

Trinity Christian Academy
Middle School Course Descriptions
2019 - 2020

MS Bible	
Bible 6	6th grade Bible focuses on the life of Christ. Students will learn about Christ's character, example, major experiences, miracles, parables, the Sermon on the Mount, as well as other teachings. This will be accomplished through daily devotions, scripture reading and analysis, activities, projects, and discussions. Students will also be required to memorize Bible verses. This is a full year class.
Bible 7	7th grade Bible focuses on a journey through the Old Testament. Students will learn about Creation, Deliverance from Egypt, Promised Land, United Kingdom, Divided Kingdom, Remnant Kingdom, Books of Poetry, Major Prophets, and the Minor Prophets. This will be accomplished through Scripture reading and analysis, activities, projects, and discussions. Students will also be required to memorize Bible verses. This is a full year class.
Bible 8	This course will provide students with the opportunity to learn practical, down-to-earth skills that will assist them in their spiritual maturation. Through a survey of the New Testament, the student will gain insight into character of God, the person of Christ, and how the believer's life should be transformed through the application of God's Word.
MS Math	
Math 6	Math 6 is designed to help our students make strong mathematical connections between elementary and middle school, while gaining a better understanding of God's purpose for math in our world. We will work towards this goal by actively participating in concrete, pictorial, and abstract learning. During the school year, we will extend the student's math development in six basic areas: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, and Reasoning and Proof. We will learn to understand whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers; make and interpret graphs; distinguish between numerical and variable expressions; solve one-step equations and inequalities; and apply problem-solving skills that will help us in our daily living.
Pre-Algebra - 7	Our main purpose in this course is to show the importance of understanding and applying Pre-Algebra skills in God's wonderful plan for us. We will work towards this goal by actively participating in concrete, pictorial, and abstract learning. During the school year, we will extend the student's math development in six basic areas: Numbers and Operations, Algebra, Geometry, Measurement, Data Analysis and Probability, and Reasoning and Proof. We will learn to solve multi-step equations and inequalities with rational numbers; use ratios, proportions and percents; begin linear functions and graphing; and apply problem-solving skills into our everyday lives. Accelerated Pre-Algebra is available to students who meet GPA and skill level criteria along with teacher recommendation. Pacing and depth of content is accelerated. Students are notified in June if they qualify for the accelerated course.
MS Algebra I	The Algebra 1 course has been divided into a two-year program that begins in the 8th grade. This is the first half of that course. It is a program of study that allows students to

	<p>slowly, yet fully, develop a solid understanding of half of the traditional Algebra 1 content. This course and its follow-up 9th grade course combine to form the foundation for higher level mathematics courses by forming a bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. Topics in this half of the course include simplifying expressions; statistics; solutions of linear equations and inequalities; function; and graphing. Real-world applications are presented within the course content when possible and reasonable. It is also recognized in this class that in Christ “are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3) so students are regularly encouraged to seek Him. Thus, the teacher will include genuine Biblical integration in class and within the course content.</p>
MS Algebra I Honors	<p>Algebra 1 is the foundation for high school mathematics courses as it is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. This course emphasizes linear and quadratic expressions, equations, and functions. It also introduces students to polynomial and exponential functions with domains in the integers. Students explore the structures of and interpret functions and other mathematical models. Students build upon previous knowledge of equations and inequalities to reason, solve, and represent equations and inequalities numerically and graphically. Real-world applications are presented within the course content when possible and reasonable.</p>
MS History	
History 6	<p>Sixth grade history is a study of the ancient world beginning with the biblical account of creation and the fall of man. Through studying the history and culture of these ancient civilizations, students can recognize God’s hand in world events and God’s sovereignty in all that happens. During the year, emphasis is placed on contrasting the false religions that man has created with the truth of God’s Holy Word. Activities provided for the students to help their learning include writing from a historic perspective, oral discussions of ideas, and hands on activities. Content of the course covers from creation through a study of the Middle Ages.</p>
History 7	<p>History 7 is a combination of the study of Tennessee History (1st semester) and World Geography (2nd semester). In Tennessee History students learn about the important events and people of our state beginning with the Native American groups from the area. Included is the study of local and state government. The major units of study in geography include the study of world cultures, religions, and economics.</p>
History 8	<p>This one-year U.S. history course focuses on the central themes and issues in the development of American institutions, culture, and politics, especially for the topics of liberty, world leadership, and social responsibility. By the end of the course, the goal is for students to connect with people and events from the past in order to understand that these connections not only lend information for the present, but also help drive the direction for our country in the future.</p>
MS English	
Writing 6	<p>In this one-semester course, students compose narrative, informational/explanatory, descriptive, and argumentative paragraphs and then essays in which they support their ideas with evidence from various literary genres or informational texts. They incorporate vocabulary and grammar learned in Language Arts into their daily writing assignments.</p>

