



2024-25 Middle School Academic Catalog



Our mission is to assist Christian families in equipping students with a Christ-centered education, empowering them to impact the world for the glory of God.



It is our firm belief that the Word of God and its message of redeeming grace through faith in the Lord Jesus Christ is the necessary and only adequate foundation upon which any educational program can be built. We feel that the educational institution should provide a distinctly Christian atmosphere and include classes in biblical studies as a regular part of its curriculum. This is necessary to obtain a well-balanced and properly oriented education that views all secular knowledge in the light of biblical truth.

At *CHRISTIAN*, we believe that children need more than facts and figures to grow. They need values. Our curriculum is designed to educate and transform the whole student - spiritually, mentally, socially, emotionally, and physically. We desire to provide academic excellence while integrating a biblical worldview into every unit of study.

The classroom environment echoes the same message. Our teachers take the time to mentor individuals. Students learn not only academics but how to deliver assignments with integrity. They gain knowledge of the world, but with an understanding of how it fits into the story of God.

The faculty and staff are not just meant to be a conduit through which information is delivered, but more importantly, they are the “living curriculum.” All classes are taught by Christ-centered individuals who bring their faith and insight into the classroom. Our teachers teach and assess for exposure, understanding, and mastery.

I invite you to take the time to peruse the pages that follow. We would be happy to speak with you and your student about the academic programs and the programs that interest your son or daughter.

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GRADE 6

Bible Required Course

Biblical Foundations

The focus is on building a Biblical foundation through understanding the structure of the Bible. The year begins with the Old Testament, and history of Israel from creation to the captivity. A major focus is also seeing Jesus in the Old Testament and how this points us to the story of salvation in the New Testament. In addition to Bible memorization as part of the weekly curriculum, students will be challenged to make their faith their own through daily devotions and class discussions.

Students are required to take Bible class while enrolled.

English Required Course

English Language Arts

The English Language Arts curriculum focuses on developing students' reading and writing skills. Reading consists of vocabulary development, comprehension, and some analysis utilizing literary devices. These skills are reinforced by reading stories from the approved textbook, studying novels, and completing regular written response paragraphs. Daily grammar lessons and exercises aid in sentence structure and writing development through composition of an MLA business letter, personal narrative writing, and research report.

Geography Required Course

Western Hemisphere

Students study an overview of historical, geographical and cultural features of the Americas and Europe. This includes daily reading assignments, in-class discussions, projects and tests. Through our study students will develop an appreciation for the diversity of God's creation, and better understand the people who inhabit it.

Mathematics Required Course

Mathematics Principles

Mathematics demands precision and consistency. By studying and applying mathematical principles students learn of God's unchanging nature. Sixth grade math reinforces the concepts of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and operations. Geometric formulas, ratios, and percent are applied to everyday situations.

Science Required Course

Science

The study of Science helps students appreciate the awesome power of our Lord. God is seen in the beauty of nature and in the regularity of the days and seasons. Our world did not happen by chance; an all-powerful Creator designed it. Students explore botany, zoology, biology, geology, astronomy, physics, and chemistry.

Electives

Band

Band is a year-long commitment and meets five days a week. It is open to students of all ability levels. This band perform concerts at Christmas and in the Spring. Students also perform at "Music in the Parks Festival" at Six Flags, St. Louis.

Choir

6th Grade Choir is an introduction to music class that explores singing, music history, basic music theory and the art of teamwork and unity in creating music together. This yearly class meets every day, and the Choir will perform in the Christmas and spring choir concerts.

Orchestra

Experienced students as well as beginners are welcome in Sixth Grade Orchestra. Students can choose from violin, viola, cello, or bass, and will learn to read music on their chosen instrument. Students will also become proficient in playing in an ensemble. This class is a year-long commitment and meets every day. The orchestra will perform in two concerts: one at Christmas and one in the spring. Interested students can participate in the middle school Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Rotating Electives

Art

Drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture are strongly emphasized, in conjunction with art history, to give examples of good design and the principles of art. Loving art and taking art to the next level are major objectives.

