



LINFIELD CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS 2018-2019

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MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CHOICES BY DEPARTMENT

2018-2019

TYPICAL COURSE PATHS

SIXTH GRADE

1. Bible 6
2. English 6
3. Math 6 or Pre-Algebra
4. Earth Science 6
5. Ancient History 6
6. Physical Education
7. Enrichment

SEVENTH GRADE

1. Bible 7
2. English 7
3. Pre-Algebra or Algebra I
4. Life Science 7
5. Medieval History 7
6. Physical Education
7. Enrichment

EIGHTH GRADE

1. Bible 8
2. English 8
3. Algebra I/IA or Geometry
4. Physical Science 8
5. US History 8
6. Physical Education
7. Enrichment

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE

Linfield Christian Middle School is a community that is intentional about the spiritual formation of our students and how they contribute to their school community and their community at large. The MS Bible program is scripturally based, Gospel centered, age-appropriate, and presented with the purpose of promoting a deeper personal relationship with Christ. On-campus and off-campus outreach programs are run through Bible classes at all grade levels.

Bible 6 is a complete overview of the Bible. This class provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God. Students also complete a unit entitled PeaceMakers which focuses on Middle School social issues and conflict resolution.

Bible 7 is a walk through the Gospel of John. Students explore the love of the Father and the mystery of Christ dwelling among us.

Bible 8 provides foundational instruction for spiritual growth and dynamic living. Students begin a journey toward spiritual maturity with a basic introduction of Christian doctrine, including salvation, prayer, and Bible study methods. Additional learning units include prayer projects, a study on Music and Media, a scriptural look at purity, love, and relationships, and an annual campus-wide Prayer Event that the whole of Grade 8 plans and oversees.

MS Chapel/Outreach

Weekly chapels are designed to provide a mixture of experiences. MS students learn best in an environment where the chapel experience is celebratory, encouraging, and varied, where students are challenged to worship authentically. Our chapels have included, but are not limited to, outside speakers, teacher speakers, student speakers, special video presentations, drama skits, special musical guests, and prayer concerts. Chapel is an integral piece of the spiritual formation of our students.

All MS students participate in Community Service. Community Service requirements are for grades 7 and 8 only, though all students are encouraged to find ways to serve. There are outreach opportunities for all students, such as Community Food Drive, Blanket Making, various prayer ministries, senior home visits, and other special projects that arise each year that vary depending on need and leadership of students.

ENGLISH

Clear and effective communication is an essential part of developing and nurturing Christian leaders. The English Department of Linfield Christian Middle School endeavors to develop students who exhibit critical thinking skills and a command of the English language that will guide their lifelong learning in a global community.

Through a Biblical lens, skills that enable students to be successful in college and professional lives are built and reinforced through the study of literary and informational texts. The development and articulation of a Christian worldview will enable students to read about, write about, question, and analyze the world in which they live.

English 6

The curriculum for sixth grade includes a comprehensive integration of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading and writing skills. Students learn and practice reading skills such as recall, comprehension, induction, and prediction. In line with Common Core standards and College Board expectations, students are introduced to Pre-AP writing formats and skills that focus on analysis of text in ascending levels of complexity.

English 7

The curriculum for seventh grade includes a comprehensive integration of Latin and Greek roots, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary, with an added emphasis on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students practice and begin to master reading skills such as comprehension, induction, deduction, cause-effect, and prediction. In line with Common Core standards and College Board expectations, students' Pre-AP writing formats and skills are reinforced and expanded to include introductory analysis of informational text and rhetorical devices. Support of major ideas and evidence from text is a focal point of the writing curriculum, as well as MLA formatting and continued practice with research skills.

English 8

The curriculum for eighth grade includes a comprehensive integration of Latin and Greek roots, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary, with an added emphasis on reading, writing, speaking and listening skills. Students practice and begin to master more complex reading skills such as analysis of rhetorical skills and identifying author's tone and purpose. In line with Common Core standards and College Board expectations, students' Pre-AP writing formats and skills are reinforced and expanded to include more complex analysis of informational text and rhetorical devices. Support of major ideas and evidence from text is a focal point of the writing curriculum, as well as MLA formatting. Conducting research, correctly assessing primary and secondary sources, and formatting all parts of a research paper is emphasized at this level.

