



# **JUNIOR HIGH COURSE CATALOG 2019-2020**

*Christian • Independent • Collegiate*

Junior High School is a time of transition that needs special care and understanding. While growth and change occurs at all ages, the changes around seventh and eighth grade are often more obvious and rapid. The time period during which Jesus was twelve and older is described as a time when He “kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.” The use of the mind, growing bodies, relationship with God, and relationships with people are key areas where we help students grow as we care for the whole child and help parents navigate this unique, often challenging time of life.

Two things are obviously different for Jesus after age twelve than they were between infancy and twelve. When he was little, He continued to grow, and the “grace of God was upon Him.” After twelve, He became the responsible party for growth in these areas instead of them being done for Him. The same need and opportunity are true today: junior high students need to increasingly be responsible for areas of their life, including schoolwork and relationships... not all at once, but progressively. In Junior High, we help students develop and enjoy this responsibility, allowing failure in safe ways; however, with always the intent to transition them to personal responsibility and to develop a mindset of growing and learning when things have not gone well.

The second area that is different in the description of Jesus as He grew is that after age twelve, the “social” category is added; it was not part of the description before twelve. This also fits the reality of junior high students today. Peers and other relationships become increasingly important and vital. However, these relationships are often challenging, as students are trying to understand themselves, their insecurities, and at times, mentally place other people as more important than parents and family. We help parents teach their junior high students how to handle relationships so that they are fostered correctly and help minimize the distraction to their learning.

There are other unique needs in helping junior high students learn. The Little Rock Christian Junior High School program is designed to provide an excellent foundation in academic work that is key to success in both high school and college preparation. It also addresses the needs of the growing adolescent both in and out of class through a variety of co-curricular opportunities ranging from chapels, advisory groups, social events, clubs, athletics, and seminars, which provide constant attention to the whole child. We are especially interested in helping junior high students discover and begin to develop their unique God-given gifts and abilities.

The academic program that follows is central to Little Rock Christian Academy’s plan for helping students grow. There is much more that lies outside of our academic program, but the academic program is foundational to a student’s continued preparation for high school, college, and life. It is the core component of our work as an excellent school. It is our desire to both challenge students and see them succeed, to push and support them as they learn and grow in academic pursuits.

We desire to partner with parents. We encourage direct and personal communication with faculty, sponsors, and coaches as we work together. Teachers genuinely care and love your junior high student and want the best for him/her. If a parent ever has a question or can provide insight to how his or her child can learn better, let us know, as we would love the opportunity to listen, pray, and think through issues together for the benefit of each student. Our team of student experts wants each student to learn well and to walk with Jesus. They are always available to help parents understand and work through this unique time of life.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

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### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Semester Exams**

7th grade students have semester exams at the end of each semester, both in December and May. The schedule is very similar to the high school exam schedule and is announced during the middle of each semester. Students do not attend regular classes on exam days, but rather come only to take the exams. Semester exams are given in mathematics, science, English, history, and Biblical worldview. These exams count as a test grade and are figured into the quarter grade.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Semester Exams**

8th grade students have semester exams at the end of each semester, both in December and May. The schedule is very similar to the high school exam schedule and is announced during the middle of each semester. Students do not attend regular classes on exam days, but rather, only come to take the exams. Semester exams are given in mathematics, science, English, history, Biblical worldview, and high school level foreign languages. The exam is worth 20% of the semester grade, and each quarter is worth 40%.

## Academic Probation

A student with two or more “Ds” (below 70%) at quarter or semester’s end will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will include a closer scrutiny of and accountability toward student achievement. LRCA desires to partner with families of students who struggle in academics. If a student is placed on academic probation, it is expected that parental involvement, along with Learner Services (if applicable) and/or other faculty resources be jointly used to help the struggling student achieve to the best of his/her ability. The administration may place students on individualized plans of action (contract) if necessary to help ensure progress. Progress will be monitored, and if, at the conclusion of a semester the student has not shown improvement, the administration will determine if dismissal will take place.

