

MEDINA CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

2020-2021 Middle School Academic Catalog



MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

Courses	7th Grade	8th Grade
Bible*	Life of Christ	Old Testament Survey
English*	Language Arts 7	Language Arts 8
Science*	Life Science	Earth Science
Social Studies*	World Studies	American History
Math*	Pre-Algebra I	Pre-Algebra II OR Algebra 1 ^{@HS}
Physical Education*	Physical Education 7 and Health 7	Physical Education 8
Art*	Art 7	Art 8 Worship Band
Elective	Choir	Choir
Study Hall		
Language	Intro to Spanish I	Intro to Spanish II

*Required course

@Instructor approval required

^{HS} Offered for high school credit

SEVENTH GRADE COURSE SCHEDULING

Welcome to middle school! At MCA, we are very excited that you have chosen to travel with us on one of the most important journeys in life that you will take: an education preparing you for God's calling in your life.

In seventh grade, all MCA students enroll in the same Bible, English, Science, and Social Studies courses. Students will all also take one semester of Health, one semester of Physical Education, and one semester of Art.

For Mathematics, students will either take Pre Algebra I or Pre Algebra II. Pre Algebra I leads to either Pre Algebra II in the eighth grade and Algebra I in the ninth grade or, based on grades and teacher recommendation, Algebra I (for high school credit) in eighth grade and Geometry in ninth grade. Students taking Algebra I in the eighth grade and students taking Algebra I in the ninth grade will both have the opportunity to take a full, rigorous, and college preparatory mathematics course of study in grades 9-12.

Each student will have one required study hall to assist students in transitioning to middle school. Finally, students have the opportunity to try out for the choir elective and/or the worship band elective, which is offered two days a week during the study hall period.

EIGHTH GRADE COURSE SCHEDULING

We are so excited to continue working with each of you in your eighth grade year as you work to understand God's calling for your life and transition into high school.

In eighth grade, all students will enroll in the same Bible, English, Science, and Social Studies courses. All students will also take one semester of Art.

Eighth grade students take either Pre Algebra II or Algebra I (for high school credit) for their mathematics course. Students interested in beginning their high school world language sequence in eighth grade can apply to gain permission to take their first full year of Spanish for high school credit. This is a great opportunity for a motivated student or a student with a desire to learn other languages.

Students also have a study hall built into their daily schedule. Interested students may try out for the choir elective, which meets two days a week during the study hall period.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE

Life of Christ

The seventh grade Bible curriculum is taken from the New Testament focusing on the life of Christ. Most of the material is from the four Gospels. The purpose of *Learning from the Life of Christ*, the title of the curriculum, is twofold - to help the student glorify God by being conformed to the image of Christ and to teach the student to apply Scripture to his daily life.

Bible 8

Story of the Old Testament

The intent of the eighth grade Bible curriculum is taken from the Old Testament's historical portions. Character studies from various time periods of the Old Testament will be focused on in each lesson that will span anywhere from 1 - 2 weeks. We will be looking at positive and negative character traits in order to see the consequences of their choices. Aspects of each lesson focus on the students developing pertinent applications in the hopes of cultivating the positive character qualities in their lives.

ENGLISH

Language Arts 7

Language Arts 7 will focus on teaching students the basic foundations of the English language including grammar, writing, and reading. A focus includes essay writing, sentence structure, novel study, and an introduction to the readings of William Shakespeare.

Language Arts 8

Language Arts 8 will focus on reading, analyzing, discussing, and writing about a variety of fiction and nonfiction texts (novels such as *The Pearl*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *The Giver*, short stories, articles, poems, and plays). We will examine these readings from a Biblical perspective. Students will compile research to complete writing assignments and short projects, properly citing sources in MLA format. Additionally, students will use the writing process to compose and edit expository, narrative, creative, and persuasive/argumentative pieces.

FINE ARTS

Art 7 - Grade 7

Art 7 will focus on the Elements of Design. Students will work with a variety of mediums to accomplish the focus. Each project is graded on neatness, creativity, good effort, how directions are followed, and completeness. One project from each student will be selected to put on display for the art show in May.

Art 8 - Grade 8

Art 8 will focus on the Principles of Design with a review of the Elements of Design. They will work with a variety of mediums to accomplish the focus. Each project is graded on neatness, creativity, good effort, how directions are followed, and completeness. One project from each student will be selected to put on display for the art show in May.

Choir - Grades 7-8

Instructor permission

The intent of choir is to cultivate the musical talent of the students that the Lord has given to each of them, and most importantly give glory and honor to Jesus through song. There requirements included for the students to be involved in choir are: student tryouts examining the student's range, if he/she can hear differences in pitch, and a sample song. The choir will be participating in the Christmas program, Spring program, and music festival, which is hosted at MCA.

Worship Band - Grades 7-8

Instructor permission

With the goal of enhancing the worship experience in MCA chapel services, the Worship Band course seeks to develop a student's skills as a worship leader. Students discover how the Bible defines worship and worship leading, study the history of musical worship, and provide a practical, hands-on experience leading worship for chapel. Students enrolled in the course serve as part of the chapel band or are heavily involved with the running of chapel services.

