement of the earth, plate tectonics, the formation of the oceans, and erosion. Also

looks at chemical principles, rock and mineral analysis, soil formation, and weather patterns. **Six exams**

Economics (1 credit)

Compares and contrasts the economic systems that people use in various parts of the world. Discuss the function of money, the law of supply and demand, and the role of banks and government within capitalist economies. **Three exams**

Electrician (1 credit)

Learn how to get started as an electrician, work with electrician's tools, and the basics of wiring in this fascinating program. Electricians make great money and demand is high in the construction and maintenance fields. **Six exams**

English Communication (1 credit)

Explains how to avoid grammatical errors when writing sentences and paragraphs; how to make words work for you; and how to improve your image by using the right word in the right place. **Three exams**

Fitness and Nutrition (1 credit)

Covers the forms and functions of the muscular, cardio-respiratory and skeletal systems. Discuss the role of energy and mechanisms for transferring it to exercise. Shows you how to adapt exercise programs for those with special needs, and how to prevent and treat injuries. Describe the details of proper nutrition. **Six exams**

Floral Design (1 credit)

Turn your love of flowers into a moneymaking business. You will learn the basics here—care and handling of flowers, classifying flowers and plants, and the principles of design. Your elective program includes a bow tying video, learning aids, and a floral designer's

pronunciation guide through our virtual settings. **Six exams**

General Math I (1 credit)

A study of the fundamental operations with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals, preceding the more advanced topics of weights, measures, ratios, proportions, and percents. **Six exams**

General Math II (1 credit)

A review of basic mathematical skills provides the foundation for more advanced topics such as order of operations, factors, multiples, powers, roots, equations, and inequalities. Introduce geometry by covering the study of points, lines, surfaces, and solids. **Four-exams**

General Science (1 credit)

A look at the basic principles of the entire spectrum of the sciences, including physics, chemistry, and biology. Explores atoms and molecules, light and sound, electricity and magnetism, astronomy, the rise of life on Earth, human anatomy, and genetics. **Three-exams**

Geometry (*recommended prerequisite Algebra I*) (1 credit)

Study of the properties of points, lines, planes, and angles, polygons and triangles; circles; and solids. **Four exams**

Home Inspector (1 credit)

Learn some of the most important parts of the Home Inspector's job. Discover the opportunities in this great field and how you can work part-time hours and earn full-time income. Audio-logics, learning aids, and special supplements included. **Four exams**

Human Relations (1 credit)

Methods of analyzing and improving relations with other people in personal life and working environments. Accents individual productivity, teamwork, working relationships, dealing with frustration, organizing, repairing relationships, and maintaining one's attitude. **Three exams**

Interior Decorator (1 credit)

Be the one friends and neighbors rely on to make their homes look great. Lessons include how to meet a client's needs, design with furniture, and more. Client/Needs Analyzer and furniture template included. **Four exams**

Literature (1 credit)

Cover the reading of short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Intended to give a deeper appreciation of the relationship between literature and life, and of the pleasures and benefits of reading. **Seven exams**

Medical Office Assistant (1 credit)

Get a look at what it is like to work side by side with doctors in the rewarding health care field. Topics include learning strategies, time and stress management, interpersonal communication, and law and medical ethics. Includes audio-logics and a supplement on speaking and communication skills. **Five exams**

Music (1 credit)

Note: The music text contains references to various aspects of the personal lives of composers; this material may be offensive to some readers. Covers the forms of music through history, from medieval times to the present, and discusses music theory and instrumentation. Enable the student to evaluate the quality of music by active listening. Include music video. **Seven exams**

Orientation (0.5 credit)

An overview of the High School Program, including such topics as your program study materials, using Keystone website, establishing study schedules, building your vocabulary, and preparing for and taking an examination. Also covers an introduction to the personal computer; Windows® programs; word processing, spreadsheet, and database software; the Internet; and electronic mail. **Two Exams**

Personal Computer Specialist (1 credit)

Get a closer look at this booming field. Topics include using and understanding Windows, ® understanding software, and adding software to your computer. **Five exams**

Pharmacy Technician (1 credit)

Skilled Pharmacy Technicians are in demand all around the U.S. Learn what it takes to be a professional in the field and get details on drug information sources, drug development, and drug manufacturers. Virtual learning aids included. **Four exams**

Physical Science (1 credit)

A study of matter and energy: their nature and the relationships between them. Explain the role of atomic structure in chemical and nuclear reactions. Emphasizes problem solving skills and discusses the relationship between science, technology, and the environment. Cover topics such as water, the chemistry of building materials, fuels, natural and synthetic rubbers and plastics, energy in relation to motion and force, machines, sound, light, electricity, and magnetism. **Six exams**

Practical English (1 credit)

Develop writing skills by emphasizing sentence structure, paragraphs, letters, and compositions. Opens with a study of grammar, including the parts of speech,

punctuation, spelling, and word usage. Explains the writing process and emphasizes an individual approach. **Five exams**

Psychology (1 credit)

Provide an introduction to the roots and the development of modern psychology.