## SCHEDULES

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Junior High School uses a block schedule, as does the high school. In the schedule, there are “A” days and “B” days that alternate. Each class will be approximately 80 minutes in length, and “APP time” (which includes things like chapels, assemblies, advisory, seminars, and other special events) is approximately 30 minutes in length. Each student will have 8 classes in his or her schedule, 4 classes each day. Individual student schedules are available at a communicated date in August.

Most required classes meet all year for 7th and 8th grade. Some elective classes meet all year (athletic periods and some performing arts classes), and other elective classes meet for a semester. Some electives can be repeated the second semester. More information about scheduling for each grade level is found on the following pages.

### Schedule Change Request

Please be very careful about which classes are requested. While we attempt to accommodate needed changes up to two weeks into the semester, there are times when a change is not possible (for example, if a teacher was hired due to a number of requests for a class or if a change adversely affects a class, making it too small or too large). Please carefully read descriptions and talk with teachers before making requests. It is important to make good requests in case we cannot move a student into or out of a class.

After the two week drop/add time, students will not be allowed to change classes unless new and unforeseen factors develop that necessitate a change. All students requesting a change must complete a Schedule Change Request Form for consideration and obtain administrative approval. It is required that the parent and student communicate with the teacher of both the class to be added and the class to be dropped as part of the schedule change process.



# 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE SELECTION

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## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE SCHEDULE INFORMATION

**All seventh grade students have the following classes in their schedule:**

7th Grade Mathematics or 7th Grade Pre-Algebra (full year)

7th Grade Life Science (full year)

7th Grade English (full year)

7th Grade World History/Arkansas History (full year)

7th Grade Boys or Girls Biblical Worldview (full year)

7th Grade Strategies for Learning, Research and Writing (full year)

At least one semester of a Fine Art (a music, theatre or visual arts course). This requirement can be completed in 8th grade by request and approval.

7th Grade Physical Education (one semester); Athletic Period (full year); or Cheer, Cross Country, Track, or Wrestling which meet after school

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PERIODS

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It is required that all 7th grade students participate in at least one semester of a Physical Education class. Students participating in one of the 7th Grade Athletic Periods are not required to take the separate P.E. class. Additionally, students participating in Cheer, Track, Cross Country, or Wrestling receive a P.E. credit.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

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Seventh grade students may choose from a list of electives. Some of these electives (athletic periods and performing arts classes) meet both semesters. The other electives meet for one semester. It is possible to repeat some of the electives.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH PLACEMENT

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Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's growth according to factors such as God-given ability, maturity and readiness in reasoning and abstract ideas, motivation, and mathematics skills and knowledge. We know that students mature at different rates, and this is often the most important factor. When appropriately placed, students learn best. If placed in a class too difficult, he or she won't learn well and can become discouraged. If placed in a class that is too easy, he or she isn't challenged and given the opportunity to maximize individual gifts. We want to work with parents to find the best fit for each student.

Math placement in any given year does not lock a student on a "track" or control the subject choices. It is not unusual to switch a student to a different mathematics course if another serves him/her better. Because of the sequential nature of math, we gather input from several sources in recommending which math class is best for a particular student. We consider the student's previous mathematics grade, overall academic maturation, standardized test scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation, and parent/student request. The learning experience is optimized when students are appropriately placed, and we do our best to ensure this. We encourage parents to speak with the math teacher if there are any questions or concerns about which is the appropriate course.