HEALTH & PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Health 7 - Grade 7

The Medina Christian Academy Health Program is designed to present a comprehensive view of health as it relates to spiritual, mental, physical, emotional, and relational well being through a Christian perspective. The values, concepts, and principles of health and wellness prepare students for lifelong healthy lifestyles. We must honor God with our bodies. *“Do you not know that your body is the a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your body” (1 Cor. 6:19-20).* This program’s goal is to teach students the necessary knowledge to make healthy lifestyle decisions. Abeka Health in Christian Perspective addresses nutrition, exercise, personal hygiene, mental health, safety, first aid, disease prevention, drug abuse, spiritual growth, and more.

Physical Education 7 - Grade 7

This course is designed to encourage physical fitness in a caring and supportive environment in which every student is challenged and successful. The class is broken into weekly categories: (1) Team and individual skills through a variety of activities: baseball, soccer, volleyball, football, floor hockey, basketball, and balance/stretching, (2) Fitness stations give the opportunity to develop basic motor skills and provide an opportunity to promote physical fitness through running, calisthenics, agility, and stretching/balance, and (3) Fitness testing.

Physical Education 8 - Grade 8

Eighth grade physical education expounds upon the skills and fitness in seventh grade physical education. It is designed to encourage physical fitness in a caring and supportive environment in which every student is challenged and successful. The class is broken into weekly categories: (1) Team and individual skills through a variety of activities: baseball, soccer, volleyball, football, floor hockey, basketball, and balance/stretching, (2) Fitness stations give the opportunity to develop basic motor skills and provide an opportunity to promote physical fitness through running, calisthenics, agility, and stretching/balance, and (3) Fitness testing.

MATHEMATICS

Pre-Algebra I - Grade 7

This course is for students in 7th grade and is based to prepare students for future Algebra and Geometry based concepts. Students will begin with number reasoning skills, building into real numbers and equivalent expressions. Algebraic concepts will build into solving linear equations, graphing functions, and solving for systems. Geometry will cover congruence, similarity, and surface area and volume. Data work includes sample population and probability. Some students will be able to go into Algebra 1 upon completion this course. This will be based on the students' grades, work ethic, and teacher recommendation.

Pre-Algebra II - Grade 8

This course is for students in 8th grade and is based to prepare students for Algebra and Geometry. Students will begin with real numbers and build into solving linear equations. Algebraic concepts will focus on functions. Students will graph, analyze and solve systems. Geometry will cover congruence, similarity, and surface area and volume. Data work will focus on bivariate data. Students will be prepared for Algebra 1 after completion of this course.

Algebra I - Grade 8

Taken for high school credit

Algebra I is designed to help students understand the basic structure of algebra and acquire proficiency in applying algebraic concepts and skills in authentic situations. The course focuses on the development of problem-solving skills and the acquisition of mathematical vocabulary and symbols. The active engagement of students along with the use of manipulatives and technology, such as calculators and computers, will allow students to develop an understanding of mathematical principles. Topics include variables and expressions; solving equations and inequalities; linear functions; and graphing and writing linear equations.

SCIENCE

Life Science - Grade 7

Life science is a complete overview of the life sciences. Students will learn the requirements and characteristics of all living things. Students will also explore the living world from the micro level of cellular biology and genetics to the macro level of zoology and ecology. Labs will be conducted that reinforce what is learned in each chapter. Students will also learn how to view science through a Christian worldview.

Earth Science - Grade 8

In earth science, students will learn about the physical world and how it works. Students will learn about tectonic processes, landforms and earth materials, fossils, the oceans and oceanography, rivers and lakes, the atmosphere, weather and storms, climate and environmentalism, the solar system, the universe and cosmology, and space science. Students will learn about the secular theories of where everything they see came from. They will also see a critique for these theories and be affirmed of the conservative biblical view of Earth's history shaped by Creation, the Fall, and the Flood. Lab activities will also be used to reinforce subject material.

SOCIAL STUDIES

World Studies - Grade 7

The World Studies course begins with a brief review of history from Creation to the coming of Christ and progresses in a chronological journey around the world studying the ebb and flow of empires, cultures, Christianity, and world religions. Students will reinforce concepts discussed in class through activities such as primary-source readings, maps, and chapter review sections. Students will take tests that will evaluate the student's knowledge and reinforce the material in the student text through a variety of questions designed to promote both analytical thinking and information recall.

American History - Grade 8

American History for eighth graders includes an overview of the discovery of the Americas through the Industrial Revolution. A special emphasis is placed on the Constitution and learning the states and capitals as well as the presidents of the United States. A hands-on curriculum is utilized to ensure students have a deep understanding of the founding and history of the United States of America.

WORLD LANGUAGES

Introduction to Spanish I - Grade 7

Introduction to Spanish I in 7th grade allows the middle school student to engage in the basic study of Spanish. This language introduction the student an informal, yet informative base of linguistic building blocks for advanced study of Spanish in the eighth grade and beyond. Early foreign language study has been shown to prepare students more effectively for meeting world studies goals in both history and language arts throughout high school.

Introduction to Spanish II - Grade 8

Taken for high school credit, students must have a GPA of 2.5 or higher to enroll

Instructor Approval

Introduction to Spanish II gives the beginning student the vocabulary necessary to communicate on a basic level with Spanish speakers on a variety of familiar subjects such as school, home, activities, etc. The student will learn how to formulate sentences and dialogues through listening, speaking, reading and writing. Cultural activities will accompany language lessons to acquaint students with food, artistic expression, and diversity of the Spanish-speaking world.