Discuss states of consciousness, and theories of intelligence, development, and personality. Also, looks at gender roles, stress, psychological disorders, and social factors that affect people in groups. **Five exams**

Reading Skills (1 credit)

Study of techniques applicable to any type of reading. Includes reviewing, predicting, scanning, finding the main idea, and drawing conclusions. Discuss how to determine word meanings by examining context clues, and differentiating fact from opinion to identify bias. Also covers poetry and fiction. **Three exams**

Small Engine Repair (1 credit)

Learn the basics of engine repair, including tool usage, small engine parts, operation, lubrication, cooling, and ignition systems. **Six exams**

Spanish (1 credit)

Include articulate speaking, active reading, and comprehensive listening. Covers the details of Spanish vocabulary and grammar, and improves fluency through listening to and creating stories. Enables you to learn and use the language for business situations and other purposes. **Twelve exams**

Teacher Aide (1 credit)

Start learning the skills you need to be a valuable member of the classroom team as a teacher aide. Topics include skills for the effective teacher aide, child development and

human behavior, how children learn, and enhancing children's self-esteem. **Five exams**

Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry (*prerequisite Algebra I*) (1 credit)

The study of basic principles of trigonometry (including proving identities, solving trigonometric equations, using inverse functions, and plotting trigonometric functions).

Analytical geometry in which geometry by means of arithmetic and algebra is studied in relationship to coordinates. **Seven exams**

Veterinary Assistant (1 credit)

Start learning the skills you need to become a Veterinary Assistant. Topics include introduction to animal care, animal behavior, handling and restraint, and veterinary terminology. Include a video, veterinary dictionary, pronunciation guides, and flash cards. **Four exams**

World Geography (1 credit)

Shows the physical environment of human beings and the means they use to supply their political and economic needs. Include maps, charts, graphs, and pictures of the main areas of the world. **Two exams**

World History (1 credit)

A study of global history with attention focused on important facts and significant concepts. Includes considerable discussion of recent world affairs, and the past is viewed in terms of current forces and problems. **Four exams**

Written Communication (1 credit)

Step-by-step instructions for handling sentence structure, paragraphing, punctuation, grammar, and pronunciation. Emphasizes practical writing techniques and library

research. Shows you ways to increase vocabulary, understand others better, and express yourself with confidence. **Eight exams**

Academic Requirements

Keystone National High School Program requires completion of 25 units of credit for graduation. Each credit is equivalent to approximately 120 hours of course work. The credit requirements include 16.5 core subjects and 8.5 elective credits. The 16.5 core subjects are in specified disciplines:

English (4 credits)

Basic English

Practical English

Written Communication

Literature

Math (4 credits)

Algebra I

General Math I

Consumer Math

Algebra II

Science (3 credits)

Earth Science

Biology

Physical Science

Social Studies (3 credits)

American History

Civics

World History

 **Arts and Humanities** (2.5 credits)

Orientation

Human Relations

Reading Skills

 **Health & Physical Education** (1 credit)

Fitness & Nutrition

Career Key

Students may select Career Key-vocational electives, academic/college prep, or general electives. A complete elective selection list will be available to you on your student Webpage when you are nearing completion of the core subjects. Features specialized training will also be available, to assist you in preparing for the career of your choice. If you choose to continue your career training after graduation, you would have earned credits toward a Career Diploma.

Elective selections include

CAREER KEY - VOCATIONAL ELECTIVES

Appliance Repair

Artist

Auto Repair Technician

Basic Electronics

Bookkeeping

Catering/Gourmet Cooking

Child Day Care Management

Small Business Management

Dental Assistant

Desktop Publishing & Design

Drafting

Dressmaking and Design

Electrician

Floral Design

Home Inspector

Interior Decorator

Medical Office Assistant

Personal Computer Specialist

Pharmacy Technician

Small Engine Repair

Teacher Aide

Veterinary Assistant

ACADEMIC - COLLEGE PREPARATION

Algebra I

Algebra II

(prerequisite Algebra I)

American Literature

Calculus

(prerequisite Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry)

Chemistry

(prerequisite Algebra I)

Geometry

(recommended prerequisite Algebra I)

Music

Psychology

Spanish

Trigonometry and Analytical Geometry

(prerequisite Algebra I)

GENERAL ELECTIVES

Business Math

Economics

English Communication

General Science

Keyboarding and Word Processing

World Geography

Keystone Website

Keystone Website features information on the school and details on the high school program we offer, as well as links to other educational resources. On Keystone Website, you can view your student record, take exams, communicate with your instructor, and more...

Get your education convenient through the ease of online learning

• **E**ase and convenience at www.myknhs.com your home for 365 days per year student services. With a few **C**licks of your mouse, you are in control of your education! Be

sure to visit the enhanced Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) section for helpful information.

- **A**ccess program material, grades and account information, all online. Download study guides and still get hard copies by mail (if requested) to keep as references. Make payments the easy way or quickly access tuition information.
- **S**upport from your instructors, and from student services, all available at your student Webpage and via e-mail at your convenience.
- **E**xams will be taken and submitted online, with instant test results and feedback.

Online Behavior

Keystone National High School expects students to behave properly and use good judgment when communicating online with the school. Illegal or improper use of the Web within the Keystone National High School environment will **NOT** be permitted and may be cause for disciplinary action.

Expectation

All Keystone students are expected to conduct themselves with the highest academic and ethical standards. Failure to do so will result in disciplinary action.

Answers to Questions You May Have

Q. Where can I find my student number?

A. The number will be e-mailed to you as soon as you are accepted by Keystone.

Q. How often do I get my lesson?

A. Your lessons are always available to you on your Student Webpage. Just **Click** on the **Handouts Link**. However, access to more lessons before previous lessons are completed

will be denied. That is why it is important to submit your exams for grading as soon as possible, so there is no delay in accessing your materials.

Q. How do I submit exams?

A. The only method is via the student Webpage.

Q. What if I change my address?

A. The easiest way to change your address is to log to www.myknhs.com

Click “Update My Profile” (at the bottom of your “Student Homepage”), make all necessary changes, and submit.