	<p>Students compose various types of poetry and are introduced to research skills and basic MLA documentation skills. They also learn to use proofreading and peer editing to refine their work. Great emphasis is placed on <i>what</i> they write (content), <i>where</i> they write (organization), and <i>how</i> they write (style). Students also learn and practice the basics of oral presentations (eye contact, poise, and volume) and give at least one during the semester.</p>
Writing 7	<p>This one-semester course focuses on the continuation of fundamental skills in writing, grammar, and vocabulary, as well as developing the skill of creative/imaginative writing. In addition, expository, narrative, argumentative, and descriptive writing will be explored. A strong emphasis will be put on the developmental process of writing an essay, with special emphasis being put on constructing a strong thesis statement. We will end the course with a section on research where the students will be shown how to discriminate between sources in order to find those that are relevant and credible as well as how to cite those sources using MLA style formatting.</p>
Writing 8	<p>This single-semester course is designed to enable students to grow as writers. The emphasis of this course is placed on writing various types of formal essays, which sharpen the students' skills in writing structure and grammar. Furthermore, a special emphasis is placed on argumentative writing, including a transition from three-prong to argument-driven thesis statements. Their experience with argumentative writing will empower students to formulate and support claims in well-organized essays that show great depth of thought and critical thinking ability. In addition to formal writing, students will also continue to develop their ability to write creatively by organizing and expressing their thoughts in creative writing. Finally, students will continue to build on their knowledge of MLA formatting.</p>
Language Arts 6	<p>This one-year course engages students in the learning and application of grammar skills—especially usage, mechanics, and sentence structure—to improve writing. Reading includes novels, short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and informational texts. Vocabulary study incorporates grade level words, academic vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots, and words from literature selections. Writing includes mostly written responses to literature and some creative writing.</p>
Language Arts 7	<p>This one-year course engages students in rigorous application and reinforcement of grammar skills and a variety of writing strategies and techniques, mostly tied to reading selections with some creative writing incorporated. Reading includes novels, short stories, poetry, drama, nonfiction, and informational texts. Vocabulary study incorporates grade level words, academic vocabulary, Greek and Latin roots, commonly misspelled words, and words from literature selections.</p>
Language Arts 8	<p>This one-year course is designed to give students the opportunity to read various genres of literature and to further develop their grammar and vocabulary skills. As students continue to build their vocabulary and grammatical skills, they will learn to effectively apply them to their writing. Also, students will learn to effectively read and understand various types of literature through a Biblical lens, including novels, short stories, poetry, drama, and nonfiction. Overall, students will develop an appreciation for literature and learn comprehension and critical thinking skills that will prepare them for high school and benefit them throughout their lives.</p>