In seventh grade, students are typically placed in either Seventh Grade Mathematics or Pre-algebra. There is considerable duplication of coverage in the courses. The difference is more about speed, ease of learning, and extended application of concepts, not basic coverage.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

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### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Mathematics (full year)

This course covers an overview of mathematics, including operations with fractions, decimals, and integers; coordinate plane; ratio and proportion; applying percents; data analysis and probability; and geometry with two and three-dimensional figures. Finally, students prepare for Pre-Algebra with introduction to patterns and algebraic reasoning, by way of solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities. Most students take this course. Choose this or Pre-Algebra.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra (full year)

This advanced course prepares students to take Honors Algebra I in 8th grade. In addition to reviewing concepts covered in seventh grade math, topics include simplifying and factoring algebraic expressions using mathematical properties; solving and graphing linear, multi-step equations and inequalities; multiplying and dividing monomials; applying squares and square roots to triangles; and solving real-life word problems using equations. Fewer students take this course. Students must have an 87% average in 7th Grade Pre-Algebra to continue to Pre-AP Algebra I in 8th grade. Choose this or 7th Grade Mathematics.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Life Science (full year)

Seventh Grade Life Science is an adventure that begins with the characteristics of all things living. An in-depth study of cells and cell processes follows. This prepares us for a study on heredity, including genetics. A tour of the human body comes next as we learn about the basic anatomy and physiology of the eight major organ systems. Life Science would not be complete without a look at the world of plants. The year ends with a study of birds and mammals.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade English (full year)

In this course, students grow in literacy, writing, speaking, and listening skills. Emphasis is placed on reading for meaning, increasing in words read per minute, learning new vocabulary, and distinguishing figurative language from literal. *Vocabulary from Classical Roots Book A* assists students in vocabulary acquisition. Texts include *The Hiding Place*, *The Anne Frank House Authorized Graphic Biography*, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*; as well as a variety of short stories, poems, short plays, informational articles, and essays. Each semester students complete an independent reading assignment on a book chosen from an approved list. In the analysis of text, students practice annotation skills. Grammar concepts include learning the parts of speech in greater depth and identifying and using dependent and independent clauses. Students practice writing in a variety of analytical and creative assignments with the goal of understanding the important components of the writing process and applying them consistently. The summer assignment will be on *The Outsiders* and will be released in May.

**Course Fee:** paperback texts and vocabulary workbook

### Strategies for Learning, Research and Writing (full year)

This course will assist students in their transition to upper grades by teaching and practicing core skills used in all disciplines by students who are academically successful.

First quarter will concentrate on skillfully using Chromebooks, student email accounts and Schoology; learning how to organize materials and time both inside and outside of school; and learning about personal strengths and weaknesses related to learning.

Second quarter will focus on personal ownership of learning. Students will become resourceful and reflective as they practice reading for meaning; digesting information in the classroom and independently on their own time; organizing information for assessments; and using memory and test-taking strategies.

Third quarter will be devoted to developing research skills using hard copy and online sources. Students will learn about advanced search features, distinguishing varied types of sources, and practice evaluating bias and credibility. They will also focus on how to properly cite sources and work on paraphrasing and summarizing skills, learning how to avoid plagiarism.

Fourth quarter students will apply their knowledge and critical thinking skills by researching and writing and presenting their findings to the class. They will spend extended time on thesis development, paragraph formation, organizing information, and using transitions to produce a meaningful, well-written composition.

Students will be asked to apply what they are learning in this course to all of their courses. The 7th Grade Team of teachers will integrate these skills into their own courses so they become habit for our students and assist them in present and future academic success.

### **7th Grade World History & Geography (full year)**

As students gain greater knowledge of history, we continue to challenge them to view what they learn in the light of God's orchestration of events in bringing about His purposes.

Seventh Grade World History is the continuation of sixth grade World History, presented chronologically. We survey the world focusing on Asia, North America, and Europe from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Topics for the year include the following: later Chinese Dynasties, Japan, Cultures of South & Southwest Asia, Early Americas, Europe in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, Enlightenment & Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Imperialism, Nationalism, World War I, and World War II.

Class assignments include reading, note-taking, Harkness discussions, creation of timelines, and map identifications. Additionally, students will be asked to apply their knowledge of history to write creative journal entries and letters, write and present poems and songs, perform skits, write and debate arguments, and more.