Q. How do I make payments?

A. Please **Click** on the PayPal button on the Keystone National High School home page.

Fill out the payment acceptance form, choose your payment type. We accept **VISA**, **MASTERCARD**, **DISCOVER**, **AMEX**, **E-CHECK** and **DEBIT-CARD**. Please submit payment when the form is completed.

Q. Are all students required to submit transcripts?

A. No. You should submit a transcript only if you are seeking credit for high school course work already completed. There is a **\$15.00** transcript processing/evaluation fee.

Q. When should I send in my transcript?

A. If you did not e-mail your transcript immediately after submitting your Enrollment Form, you should contact your former high school and request an official transcript be sent to Keystone National High School immediately. All transcripts are reviewed and evaluated and you will be notified by e-mail if you have been awarded transfer credits.

Please allow up to four (4) weeks from the time you e-mailed your transcript to receive your Transfer Credit Evaluation. If you have not received an evaluation in that time, please contact Keystone National High School.

Q. Will I receive credit for all of the high school course work on my former transcript?

A. Not necessarily. Transfer credits are awarded for comparable high school subjects, where you have earned a full credit and achieved a course grade of C (77%) or higher. The maximum number of transfer credits allowed is 16.

Q. As I progress through my studies, how do I know how many credits I have?

A. With the exception of the Orientation, which is worth 0.31 credit, for every lesson that you successfully completed with an overall lesson average of 77%, or above, you earn 0.3 credit.

Q. What happens if I do not pass a subject?

A. Once you have completed all of your scheduled assignments, including your electives, your record will be reviewed by our staff. If you have not passed certain subjects, you will receive notification of new subjects or alternate exams you can take for make-up credits. There is a fee for make-up subject/subjects and alternate examinations. The amount depends on the number of subjects you need to make up. Your notification e-mail will include the amount of the fee.

Q. Can a student's enrollment be academically canceled by the school?

A. Yes, if a student earns a significant number of failing grades, the student record is subject to an evaluation by the Director/Counselor. Since failing grades are an indication that the program is not serving as a productive learning experience, the

Director/Counselor may rule in favor of termination of the enrollment. Students are notified by e-mail, followed by letter when an enrollment is canceled by the Director/Counselor. Standard cancellation terms apply.

Q. What is your refund policy?

A. The refund policy is to refund 100% of funds collected, once the cancellation is done within thirty (30) days of the date of enrollment.

Q. How long will it take me to complete my program and receive my High School Diploma?

A. You are free to proceed through the program at your own pace. You have up-to four years to complete your lessons. (If it seems you will need to take longer than four years to complete your program, you may contact Keystone National High School and request an extension. Your request will be given careful consideration.) Your Diploma will be mailed to you as soon as you have successfully completed all of your subjects and your account is paid in full. You will NOT receive a copy of your official transcript. However, your academic records will be on file permanently at this school.

Q. Can I purchase a class ring?

A. Information about purchasing a class ring will be e-mailed to you within two weeks after your diploma is mailed. You must successfully complete the program and your account must be paid in full to receive the ring information.

Q. Will my diploma qualify me for entrance into the armed services?

A. Please check with the Armed Services about acceptance of Keystone diploma.

Q. Will all colleges and employers accept my diploma?

A. Keystone graduates have been quite successful in going on to institutions of

higher learning or receiving job promotions as a result of earning their diplomas from Keystone National High School. (However, please check with the receiving institution about acceptance of Keystone diploma).

Q. Are there any additional fees?

A. The following fees are charged, if applicable: Change of Elective **\$10.00**, Alternate Exam for Failed Subject **\$25.00**, Replacement Subject for Failed Subject **\$50.00**, Additional 6 month Extension **\$75.00** and Transcript Evaluation **\$15.00**.

Q. Do I have to take ACT and SAT examinations?

A. Only if you plan on going to college. Be sure to check with the college you plan to attend to see if any special admission tests are required.

Q. What is the school code?

A. Keystone National High School code number is **102045**. You will need this number to complete forms for ACT or SAT college entrance examinations.

Q. Is the school accredited?

A. Yes. Keystone National High School is **Fully Accredited** by the Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools Association Inc (**FCCPSA**).

This association is duly listed on the Florida Department of Education Website as an accrediting body.

Contact: Florida Coalition of Christian Private Schools Association Inc. (FCCPSA)

P.O. Box 5100 Deltona, Florida 32728-5100 Phone: (772)-461-9776

Website: www.fccpsa.org

Please Note: Each of your study units features an exam, which you complete and submit to Keystone for grading. Study units also feature helpful self-tests you can use to

determine how well you understand the new concepts you have learned. Remember that future lessons are accessible only when you submit current exams, so avoid delays in your studies by submitting exams promptly.

Suggestions for More Effective Studying

- ✚ Set up a special place in your home to do your studying and keep all your materials there, within easy reach.
- ✚ Schedule your study time. Make sure it does not conflict with other important activities.
- ✚ Frequent, brief study sessions are more effective than long, “cramming” marathons.
- ✚ Make sure to do all the self-test exercises in each study unit.

Tips on Completing Your Exams:

- ✚ When it comes time to take your exam, make sure you follow directions carefully. If you do not understand what you are supposed to do, do not hesitate to contact Keystone National High School and ask for assistance.
- ✚ Be sure you understand all questions.
- ✚ Answer every question and complete every item on the exam. Select the best answer for each question.
- ✚ Review your answers thoroughly before submitting them to the school.