MS Yearbook and Media Arts	Middle School Yearbook and Media Arts is a semester course where students will be exposed to various forms of media with the desire that they will be better equipped to read and view the news through the lens of a Biblical worldview. Students will be introduced to journalism-related jargon and write various pieces, including feature stories, opinion pieces and editorials. Students will incorporate journalism skills, and possibly photography skills, while assisting with the creation of the school yearbook. These skills, along with meeting deadlines will help students gain useful, real world skills in time management, teamwork and design principles.
MS Science	
Science 6	The first objective in this course is to present a general overview on the nature of science through the study of science theory, matter, elements, and atoms. After completion of this first unit, Science 6 becomes a general introduction to the study of earth science, physical science, and biological science. Major topics include the study of motion, energy, simple machines, electricity, magnetism, minerals, forces that shape our planet, climate, space, cells, and ecology. Our goal is to excite and inspire the students to learn more about Science and to show them how to use them to learn, discover and invent many new and wonderful things and to appreciate God's handiwork in the universe.
Science 7	The objective of 7 th grade Life Science is to give all students an overview of common strands of life science including, but not limited to, diversity of living organisms, structure and function of cells, heredity, bacteria, plants, animals, human body systems and ecosystems. Within this overview, experiments, demonstrations, and dissections will be utilized to help the students develop skills in scientific inquiry, ; all the while growing a deeper realization and appreciation for the presence of God in science and His creative work.
Earth Science	The objective of 8th grade Earth Science is to gain a better understanding of the world around you, and the God who created it. This is a full year course. The four main areas of study are Geology, Astronomy, Meteorology, and Oceanography. Through instruction, hands on science labs, Interactive lessons on computer devices, and creativity, students develop the knowledge of God's Creation for his children. This course integrates content from earth, physical, space, and life sciences. Students develop an understanding of interactions and interdependence within and between earth systems and biological systems, atmospheric systems, water systems, geologic systems, energy systems, and space.
MS Physical Science	This course is designed to introduce students to the fundamental concepts of the scientific method, the metric system, and the sciences of chemistry and physics. It is intended to prepare them for upper-level courses in chemistry and physics. Students will learn skills such as observing, classifying, measuring, hypothesizing, using numbers, formulating models, testing ideas, predicting results, and incorporating these into a framework of a belief in the Lord Jesus Christ as a personal Savior. Laboratory work is an important part in any science course and will be used to give hands-on experience to each student. Students must be simultaneously enrolled in Algebra 1.
Foreign Language	

MS Spanish	Middle School Spanish is a semester class designed to be a fun and interactive course for 8th grade students to get them engaged as they begin their journey learning a foreign language. This course is to start preparing them for high school Spanish. Students will begin their introduction to Spanish with objectives taught that will continue to expand the student's learning of the language and culture of the Spanish-speaking world. During this course we will communicate in Spanish, learn vocabulary words, phrases and expressions related to real-life experiences.
Physical Education	
P. E. 6	6th grade P.E. is designed to serve as a class that will help in the physical development and overall fitness of our students. This class will meet the needs of the students through training them in proper technique of basic athletic and functional movements. We will also teach and practice various sports and sport movements in both team and individual sports.
MS Physical Fitness & Strength Training	MS Physical Fitness & Strength Training will serve as an introductory class for students in the development of strength, power, endurance, agility, speed, and general physical fitness. Students will be introduced to the general movements and patterns associated with strength training. Each student will be placed on an individualized program based on their age, sport, and experience in the weight room. Proper technique and safety precautions will be emphasized throughout the class.
Computer	
Grade 6 Keyboarding	All 6th - one semester - Make sure to include cyber integrity/discipleship, typing/keyboarding focus; Google operations foundations (i.e.); and how to submit on Turnitin.com the end of the course)
8th Intro to Coding	One semester The course is intended to develop fundamental skills in both theory and practical application of the basic web design and development process: writing and developing code, an introduction to computer coding in several computer languages, project management and teamwork, troubleshooting, problem solving, and interpersonal skill development.
8th Google Applications	The primary objectives of this semester course are to introduce students to Google Apps (Drive, Docs, Sheets, Slides, and Forms), Google Chrome, Keyboarding skills, and appropriate Internet usage. This course actively involves students in daily hands-on activities. Google Applications is designed to introduce students to many of the applications that Google offers. The course builds on skills beyond the traditional introduction of computer concepts and incorporates technologies using emerging applications for productivity, creativity, collaboration, and add-ons. It will prepare students for learning and working in the 21st century through communication and collaboration tools. Real world student-centered activities, projects, and collaborative works will strengthen students' technology skills in the continually changing online Google community.