### **7th Grade Boys Biblical Worldview (full year)**

The purpose of Biblical Worldview is to partner with families and churches to train up students, challenging them to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith and a life that passionately follows Christ. In 7th Grade BWV, students are challenged to a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ in their present time of life. Students closely examine Jesus' life as we walk through the narrative of the Gospel of Luke, learning who Jesus is as we study fulfilled prophecy and learn from his teaching and his life. Character study and self-examination are integral components to our approach. Because 7th BWV classes are separated by gender, we have the unique opportunity to focus on things that are important to students of this age. Our goal is to approach life issues by providing Biblical insight and understanding. Thematic units include identity, forgiveness, generosity, stewardship, servant leadership, love and care for others, healthy relationships, purity, and the importance of practicing the spiritual disciplines.

Selected chapters and excerpts from the following books and film are used to enhance these units: *Not Even a Hint* by Joshua Harris; *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges; *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney; *More Than a Carpenter* by Josh and Sean McDowell; *Improving Your Serve* by Chuck Swindoll; and *As We Forgive* (film).

### **7th Grade Girls Biblical Worldview (full year)**

The purpose of Biblical Worldview is to partner with families and churches to train up students, challenging them to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith and a life that passionately follows Christ. In 7th Grade BWV, students are challenged to a deeper understanding of what it means to follow Christ in their present time of life. Students closely examine Jesus' life as we walk through the narrative of the Gospel of Luke, learning who Jesus is as we study fulfilled prophecy, learn from his teaching and his life. Character study and self-examination are integral components to our approach. Because 7th BWV classes are separated by gender, we have the unique opportunity to focus on things that are important to students of this age. Our goal is to approach life issues by providing Biblical insight and understanding. Thematic units include identity, forgiveness, generosity, stewardship, servant leadership, love and care for others, healthy relationships, purity, and the importance of practicing the spiritual disciplines.

Selected chapters and excerpts from the following texts and film are used to enhance these units: *Lies Young Women Believe* by DeMoss & Gresh; *Respectable Sins* by Jerry Bridges; *Spiritual Disciplines for the Christian Life* by Donald S. Whitney; *Improving Your Serve* by Chuck Swindoll; and *As We Forgive* (film).

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS

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### Physical Education (1 or 2 semesters)

Physical education incorporates the body, mind, and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students are encouraged to respect and reflect the God-given worth of human life; pursue excellence in life-long fitness and lifetime activities; and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students are engaged in a variety of lifetime activities: general fitness, basketball, volleyball, speedball, flag football, and soccer. Students also take part in the Presidential Fitness Program. Students are assessed in mile run, shuttle run, pull-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility. Student assessment is completed through participation, written tests, and skills tests. Students exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the importance of physical activity in overall health. Students in 7th and 8th grade are required to dress out for each class period in a grey t-shirt, blue gym shorts, and athletic shoes. The students change in the locker room in the gym. Choose this, Athletics, Cheer, Track, Cross Country, or Wrestling. Cheer, Track, Cross Country, and Wrestling meet after school.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Male Athletics (full year)

Boys playing basketball or football in the 7th grade must request 7th Grade Male Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day. Additional practice times outside of class are determined by the athletic department. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During off season, students participate in off-season cardio and strength training activities. Parents or students with questions regarding participation in 7th grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest for more information. Choose this or Physical Education.

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Female Athletics (full year)

Girls playing volleyball or basketball in the 7th grade must request 7th Grade Female Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day. Additional practice times outside of class are determined by the athletic department. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During off season, students participate in off-season cardio and strength training activities. Parents or students with questions regarding participation in 7th grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest for more information. Choose this or Physical Education.