Submitting Your Exams

Students will submit exams online, at the school’s website, by logging in at the “Test and Examination Area”. This is the only option to take your exams. Plus, you will get your result instantly. Special instructions are available for any essay exams that must be

submitted. When you have successfully completed your program and your account is paid in full, you will achieve your goal — an High School Diploma. To be awarded your Diploma, you must have:

- ✚ Passed all subject requirements.
- ✚ Achieved an overall average of (C) 77%, or above.
- ✚ Met all your financial obligations.

Keystone can also provide you with a laminated or plaque Diploma, at your request. Just complete the order form available at your student Webpage, and submit it to Keystone with the required payment before you complete your final lesson.

Transcripts

Transcript will **NOT** be mailed with your High School Diploma. Your academic records/transcript will remain on file here at Keystone permanently. If you desire a copy, it's available at no cost to you. Please contact our Student Service Department to process your request; you may also submit your request via your student Webpage. If you want the transcript sent to someone else (i.e., an employer or school), please submit the contact name and address from your student Webpage. Please note, you must be current with your payments to receive this service.

Letter of Recommendation Info

Keystone National High School will be proud to send a letter of recommendation on your behalf to other schools or potential employers. Please contact our Student Service Department for more information or, you may submit this request from your student Webpage. You must be current with your payments to receive this service.

Exam Results

You can view your exam results immediately after submitting your exams. The evaluation will tell you which answers (if any) were incorrect and, in most cases, provide you with the page numbers on which the correct answers can be found. If you have a question or problem with your exam evaluation, please contact the school immediately. You are given two chances to pass each exam. If your score on your first attempt is below passing, review the material again and use your exam evaluation to help find the correct answers you missed. Then, simply submit the **ENTIRE** exam again, via your student Webpage.

Please Note: Make-up exams are graded on a pass/fail basis, and the highest grade you can attain is a (C) 77%. You must wait at least five days to **re-take** a failed exam.

Keystone Grading System

Exams and projects will be graded on the following scale

Lesson Grade (Percentage)	Letter Equivalent	Rating
94-100	A	Excellent
87-93	B	Good
77-86	C	Average
70-76	D	Passing
Below 70	F	Failing

An overall program average of 86%, or above is required to graduate and earn your diploma.

Keystone National High School

12840 NW 1CT

Miami Florida 33168

PH: (866)-257-6011 or (866)-257-6012 Fax (866)-257-6013

Website: www.myknhs.com

Plagiarism, Detection and Cheating Prevention Technology

For the past several years, technology approaches to plagiarism or cheating prevention have focused on detection, meaning the ability for institutions to utilize software to analyze student papers, and to detect whether or not content was plagiarized or assisted by others, other than the designated student. Keystone National High School utilizes detection software products that use various methods to accomplish its analysis including, but not limited to text matching indexed sources, style analysis of content, and tests requiring students to fill in blanks in their course work. This detection technology is based on matching text from previous course work, first time signed in, attitude, and most important, the sensation of mood swings.

If a student attempts cheating three times, in a course the system will display a warning sign, and if continued, that student will be automatically log out, and will be barred from proceeding any further without the help of the administrator. The administrator will then be notified via e-mail of the issue with the student, upon the discretion of the administrator the student may be allowed to continue, drop from that course, or even dismissed from the entire program. Plagiarism and cheating are very serious issues, especially in virtual settings. We believe that our automation software and detection technology will prevent plagiarism and cheating in our virtual learning environment.

Director: Clarence Watson, Ph.D.

Keystone National High School

12840 NW 1 CT

Miami Florida 33168

Phone (866)-257-6011 or (866)-257-6012 Fax (866)-257-6013

Website: www.myknhs.com

Enrollment Application

Please fill in your name as you would like it to appear on your High School Diploma:

Name _____

Check one: Male _____ Female _____ SS# _____

Date of Birth : _____ Age _____ Birth Place _____

Mailing Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Home# _____ Work# _____ Cell# _____

Student E-Mail address _____

As a Graduate of Keystone, are you planning to join the Armed Forces? Yes / No

Attend College _____ Career School _____ Seek Employment _____

Program Cost \$1,020.00. Minimum Deposit \$34.00 Balance Due \$986.00. This balance will be divided into twenty-nine (29) installments of \$34.00 each on an occurring basis, from your account set-up with Keystone online.

We accept all major Credit cards, Debit cards and E-Checks.

Please Note: Our School is a Distance Learning Institution so there is no need to attend classes.

Refund Policy: 100 % refundable to each Student within thirty days (30) after the date of enrollment.

Student Signature: _____ Date _____

Parent Signature : _____ Date _____

.....
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:

Approved by: _____ Date _____

Keystone Graduation Requirements

All students graduating from Keystone **must have a minimum un-weighted GPA of 2.0 credits.**

Courses	General Requirements for High School Graduation (4 yrs)	Standard College Preparatory Program (3 yrs)	Career Preparatory Program (3 yrs)
English	4 credits (major concentration in composition and literature)	4 credits (major concentration in composition and literature)	4 credits (major concentration in composition and literature)
Mathematics	4 credits (one of which must be Algebra 1 or its equivalent)	4 credits at the Algebra 1 level or above from the list of courses that qualify for state university admission	4 credits (one of which must be Algebra 1)
Science	3 credits (two must have a laboratory component)	3 credits in natural science (two must have a laboratory component)	3 credits in natural science (two must have a laboratory component)
Social Science	1 credit world history 1 credit American history 0.5 credit American government 0.5 credit economics	3 credits	3 credits
Foreign Language	Not required for high school graduation; required for admission into state universities	2 credits or demonstrated proficiency in same second language	2 credits or demonstrated proficiency in same second language
Practical Art/Performing fine Arts	1 credit practical arts career education <u>or</u> 1 credit performing fine arts <u>or</u> 0.5 credit in practical arts and 0.5 credit in performing fine arts		