MATHEMATICS

The Linfield School Mathematics Department recognizes that mathematics reflects the infinite and orderly nature of God such as rationality, consistency, and accuracy. The goal for the student is to know God, imitate Him and know that everything exists because of Him. The Mathematics Department wants all students to have a solid foundation in mathematics so that as God reveals His will for their lives they will be equipped to pursue that path. In all the math courses, math skills and concepts are tied to applications that are part of the student's real world

Foundations

In all the math courses, math skills and concepts are tied to applications that are part of the student's real world. In the "Foundations" course, students will work with: problem-solving strategies, expand on their current knowledge of whole numbers and their properties to include decimals, fractions, integers, equations and functions, proportional reasoning and applications of percent, geometry (classify shapes, perimeter, area, surface area and volume), analyzing data through graphs and statistics, and probability. They will also have exposure to many pre-algebra concepts.

Pre-Algebra

In Pre-Algebra, students will strengthen their knowledge of number sense, expand their understanding of geometry, and develop an understanding of algebra. Number sense is essential in future mathematics courses as well as in everyday life. In this course we will work with not only the traditional counting numbers (natural numbers) but also integers and rational numbers. They will also learn about percents and probability. Students will be able to classify shapes and solids and work with their dimensions (perimeter, circumference, area, and volume). Finally, students will solve equations with variables as well as graph linear equations.

Algebra Readiness

In this course, students will strengthen their knowledge of number sense and begin their study of algebraic concepts. They will study: problem-solving strategies (including order of operations), numerical properties, linear equations and inequalities, integers including absolute value, rational numbers, proportional reasoning, percent, Euclidean Geometry, areas and volumes, algebraic application to geometric figures, statistics and probability, graphing in the coordinate plane, combinations of polynomials, solving quadratic equations, and solving two variable equations. Note: While taught out of the Algebra textbook, completion of this course does not constitute completion of Algebra 1. Students must enroll in Algebra 1 in Grade 9.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 is a college preparatory course that emphasizes relationships between variables and identifying those relationships as linear, quadratic, inverse, or exponential. Students learn to solve linear and quadratic equations, inequalities and systems of linear equations. Students connect previous knowledge to studying operations with exponents, rational expressions, irrational numbers, equations and polynomials (including factoring). Both numerical and graphical understanding is emphasized. Proportional reasoning, direct and inverse variations, quadratic functions and formulas, geometric properties and trigonometry (trigonometric ratios) are also studied.

Geometry

Geometry is a college preparatory course that uses algebra and logic skills to analyze geometric figures. The course objectives are to apply and reinforce algebra skills; to establish fundamental geometric relationships with a variety of figures; to apply logic and the concept of proofs to understanding geometric relationships and theorems; and to apply geometry skills to problem solving strategies. Topics include basic geometric figures, parallelism, perpendicularity, congruence, similarity, two column proofs, inequalities, area, perimeter, volume, circles, and coordinate geometry. *Prerequisite: Successful completion of Algebra 1.*

SOCIAL STUDIES

A Christian philosophy of the social sciences believes that God has always existed and that His creation of this world marked the beginning of human history. Furthermore, the biblical perspective strongly suggests that God exercises an ongoing role in the affairs of earth and the universe. The study therefore of the social sciences includes a search for explanations concerning the origins, purpose and destiny of the universe and earth's people as determined by God. The study of social sciences should be aimed at equipping students to be involved and informed citizens, good stewards of God's gifts, and to be concerned with the circumstances and ultimate course of the entire world. Students should be able to critically evaluate, analyze and make judgments of the past and current political, social and economic events in light of the Scriptures.

Ancient History 6

Ancient Civilizations and Geography is the focus of this course. Students will explore the ancient world and the major geographical features and boundaries of each civilization. Past kingdoms, empires, rulers, conquests, contributions, and influences from the time of Creation to the fall of Rome will be the scope of study in this exciting course.

Medieval History 7

Students actively participate in a one-year course study of the early civilizations of the world in the Middle East, India, China, Africa and Japan. Students will also view the Roman and Byzantine Empires and the influence of religion throughout the Asian and European continents. A study of Medieval Europe will lead them to the Renaissance and Reformation and conclude with the Scientific Revolution. Students will gain an understanding of the early development of civilizations, cultures, and political progress of humanity until the 1700's.

US History 8

Students actively participate in a study of the origins of the United States from pre-Columbian America up through the war that divided the nation, the Civil War. Students will learn through lecture, discussion, reenactments, simulations and cooperative learning. The focus is on the development and struggle of the new American nation and its relevance to today's United States. This will include a study of important documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution and others including landmark Supreme Court cases. Emphasis will also be placed on U.S. Geography and its effect on the foundation and growth of the new nation. A significant history project is required.