## 7<sup>th</sup> GRADE FINE ARTS

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### Junior High Art I: Drawing (1 semester)

In this introductory course, students improve drawing skills. Based upon the concepts of the book by Betty Edwards, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, students learn to use "right brain mode" thinking, concentrate on lines, and compare spatial relationships. Students experience a variety of media including drawing pencils, charcoal pencils, watercolor pencils, chalk pastels, colored pencils, and oil pastels. They also continue to develop understanding of the elements of art and principles of design to build their confidence. Through this course, the instructor charges students to explore God's creation as they examine the nature of what is beautiful in relationship to visual arts. Strongly encouraged if interested in HS Studio I option in Grade 8.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$10

### Junior High Art II: Painting (1 semester)

This semester course builds on the concepts of Junior High Art I and introduces students to painting concepts and techniques at the Junior High level. This class is open to students in Grades 7 or 8 who have completed Junior High Art I: Drawing. This course increases students' confidence to prepare them for the high school's art courses. This course emphasizes the use of various types of paint, further develops students' understanding of the elements of art and principles of design, examines color theory, and explores famous artists and styles of painting. Through this course, we will observe God's beautiful creation and design. Strongly encouraged if interested in HS Studio I option in Grade 8.

**Prerequisite:** Junior High Art I: Drawing

**Course Fee:** \$30

### **Junior High Digital Arts (1 semester)**

In this exploratory course, students learn the elements and principles of design, as well as foundational concepts of visual communication. While surveying a variety of digital media and art, students use image editing, animation, and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles they learn. Students explore career opportunities in the design, production, display, and presentation of digital artwork. They respond to the artwork of others and learn how to combine artistic elements to create finished pieces that effectively communicate their ideas.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$25

### **Intermediate Band (full year)**

Intermediate Band is designed for students with 1-2 years of experience, generally students entering the 7th grade. The Intermediate Band participates in approximately 2-3 performances a quarter, including pep rallies, concerts, and competitions. The Intermediate Band provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region.

**Prerequisite:** One or more years of experience with an instrument and/or permission from the director.

**Course Fee:** \$100

### **Intermediate Strings (full year)**

Intermediate Strings is designed for students with 1-2 years of experience, generally students entering the 7th grade. Intermediate Strings participates in approximately 2-3 performances a quarter, including honor ensembles, concerts, and competitions. Intermediate Strings provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region.

**Prerequisite:** One or more years of experience with an instrument and/or permission from the director.

**Course Fee:** \$100

### **Legacy Choir – Girls (1 or 2 semesters)**

Legacy Choir is a performing ensemble open to all girls in the 6th-8th grades. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in their leadership within their section. Students will discover a safe place to overcome singing anxiety and learn to hone their gifts with a great degree of proficiency and excellence. Legacy Choir will give approximately 3 performances a semester and participates in a Fall Retreat and a Spring competition. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities such as All-Region Choir auditions.

**\*\*Offered in:** One semester (Fall only) OR two semesters (Fall and Spring)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20

### **Encore Choir – Boys (1 or 2 semesters)**

Encore Choir is a performing ensemble open to all boys in the 6th-8th grades. This group seeks to be a strong brotherhood of men who are committed to building one another up and to excellence in the pursuit of a strong and unified sound. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in their leadership within their section. Encore Choir will give approximately 3 performances a semester and participates in a Fall Retreat and a Spring competition. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities such as All-Region Choir auditions.

**\*\*Offered in:** One semester (Fall only) OR two semesters (Fall and Spring)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20



### **Junior High Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Theatre offers students an opportunity to learn about a variety of elements related to acting and the theatre. Students study acting and design and also learn to look at plays critically. Some of the activities include writing and performing original pieces, learning monologues, and basic set design. Junior High Theatre provides a great place for students to learn new things, discover unknown elements of their personalities, and hone skills and abilities related to this field. It is also a place where students can work on overcoming shyness and gain confidence as they learn to interact and encourage others by studying and performing in a variety of genres. Students are required to attend the LRCA high school productions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** None

### **Junior High Technical Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Technical Theatre offers students the opportunity to learn all things theatre that go on behind the scenes. Students will study a variety of technical aspects from lighting and sound to set design and costuming. Junior High Technical Theatre is a great place for students to learn new things, discover new technology, as well as hone skills related to this field. It is also a great way to gain experience that can be used in our school's major productions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20

## **7<sup>th</sup> GRADE: OTHER ELECTIVES**

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### **STEM: Robotics Design Engineering (1 semester, Fall Only)**

As our world becomes more and more automated, experience with robotics is an asset to any student. Hands-on learning engages students, sparks creativity, and helps in the development of critical thinking skills. LEGO®MINDSTORMS® Education EV3 is a hands-on, STEM robotics course that engages students by providing the resources to design, build and program with block-based coding. Working with robotics and coding hands-on will motivate students to plan, predict, test, problem-solve, analyze, and explore, all while deepening their STEM learning and developing career-readiness skills. Students who wish to explore robotics design and engineering further are suggested to join our Junior High Robotics Club.