Life Management Skills	.05 credit		
Physical Education or Community Service	1 credit (including 0.5 credit of Personal Fitness and 0.5 credit physical education elective)		
Electives	8.5 credits	3 credits	3 credits
Total	24 credits	18 credits	18 credits
Grade Point Average Requirement (GPA)	earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale	Earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on 4.0 scale	earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale

FAMILY LIST OF CHECK INTERVIEW

Parental Commitment:

1. We appreciate the standards of the school and do not tolerate profanity, obscenity in word or action, dishonor to the Trinity and the Word of God, or disrespect to the personnel of the school. We hereby agree to support all regulations of the school on the applicant's behalf and authorize this school to employ such discipline as it deems wise and expedient for the training of our child.
2. We understand that our failure to report psychiatric counseling, any prescribed program of medication, or involvement with juvenile authorities during the past three years may be cause for immediate dismissal.
3. We give permission for our child to go on virtual field trips arranged by the teacher and approved by the administration. These educational trips will be properly supervised, and our child does not need insurance coverage due to the nature of the school virtual

environment. It will not be necessary hold the school, administration or faculty responsible in case of accident due to the school virtual environment nature.

4. We pledge our fullest cooperation to keep doctrinal controversy and denominationalism out of the school at all times.

5. We agree that if our child should become involved in any trouble with other children in the school, we will, in the love of Christ and with prayer, register necessary complaints with the teachers or principals.

6. We understand that assessments will NOT be made to cover damages to the school, including breakage of windows and abuse of other personal property due to the school virtual nature.

7. We understand that the school reserves the right to dismiss any student who does not:
1) respect and observe spiritual and/or behavioral standards and/or 2) cooperate in our educational goals.

8. We understand that payments are due on the first of each month and become delinquent if not received by the 15th. If a quarter end while an account is delinquent, the student will not be accepted for the next quarter until payment has been made or an arrangement for payment has been made.

9. In the event that our child becomes ill or sustains an injury in the process of instruction at Keystone National School, we give our permission to those in charge to take whatever steps are necessary. If it is not possible to reach the child's doctor or to receive instructions for his/her care, consent is given to any licensed physician to administer drugs or medicines and perform such surgical procedures as he shall think the existing emergency requires for the relief of pain and to preserve his/her life or health.

10. We understand that the school personnel hold a commitment to each family to be of any help possible in cooperating with the family in the academic, social and spiritual nurture of each child.

11. We agree to uphold and support the high academic standards of the school by giving our child encouragement in the completion of any homework or assignments.

12. We agree to sign a Financial Payment Agreement, understand the terms stated in this application and agree thereto.

13. We agree to abide by the terms of the Service Hour Pledge Form, which we completed and signed at the time of re-enrollment for the new school year.

I/We understand and agree that continued enrollment and re-enrollment of my children in Keystone National High School is dependent on my parental support of the school, its staff, and its policies.

Parent Signatures (1) _____ Date _____

(2) _____ Date _____

TRANSCRIPT AUTHORIZING POLICY

In accordance with the [Federal Family Educational Rights & Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#) of 1974 and subsequent amendments, student academic records cannot be released without your written consent. All outstanding obligations (financial, academic or administrative) due to the school must be cleared before your transcript request can be processed.

Official Keystone National High School transcripts are produced on green security paper and are sent through regular US Mail in a Keystone National High School envelope. If the transcript is asked to be "Sealed" there will be a stamp on the back seal of the envelope containing the School Registrar's signature.

Methods for ordering Keystone transcripts:

The fastest and easiest way to order transcripts is online through the school [Webpage](#). Your request will be taken over the internet and you will be able to track the status of your request at all times.

The second method for requesting transcripts is by mail. To request by mail, download the [Transcript Request Form](#) from the student Webpage and mail the request to:

*Keystone National High School
Attention: Registrar's Office
12840 NW 1st CT
Miami, Florida 33168*

TRANSCRIPT ORDERS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED BY PHONE, FAX OR BY E-MAIL!

Transcript requests with incomplete information may require longer processing time or may be returned to the sender for completion.

Standard Processing Time

Orders placed via the internet can expect a processing time of 1-2 business days from the day your authorization form is received.

Orders submitted by mail can expect 1-2 business days processing time from the date your order is received.

All processing times are an estimate of the time needed to complete your request, they are NOT a guarantee. Delivery times are not included in processing time and vary according to local postal services for the destination address and delivery schedules for overnight mailing carriers.

Christianity!

Keystone Strongly Believes That Science And History Courses “MUST” Be Taught From a Christian Perspective.

What are Major Christian Beliefs?

Christianity is at least three things:

- A set of beliefs
- A way of life
- A community of people

Different Christian groups place different weights on these three aspects, but they always involve all three. All three aspects are based on the life and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, who is also known as the Christ. ("Christ" was originally a title. It is the Greek form of the Hebrew "Messiah", meaning "anointed".)

This page is an introduction to the beliefs. To get a reasonable picture of Christian beliefs, you should read at least this page and the next one, on [the Gospel](#). In case you are interested in more details, there are also several pages dealing with specific beliefs: [the Incarnation](#), [the Trinity](#), and a set of issues involving free will and God's overall responsibility. The latter page is called [predestination](#).