SCIENCE

The mission of the Science Department is to teach that God is the author of the truth concerning His Creation. The department seeks to instill an appreciation for what has been discovered and a passion to probe for a deeper understanding of God's creation. Realizing that science is limited to natural explanations for natural phenomena, students will be able to discern between facts and assumptions. The department will equip students with solid biblical and scientific foundations so they will be capable of engaging in an intelligent and logical dialogue about the moral and ethical questions that arise with each new scientific discovery in an ever-changing world.

Earth Science

Students will explore and experience a variety of areas within the discipline of Earth Science through the use of reading, research, observation, experimentation, discussion, and application. Units of study include the methods of measurements of the scientist, Celestial Sphere, Atmosphere, Lithosphere, and Hydrosphere.

Life Science

This course is designed as a middle school survey course touching the major areas of life science. The school year begins with an introduction to the foundations of science including the scientific method. The remainder of the first semester focuses on topics related to cell biology including cell structure and functions, photosynthesis and respiration, diffusion and osmosis, cell division and DNA. Second semester focuses on genetics, creation/ evolution, immunity and disease, characteristics and classification of living things, and a survey of vertebrates using the frog as the model. Laboratory work includes studies with the microscope, the cell and cell processes, and a frog dissection. Students are required to do an outside science project which includes a research paper. Students are encouraged to participate in the county science fair.

Physical Science

This course covers studies in basic chemistry and physics. The chemistry portion focuses on the properties and classification of matter and on the patterns of the periodic table. The students participate in various labs on classification of matter, chemical and physical properties, density, and chemical reactions. The physics curriculum includes the forces of motion, simple and complex machines, heat energy, electricity and magnetism, and fluids. These concepts are learned through a series of long-term projects, which include the design and construction of air powered paper airplanes, propeller powered balsa wood cars, and the building of electrical circuits on circuit boards based upon their schematics. Students sharpen their scientific inquiry and writing skills throughout the year as they learn how to gather and display data and write clear and concise conclusions based upon that data.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The Physical Education courses at Linfield Christian Middle School seek to educate and motivate students toward a lifestyle of health and fitness. A child who is healthy and physically active is likely to be academically motivated, alert, and successful in other areas of life, including the exhibition of their Christian faith.

Our goals for physical education are defined in three categories: physical, intellectual, and social/spiritual. Physical goals include providing a forum for cardiovascular and muscular-skeletal fitness to be enhanced, sport-specific skills to be learned and mastered, and new sport and recreation activities to be introduced. Intellectual goals include teaching and applying specific rules to various sport and recreation activities, and providing a base of knowledge concerning the benefit of a healthy, physically active lifestyle. Socially, we strive to provide an atmosphere where conspicuous Christian character is taught and developed, a healthful outlook on individual and team competition is fostered, and where students appreciate working together toward a common goal.

ENRICHMENT OFFERINGS

The core academic classes challenge students with a college prep education. The enrichment classes are the “other things.” Some classes require a year-long commitment, while others are offered on a quarter-by-quarter, or semester length. They are designed to be both exciting and challenging, giving LCMS students a chance to find new interests and also build on skills critical to their success as a middle school student.

Classes are offered based on enrollment and master schedule/facility constraints, thus some classes may not be offered each quarter.

Fine Arts / Performing Arts

Wind Ensemble – Grades 6-8 (full year) This class will form the foundation for the Linfield Christian Middle School instrumental program, which will include Concert, Pep and Jazz Bands. Each student will receive one semi-private lesson per week, and a full-band rehearsal daily during elective period. At least two seasonal performances are planned. Instruction will be available to all students on all wind instruments (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, etc.) regardless of experience. *It's never too late to join the band!* A program fee will apply. Students will also be required to obtain their own instrument and performance attire (white, long-sleeved, button-down collared shirt, black dress pants, black socks, black dress shoes). We are not currently offering a string program. Students who play the piano, bass, guitar or drums may be considered, as needed, by audition only. Contact Dr. Knechtel for more information.

Musical Theater / Show Choir - Grades 6-8 (full year) This is a rigorous class for those students who love dancing and singing. Through song, choreographed dance numbers, and acting activities, students will be taught the fundamentals of auditioning. Each student will prepare and audition for the middle school musical during class time; after casting the class will rehearse each week until the performance at the end of the semester in the Black Box theater. In addition to the class time some after school rehearsals may be called, and parents will be asked to be involved in the show production; baking, selling tickets, making raffle baskets, etc. A program fee will apply.