GRADE 6

Rotating Electives, continued

Physical Education

Units of instruction introduce understanding, skill development and participation in physical fitness activities and a variety of sports. Students are graded on participation, skill and knowledge of each unit presented. Emphasis is placed on conduct and sportsmanship consistent with Christian character.

Computers

Students use Microsoft Office365 to learn basic computer skills, word processing, and presentation techniques. Students begin to understand the fundamentals of programming using tools like Microsoft MakeCode and the micro: bit simulator. There is an emphasis on digital citizenship from a biblical worldview to encourage students to engage wisely in our technology driven world. Students also use keyboarding software to improve keyboarding accuracy and speed.

GRADE 7 & 8

Bible Required Course

Boys & Girls Bible (7/8)

This is a two-year course for all 7th and 8th grade students. Students are divided by gender. One year the Old Testament is covered, with an emphasis on the important events and people that point to the coming Christ. In alternate years, the life of Christ is emphasized through an in-depth study of the Gospel of Mark. Bible reading and memorization are highlighted each week, enabling students to better use God's Word as a tool for their lives. In addition, several special units on pursuing purity in every aspect of one's life are incorporated.

English Required Courses

English 7

English 7 is a literature-based class; it focuses on grammar, usage, and mechanics as they are embedded in literature. Students are also instructed in basic types of writing throughout the year; attention to spelling, word choice, and sentence structure is emphasized. Reading skills continue to be developed through the study of character-building literature. English 7 also includes two novel studies.

English 8

English 8 is a literature-based class; it is an introduction to world and American literature in various genres and a continued development of excellent writing skills. Two novels are studied to discern theme and character analysis, and students learn to develop critical thinking skills through teacher-led discussions and student-written essays about the literature covered. English 8 includes two novel studies.

English as a Second Language (ESL)

ESL is a class for new English language learners. The class includes basic skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening and grammar to help international students to become increasingly more proficient in the English language. The prerequisite for these students includes being an English learner wanting to continue their English studies.

Mathematics Required Courses

Mathematics 7

Seventh grade mathematics includes arithmetic review, number theory, equation format, percent applications, basic geometry skills, unit conversions and problem solving.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a rigorous course introducing formulas, factoring, equation solving, percent applications, geometry skills, unit conversions and math operations for algebra. This course will provide a strong foundation for Algebra I and Geometry. This full-year course is designed to equip the student with the algebraic skills needed to progress to more advanced courses in the mathematics sequence.

Algebra 1 (1 high school credit)

Algebra I is a full-year course designed to furnish students with the algebraic skills needed to progress to higher courses in the mathematics sequence. Emphasis is placed on the power algebra provides to generalize mathematical ideas as well as to translate mathematical ideas into expressions, equations, and inequalities. Pre-Algebra is a prerequisite to Algebra I.

**Algebra 1 is on the honors track for 8th grade students.*

GRADES 7 & 8

Science Required Courses

Life Science

Students will study fundamental concepts of living organisms. It provides a foundation for high school biology, surveying the importance of living things, introductory cellular biology, taxonomy, microbiology, botany, zoology and human biology. Students will discuss creation and evolution from a Christian perspective. Introductory experimental investigations and research are included in this course.

Earth Science

This course surveys the main branches of earth science; astronomy, meteorology, geology and oceanography. Also discussed are the celestial sphere, atmosphere, lithosphere and hydrosphere of our planet as well as creation and evolution from a Christian perspective. This study includes introductory experimental investigations and research.

Physical Science (1 high school credit)

Physical Science is a comprehensive survey of the physical sciences that covers the basic concepts of both physics and chemistry. This class is taught from a Christian perspective, highlighting the relationship between Scripture and science. The scientific method and the mathematical concepts of conversions, significant figures, and scientific notation are taught. Fundamental concepts of the physical and chemical properties of matter are presented in a practical approach including hands-on laboratory activities that give students a solid foundation for upper-level science courses such as chemistry and physics.

**Physical Science is on the Honors track for 8th grade students. Must be taken in conjunction with Algebra I.*

Social & Physical Sciences Required Course

Geography 7 (Eastern Hemisphere)

This course will include an overview of mapping skills followed by an in-depth exploration of the geographical and cultural features of Asia and Oceania. Students learn the importance of respecting differences by celebrating the richness of image bearers around the world.