For the role of the Christian community, see the page on [the Church](#). For the way of life, see the pages on [the Christian life](#), [worship](#), [the law](#), and [expressing love](#).

Christianity shares a number of beliefs and practices with other religions, particularly Judaism and Islam. With Judaism and Islam, Christians believe in one God, who created the universe and all that is in it. All believe that this God is active in history, guiding and teaching his people. All three religions, including Christianity, have been called "ethical monotheism". This term emphasizes the belief in one God, and the fact that following this God commits us to a number of specific ethical rules or principles.

Christianity originally developed as a part of Judaism. Jesus was a Jew. He lived from about 3 BC to 30 AD. He lived and taught in Palestine, primarily (although not exclusively) among fellow Jews. Christianity separated from the main body of Judaism for two major reasons:

1. Christianity came to regard Jesus as in some sense God's presence in human form. This was unacceptable to most Jews.
2. Judaism is defined by a covenant made between God and the Jewish people. Part of this covenant is the Law, a set of religious and ethical rules and principles.

Most Christians came to regard both this covenant and Law as in some sense superseded by Jesus' teaching and the community that he established. On the night he died, Jesus talked about establishing a "new covenant" based on his death and resurrection.

These two issues continue to be among the most distinctive and controversial aspects of Christianity. They are controversial even among Christians. All Christians assign Jesus a role that would seem inappropriate to Jews. However his exact relationship with God was the source of major disagreements among Christians as late as the 5th Century. While most modern Christians accept the standards developed in the 4th and 5th Centuries, there are small groups that do not. This aspect of Christianity is also often attacked or reinterpreted by "liberal" elements within Christianity.

The role of the Law also continues to cause controversy within Christianity. In a narrow sense this is reflected in small groups of Christians that worship on Saturday rather than Sunday, in obedience to one of the provisions of the Law. In a broader sense, the current conflict about the role of women and homosexuals in the Church involves the Christian approach to ethical and cultic standards.

The Role of Christian Beliefs

Before talking about specific beliefs, it's probably worth saying something about the role of beliefs in Christianity. Christianity tends to put more importance on proper belief than many other religions. The term "orthodox" (from roots meaning "right belief") is used to describe beliefs that are in agreement with the standards set up by the Christian community.

When you say that someone is a Christian, you normally mean that he accepts the major Christian beliefs. That's not the whole story, since Christianity is also a way of life and a community. But most Christians do not think it is appropriate to apply the term Christian based simply on the fact that someone has Christian parents and grew up as a Christian, or even based on the fact that they admire many of Jesus' teachings. To be classified as a Christian, one is normally expected to accept the major Christian beliefs, to be following the way of life that Jesus taught, and to be a part of the Christian community.

Most Christian groups have standards of belief. Members are expected to accept the standards of their community. This is not to say that Christians have no questions or doubts. Most groups (even fairly rigid ones) permit members to express uncertainty and to question beliefs. However, most groups expect leaders and teachers to advocate orthodox positions. Groups differ both in the way their standards are codified, and in the degree of conformity that they expect. Some have detailed formal standards of belief. Others use only the Bible, and allow a good deal of variation in interpretation.

This document will tend to emphasize beliefs. It's worth noting that this emphasis may be misleading, both about what Jesus originally taught and about what it is like to be a Christian. The most controversial aspects of Christianity -- and those that are emphasized

in presentations of Christianity -- tend to be beliefs, particularly beliefs about Jesus. However Jesus' teachings were primarily about how his followers should live. It is these teachings that form the heart of Christian life for most Christians. Unfortunately they are hard to summarize. They are also less commonly talked about in Christian discussion groups, largely because they are less controversial. That's why I have advised people who are interested in Christianity to read at least one of the Gospels in addition to (indeed before) this document. The Gospels are made up primarily of Jesus' teachings, as well as narratives about his life.

God as Father and Creator

There are several branches of Christianity, whose beliefs vary in detail. However one standard that is accepted by most of them is the "Apostles' Creed". I will base my discussion here on it. I will go through it section by section.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, creator of Heaven and Earth.

Christians believe in one God, who created the universe and all that is in it. God is a person, but of a somewhat different type than human beings. While humans have both physical and spiritual elements, God is entirely spiritual. That is, he exists in a sphere outside the normal physical universe. (Since he created the universe, and existed before it, this should be fairly obvious.)

Human beings are created in the image of God. Obviously there are differences, since we are physical and God is not. What we share with God is the fact that we are rational beings, capable of making responsible decisions, and capable of relationships with each other and with him.

Religions have had very different ideas of how God interacts with the world. On one extreme, some groups found it hard to explain how God could have any dealings with the world at all. These thinkers see God as a pure One, who is not in any way dependent upon anything else.

At the other extreme we have pantheism, in which there is no real distinction between God and the world.

The Christian concept of God as creator holds a middle ground. Christianity conceives of God as One. But it is not an isolated One. Rather, God is a person, who is capable of affecting and being affected by others. This is implicit in the concept of God as Father, which is one of the most characteristic teachings of Jesus. The concept of God as personal ultimately led to the Trinity, which is surely one of the most distinctive (and controversial) ideas in Christianity. (There is a separate page discussing [the Trinity](#).)

In contrast to pantheist and related concepts, the creation is genuinely distinct from God. The world has a genuine existence of its own. God cares about and interacts with the creation. Human beings are responsible to God. As the creator, God is responsible for the

world and its history. While I have said that the world is distinct from God, it is not completely independent. God is thought of as continuously sustaining the world.