Introduction to Art – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) This class explores elements of Art; line, texture, shape, color, value and composition through many mediums. Learn basic strategies to explore familiar objects and places in our world.

3-D Design – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) Students will be introduced to 3-D design and artwork that addresses sculptural issues as they relate to both depth and space. Students will use a variety of tools, techniques, media, subjects, and content to produce hands-on creative expression projects that emphasize the elements of art and principles of design in sculpture using paper, clay, fiber, foil, cardboard, and found objects.

Humanities

Spanish I – Grade 8 or instructor approval (full year) Spanish I is an introduction to the study of the Spanish language and its culture. Equal emphasis is given to aural/oral skills, reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar. This beginning course seeks to give the student the foundation of vocabulary and grammatical structures in order to understand and read basic instructions and short elementary stories, as well as write short paragraphs on familiar topics, and speak about, and ask questions about, elementary themes.

Creative Writing Lab – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) This class will explore different genres of writing with the main goal of strengthening writing and editing strategies and experimenting with different creative styles. Students will work both independently and collaboratively to both create and critique their projects. Projects may include original poetry, short stories, digital storybooks, and even children’s books.

Critical Thinking – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) This is a hands-on, exploratory program designed to challenge students’ problem solving skills. This class offers students the opportunity to utilize critical thinking, teamwork, strategies, reasoning, and logic skills through games, crafts, explorations, and presentations.

Geography / World Cultures – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) This course is an exciting introduction to several different and interesting cultures, languages, and geography from around the globe. Students will broaden their knowledge of specific world cultures through games, projects, and guest speakers. This will be a high energy, fun, and adventurous course!

Life Skills 101 – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) Every day, students come across situations that they've never seen, or been through, that their regular classes do not include. This course is meant to cover those things. Topics may include things like etiquette (face to face and phone to phone), budgeting, cooking, and overall healthful living! Students will explore how to evaluate and avoid, or sometimes take, certain risks. Overall, this is a fun, student-centered class that covers many aspects of "life."

Zao – Grades 6-8 (quarter year) Zao is a greek word meaning “To live, to breathe, to be alive. Not lifeless, or dead.” Another definition speaks of being “fresh, strong, and efficient.” This class will help students come alive, and be efficient in their studies, by teaching, enhancing, and utilizing study skills to accelerate academic growth.

Technology / S.T.E.A.M.

Gateway To Technology – “GTT” is offered as independent units, or modules, that explore aerospace, energy, the environment, modeling, robotics, technology and other STEM-related topics. The activities-oriented curriculum challenges and engages the natural curiosity of students. GTT units, taught in conjunction with a rigorous academic curriculum, are designed to spark an interest in STEM subjects and prepare students for further study in high school. GTT is a natural lead in to PLTW’s Pathway To Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Programs at the High School level. A program fee will apply.

STEAM 1 (grade 6, half year)

- Medical Detectives puts students in the role of real-life medical detectives as they analyze genetic testing results to diagnose disease and study DNA evidence found at a “crime scene.” They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, investigate how to measure and interpret vital signs, and learn how the systems of the human body work together to maintain health.

STEAM 2 (grades 7-8, full year)

- Design and Modeling uses a solid modeling software to introduce students to the design process. Students learn sketching techniques and use descriptive geometry as a component of design, measurement, and computer modeling. Pre-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Algebra or Algebra (Grades 7 or 8 math), and teacher approval.
- Automation and Robotics teaches students about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation, and computer control systems. Students acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, collaboration and innovation. Pre-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Algebra or Algebra, and successful completion of *Design and Modeling* module.

STEAM 3 (grade 8, full year)

- Flight and Space In this unit students study the history of aerospace through hands-on activities, research, and a presentation in the form of an infomercial. Students explore the science behind aeronautics and use their knowledge to design, build, and test a model glider. Simulation software is used to expose students to traveling and living in space. Pre-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Algebra or Algebra (Grades 7 or 8 math), and teacher approval.
- Magic of Electrons Through hands-on projects, students explore the science of electricity, the behavior and parts of atoms, circuit design, and sensing devices. Students acquire knowledge and skills in basic circuitry design and explore the impact of electricity on our lives. Pre-requisite: Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Algebra or Algebra (Grades 7 or 8 math), and teacher approval.