Social Studies 8 (American History)

This course will include an in-depth exploration of the history of our country, the importance of the U.S. Constitution, as well as the progress we have made as a country over the past two centuries.

Physical Education

Units of instruction introduce understanding, skill development and participation in physical fitness activities and a variety of sports. Students are graded on participation, skill and knowledge of each unit presented. Emphasis is placed on conduct and sportsmanship consistent with Christian character. At least one semester of P.E. is required for all 7th grade students. A PE uniform is provided for students.

Electives

Academic Learning Lab

A year-long experience in the Academic Learning Lab is an opportunity for focused study tailored to different learning styles. In addition, various study skills necessary for academic success are introduced and developed. Included are organizational strategies that support the school experience, time management, note-taking ideas, test preparation, along with strategies designed to help students improve tests scores. Through the creation of a personal academic action plan, and ongoing educational support, students will learn self-advocating principles to help them succeed at CMS. Students must meet certain qualifications to register for this class. There is an additional fee for this class.

Band (7/8)

7th & 8th grade band builds on skills developed in 6th grade Band (or equivalent instruction). The band performs Christmas and Spring Concerts and plays at the "Music in the Parks Festival" at Six Flags, St. Louis.

GRADE 7 & 8

Elective Courses, continued

Art (7/8)

Drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture are strongly emphasized, in conjunction with art history, to give examples of good design and the principles of art. Loving art and taking art to the next level are major objectives of this semester course.

Choir (7/8)

In Middle School Choir, students will obtain a basic knowledge of the voice, singing, and sight-reading. Students will continue to learn various musical concepts, explore solfege and different voicings, and grow in musical ability to join in song with others. This yearly class meets 5 days a week and has Christmas and spring concerts as well as a potential Six Flags competition in the spring.

FACS Foods and Consumer Science (8)

FACS (Foods and Consumer Science) (8) In this one-semester class, students will learn essential day-to-day life skills featuring an introduction to sewing and cooking. This will include laundry, communication skills, knowing their way around the kitchen, etc. By the end of the semester, students will be able to sew a pillow, prepare an entire meal, complete their laundry, and do other useful daily living tasks.

Orchestra (7/8)

Students in Seventh and Eighth Grade Orchestra will build upon the skills learned in Sixth Grade Orchestra. Students can choose from violin, viola, cello, or bass. Beginners are welcome but should take private lessons to gain proficiency. This class is a year-long commitment and meets every day. The orchestra will perform in two concerts: one at Christmas and one in the spring. They will participate in an adjudicated competition/theme park trip in the spring. Interested students will also have the option to participate in the middle school Solo and Ensemble Festival and audition for the Metro 8 Honors Orchestra.

Speech/Drama (7/8)

Instruction in this class is evenly divided between speech and drama. The speech component offers a variety of public speaking opportunities, including introductions, formal debate, and narrative speech. The drama component introduces students to dramatic theater, including improvisation, small skits, voice, and diction.

Technology (7)

Students develop their skills at Office products (Word, Excel, OneNote, Power Point, Sway, and Teams) by completing an engaging marketing simulation. Students will build on their programming experience to program and build a variety of projects using micro: bits. They will also use keyboarding programs with the goal to touch type by the end of the class. This class is a semester course and is required for all 7th grade students.

Technology (8)

Regarded as an introductory computer science course, this class empowers students to create authentic artifacts and engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, and problem solving. Three units will be explored during this semester long course: The Problem-Solving unit is an interactive and collaborative introduction to the field of computer science. In the Web Development unit, students will learn how to create and share content on their own web pages. After deciding what content they want to share, they'll learn how to structure and style their pages using code. In the Games and Animations unit, students will build on their coding experience as they program animations, interactive art, and games in Game Lab.

Service Learning (8)

During this semester long class, students will combine leadership lessons with service opportunities to address real-life problems in our community. In doing so, students will be equipped with the skills, experience, and motivation to bring positive change in themselves and the world around them. Service Learning will be a highly engaging, hands-on class, however, students can also expect 1-2 classes a week to be offered as a study hall, as determined by the teacher.



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