Christ

And in Jesus Christ, His only son

The Creed has an overall form based on the Trinity. Thus it deals first with the Father, then the Son, and finally the Holy Spirit. I'm not going to deal with the [Trinity](#) and [Incarnation](#) in detail here because there are separate pages for each. However some minimal explanation is necessary.

While the Gospels show Jesus as having a role beyond a normal teacher, most of Jesus' actions and teachings were appropriate for a First Century Jewish teacher. One of the major developments in scholarship about Jesus during the last few decades has been a reassessment of his relationship to Judaism. It is now clear that Jesus was an observant Jew, as such was defined at the time. His teachings generally fit into First Century Judaism. The main exception is His own personal role. That went beyond anything that Judaism as a whole was willing to accept. Some scholars maintain that this role was not intended by Jesus himself, but developed after his death and was read back into the accounts of his life. I personally believe this is false, as I will indicate below. That is, I believe that Jesus did actually intend something like the role that Christians attribute to him.

Christians see Jesus as in some sense embodying God. This is based on his teachings and actions, as well as on further discussions within the Christian community. Every account we have of Jesus sees him as playing a role beyond that of a normal teacher. Different sources express it differently. In some of the Gospels it is implicit in the way Jesus acts: he forgives people's sins, something that only God can do. In the Gospel According to John, he says "I and the Father are one" and "he who has seen me has seen the Father". However he clearly is a normal human being, who sees God as distinct from himself.

Based on this sort of evidence, Christians developed two separate but related concepts: the Trinity and the Incarnation. The Incarnation looks at Jesus' relationship to God. There is a separate page about the [incarnation](#). At this point, I'm simply going to quote two texts from the New Testament. These represent two ways that Jesus was understood within several decades of his death:

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. He is the reflection of God's glory and the exact imprint of God's very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. (Heb 1:1-3a)

...His beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on

earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers--all things have been created through him and for him.... For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, (Col 1:14-16, 19)

There are two things to note in these passages. The first is that Jesus is seen as a human vehicle for God to be present. Note that in these passages there is both a distinction between Jesus and God, and an identification of Jesus with God. Jesus is a human being. But he is God's way of being present as a human being. He embodies God completely.

The other thing to note is that Christ is seen as "pre-existent". That is, creation was done through him. While he was born sometime around 3 BC, there was also a sense in which that human being embodies something that was around before the world was created. The best-known treatment of this is the beginning of John's Gospel:

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. ... And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. (John 1:1-3a, 14)

Thus Christ is seen in two ways. In pre-existent form he is God's creative power, who was always with God and in fact part of him. As such, he is one of the Trinity. However he was born as a human being in history.

Jesus' life, death, and resurrection

Our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended to hell. On the third day he rose again from the dead, ascended to heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty, from whence he shall come to judge the living and the dead.

In this section the Creed talks about Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection. Christianity is based on historical events. The Creed is only a summary, so it doesn't give the entire history of God's dealings with Israel. But that is part of the basis for Christian belief.

One clarification is probably needed: non-Christians sometimes think that Jesus is like some of the pagan demigods, the result of a god having a child with a human mother. The Creed could be read that way. But that's not what it means. God is spiritual. He does not have sexual organs, and thus could not have a child in the physical sense. The Bible says that the birth was miraculous. Jesus' mother was still a virgin. Thus God was responsible for the birth. But, not physically.

Jesus was executed by the Roman government, in a particularly gruesome way. However, more than just the Romans were involved: he was betrayed by one of his own followers, and handed over by the Jewish authorities to the Romans.

Jesus had warned his disciples that he was going to be killed. He seems to have seen himself as carrying out a role described by the prophet Isaiah in a set of passages often calling the "Suffering Servant" passages. These passages described a person who would suffer on behalf of all of us, bearing the punishments that we deserved because of our sins. As a result, we would be reconciled to God. Jesus quoted Isaiah in discussions with his disciples. He was particularly explicit in the evening right before he was arrested, referring to his blood being shed to establish a new covenant, for the forgiveness of sins.

For a more complete discussion of this issue, please see the next page: [the Gospel](#). It describes the reasons Christians see everyone as needing to be reconciled with God, and the way Jesus is seen as having done that. For the moment I will simply note that Jesus' death and resurrection is the key.

Jesus died, almost certainly on a Friday afternoon (although there are some oddities about the chronology as recorded in the Gospels). He was buried hastily, because the Sabbath (a holy day for the Jews) was about to start. On Sunday morning, a group of women came to the tomb, expecting to finish preparing his body. They found that it was no longer in the tomb. Jesus then began appearing to several of his followers, helping them understand the significance of his death and resurrection.

The term "resurrection" means coming to life again. Note that after the resurrection, Jesus seems to have had a somewhat transformed existence. It does not appear that his body simply came back to life. He was now able to pass through walls. However it was more than a ghost, or a vision. He ate a fish, and let someone touch him.

The Holy Spirit and the Christian life

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

The Holy Spirit is the bond that unites us with God. This is not "the Force." God is personal, so the Holy Spirit is a personal presence.

Christians live in community. Jesus described himself as a vine, with us as the branches. It is not possible to be united with him without also being united with other Christians. The motivating force behind the Christian life is love. Since love is a personal relationship, there's no way to grow in love other than to be with others. This Christian community is called the "Church".

The Creed speaks of the Church as holy and catholic. The term "catholic" means "universal". Because the Church is Christ's body, there is ultimately only one Church. While the ideal is that the Church is holy and one, the reality is that it is human. That means that it is often less than holy, and it is all too often far from one. This does not mean that we can live without it. Christian love isn't real unless it's willing to come to grips with real human relationships and the problems that arise with them.