7th/8th STEM LAB/Robotics I	<p>STEM Lab is a semester course where students define and solve problems through the use of hands-on application of computers, tools, materials, and processes. Projects integrate science, technology, engineering and mathematics to challenge students to be inventive and apply their ingenuity to solve design challenges ranging from straw bridges and hovercraft to Aeronautics and robotics. Problem Solving provides the foundation for future studies. Students learn how Technology, Innovation, Design, and Engineering interrelate and are interdependent.</p> <p>Robotics is part of a semester course where students are involved in the development, building and programming of VEX robots. Students will work hands-on in teams to design, build, program and document their progress. Topics may include motor control, gear ratios, torque, friction, sensors, timing, program loops, logic gates, decision-making, timing and sequences. Student designed robots will be programmed to compete in various competitions.</p>
8th STEM Lab/Robotics II	<p>Robotics II is a semester long computer technology/ STEM engineering course which teaches students intermediate computer science skills using robotic programming. Students will program robots that can complete a series of tasks while learning various project management skills. Students will also manipulate robot designs to help complete a task. Upon completion of the course, students will be able to program basic to intermediate level commands in ROBOTMESH, such as collect, store and use data, and have the ability to build a robot using VEX NET. Students will learn to apply programming skills to accomplish real life tasks using a robot.</p> <p>Prerequisites: STEM Lab/Robotics I</p>
Fine Arts	
Band 6	<p>Sixth grade band is an introductory instrumental music course designed to give students experience in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of band music. The course will include instruction in proper instrumental technique and performance skills, as well as exploring music theory and music history.</p>
Choir 6	<p>Sixth grade choir is an introductory vocal music course designed to give students experience in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of vocal/choral music. The course will include instruction in proper vocal technique and performance skills as well as exploring music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology. The course is constructed to focus on God's design for music as a means of worship, communication, creativity, and self-expression.</p>
MS Band	<p>Middle School Band is an instrumental music course designed to give students experience in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of band music. The course will include instruction in proper instrumental technique and performance skills, as well as exploring music theory and music history.</p>
MS Choir	<p>Middle School Choir is a vocal music course designed to give students experience in the study and performance of a diverse repertoire of vocal/choral music. The course will include instruction in proper vocal technique and performance skills as well as exploring music theory, music history, and ethnomusicology. The course is constructed to focus on God's design for music as a means of worship, communication, creativity, and self-expression.</p>
General Music	<p>This course is an introductory study of general music for all 6th graders that includes:</p>

	singing, playing instruments, improvising melodies, reading and notating music, analyzing and describing music, and understanding music in relation to God's design to be a means of worship, communication, creativity, and self-expression. This course also includes an emphasis on hymnody as it pertains to the music of the Church.
MS Music Performance	MS Performance is a course that combines vocal and instrumental music study and performance. Students in this course will receive instruction in proper vocal/instrumental technique as well as exploring music theory, history, and ethnomusicology. This course is constructed to focus on God's design for music as a means of worship, communication, creativity, and self-expression.
MS Percussion	Middle School Percussion is a course designed to give students experience in the study and performance of music as it relates especially to percussion instruments. This course will include instruction in proper percussion technique, as well as exploring music theory, music history, and world music.
Art 6	TCA 6th grade students participating in Visual Art will experience an 18 week course designed to expose them to the elements of art using a variety of media. Lessons will include art history with a Biblical component. Skill lessons include drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.
MS Art	TCA middle school students participating in Visual Art will experience an 18 week course designed to build on the elements of art using a variety of media. Lessons will include art history with a Biblical component. Skill lessons include drawing, painting, printmaking and sculpture.
MS Theatre	Middle School Theatre is a semester long course focused on introducing students to the fundamentals of theatre on a middle school level with the intention of building on these basics should students decide to participate in HS Theatre. Students may take MS Theatre as both 7th and 8th grade students. The Tools of the Actor is the curriculum used to strengthen students as they grow and develop as actors. The three tools; mind, voice, and body will be focused on during alternate weeks during the semester. Students will learn how to improve creativity, voice control and projection, and movement and gesture through activities, exercises, and performance opportunities. Students will also be involved in preparing and presenting skits during middle-school chapel to further the message of Christ's Love and to illustrate Biblical Lessons to their peers. Opportunities to work on the Elementary Musical and the Upper-school Musical will be available, depending on the semester the student has the class. Students are assessed through participation, group and individual projects, and performance.
Miscellaneous	
Lion Prep	Lion Prep is a one semester course designed to help sixth graders make the transition from elementary school to middle school. Through this course, students will: define learning and discover various learning strategies, set learning goals and plans for meeting those goals, gain organizational skills, discover how God created the brain to learn, learn about the four personality types and how God creates each person with certain gifts that will help bring success in school and in relationships with others.