The term "communion of saints" refers to the unity of all of Christ's followers, living and dead.

Forgiveness of sins is one of the key marks of Christianity. Christ died to seal our forgiveness by God. We are expected to respond by forgiving each other, and acting as a force for reconciliation in the world.

The term "resurrection of the body" is worth a note: It's fairly common for religions to believe that there is some existence after death. However this is often seen in ways that would be better described as "immortality of the soul". That is, many religions believe that there is something in human beings beyond the body. This survives death, and is in some way united with God.

Christians generally believe in the immortality of the soul (though a few do not). However the characteristic Christian belief is something else: the resurrection of the body. Christianity, like Judaism, sees the body as an intrinsic part of a human being. They do not believe that the soul will exist in the long run independent of something like a body. (Some Christians do believe in an "intermediate state" between death and the final judgment. During this period, souls may temporarily exist without a body.)

What about Heaven and Hell?

Heaven: Our Intended Destination

Based on Jesus' teachings and other sources of revelation, Christians believe that God created human beings to live eternally in fellowship with him. The future as described in the Bible includes the resurrection of all people, a judgment, and eternal life in either heaven or hell.

Christians are not agreed on the exact details of how this will happen. However the differences tend to involve details of timing, and other issues that don't seem worth dealing with here.

The fact that human beings are created with an eternal destiny should have a significant impact on our priorities. It often seems that governments, nations, and other institutions is the enduring feature of human history, and people are transient elements. Christianity says that this is radically wrong. One cannot treat people as disposable adjuncts to the nation or other institution: ultimately it is the people who matter.

Note that there is a subtle difference between resurrection and the existence of an eternal soul. Many religions have held that human beings have an immaterial soul, which does not die when the body does. Christians generally agree with this (although a small number do not). However the distinctive Christian doctrine is not the eternal nature of the soul, but the resurrection of the body. Humans are unified beings. The body is an essential part of the person. In heaven there will be some analog of the body.

Judgment

Christians believe that there will be a judgment. In this, everyone's life will be evaluated. Those who depend upon Christ for salvation can be assured that they will pass this judgment. However the quality of their lives will still become known and everything in their lives that was not built on Christ will be purged. The Bible talks of their work being tested with fire.

The Bible says that there are two different outcomes for eternal life: heaven and hell. There is not a precise description of either heaven or hell, nor are we told how many people will end up in each. They are described using terms that seem metaphorical: a city built of gold in heaven, a lake of fire for hell.

Accountability

All major Christian traditions say that in the end everyone will end up in either heaven or hell. At first glance, it sounds like we won't be held accountable for what we did, as long as we manage to meet the minimal criteria for ending up in heaven. In fact there are several ways of maintaining some kind of accountability.

Catholics believe in something called "purgatory". This is a "place" (not necessarily an actual physical place, of course) where those who will end up in heaven are purified. Traditional Catholic theology says that when God forgives sins, he removes the guilt. However there may still be consequences. One of those consequences is that "temporal punishment" is still owed. The goal of this punishment is to be cleansed, and made fit for heaven.

Note that purgatory only applies to people who will be admitted into heaven. It is not part of hell, nor is it some kind of intermediate state between heaven and hell. It is in a sense the entranceway into heaven.

Traditionally, Catholics believe it is appropriate to pray for those that are in purgatory. These prayers, as well as masses said for them, etc, may in some way ease their process of purgation. This is one aspect of the general Catholic concept that those on earth and those in heaven retain a spiritual connection with each other. (This is called the "communion of saints".) Those on earth may ask for intercession from the saints, and may intercede for those in purgatory.

Protestants do not normally accept the concept of purgatory. There are several objections. Among the most important are

- It implies that Christ's death for us isn't enough.
- The Bible says in several places that any interaction with the dead is forbidden.

The concept was also discredited by various abuses with which it was surrounded in the 16th Cent. These made it look like the Church was selling salvation, or at least release from Purgatory.

Thus Protestants normally object to anything that looks like Purgatory, as well as prayers for the dead. It is often said that prayers for the dead suggest a lack of trust in God, since God will judge them justly.

You can see the difference clearly if you attend both Protestant and Catholic worship services. When someone in the congregation has died, Catholics will ask for prayers for them and their family, while Protestants will ask only for prayers for their family.

Despite the rejection of Purgatory, many Protestant groups are still concerned to maintain accountability for what has been done during life. Many Protestants believe that there will be different levels of honor in heaven. Many Protestants also believe that even saved people will go through a process where their entire lives are reviewed and judged, even though their final destination is not in doubt. This is sometimes described as the "bema seat judgment". As a result of it, Christ's followers will be rewarded according to the quality of their work. This is contrasted to the "great white throne" judgment, which determines whether someone will spend eternity in heaven or hell.

(I should note that the terms "bema seat judgment" and "great white throne judgment" are not standard among all Protestants. They are based on one specific eschatological system.)

Note that Protestants do believe that those who are in heaven have been freed from sin. However the way in which this happens is thought of somewhat differently. For Protestants, our righteousness comes from Christ, because we are united to him in faith. When our nature is perfected in heaven, this happens because our union with Christ is perfected, and his righteousness fills us fully.

The same difference occurs here as in the doctrine of justification: Catholic theology tends to envision the Christian life as due to the growth of grace in us, while Protestant theology tends to envision the Christian life as due to an increasing transparency to the presence of Christ. The doctrine of Purgatory seems oriented towards the Catholic description.

CONGRATULATIONS!

GRADUATION