### **STEM: Science of Technology (1 semester, Spring Only)**

Science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. In this unit, students discover the properties and applications of nanotechnology. Students learn the basics of Chemistry and apply these to make ice cream. Students design and construct a toothpick bridge, a marble roller coaster, a Rube Goldberg machine, and a CO<sub>2</sub> race car; all while learning and applying concepts of Physics.

### **Study Hall (1 or 2 semesters)**

Students are allowed to request up to one study hall per semester. Requests are made on the Course Selection Form.

# Helpful Information for 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection

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## **Physical Education, Athletic Periods, and Fine Arts**

- At least one semester of Physical Education is required in 7th grade.
  - If signing up for athletics, remember it spans an entire year.
  - At least one semester of a fine art is required in junior high.

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade electives that meet for both semesters (full year)**

7th Female Athletics

7th Male Athletics

7th Intermediate Band

7th Intermediate Strings

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade electives that meet for one semester**

Junior High Art I: Drawing

Junior High Art II: Painting

Junior High Digital Arts

\*Legacy Choir - Girls

\*Encore - Boys

Junior High Theatre

Junior High Technical Theatre

STEM: Robotics Design Engineering

STEM: Science of Technology

\*Physical Education

\*Study Hall

**\*You may sign up for both semesters**

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE COURSE SELECTION

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All eighth grade students have the following core classes in their schedule:

8th Grade Pre-Algebra or 8th Grade Pre-AP Algebra I or Pre-AP Geometry (full year)

8th Grade Earth Science (full year)

8th Grade English (full year)

8th Grade American History (full year)

8th Grade Biblical Worldview (full year)

8th Grade Physical Education (one semester); Athletic Period (full year); or Cheer, Cross Country, Track, or Wrestling which meet after school

At least one semester of a music, theatre, or visual art class if not completed in 7th grade.

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PERIODS

It is required that all 8th grade students participate in at least one semester of a Physical Education class. Students participating in one of the 8th Grade Athletic Periods are not required to take the separate P.E. class. Additionally, students participating in Cheer, Track, Cross Country, or Wrestling receive a P.E. credit.

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE ELECTIVES

Eighth grade students may choose from a variety of electives. Some of these electives (athletic periods and some performing arts classes) meet both semesters. Other electives meet for one semester. It is possible to repeat some of the electives.

### 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE MATH PLACEMENT

Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's growth according to factors such as God-given ability, maturity and readiness in reasoning and abstract ideas, motivation, and mathematics skills and knowledge. We know that students mature at different rates, and this is often the most important factor. When appropriately placed, students learn best. If placed in a class too difficult, he or she won't learn well and can become discouraged. If placed in a class that is too easy, he or she isn't challenged and given the opportunity to maximize individual gifts. We want to work with parents to find the best fit for each student.

Math placement in any given year does not lock a student on a "track" or control the subject choices. It is not unusual to switch a student to a different mathematics course if another serves him/her better. Because of the sequential nature of math, we gather input from several sources in recommending which math class is best for a particular student. We consider the student's previous mathematics grade, overall academic maturation, standardized test scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation, and parent/student request. The learning experience is optimized when students are appropriately placed, and we do our best to ensure this. We encourage parents to speak with the math teacher if there are any questions or concerns about which is the appropriate course.

In eighth grade, students are normally placed in either 8th Grade Pre-Algebra or Pre-AP Algebra I. Students who increase in maturity and math development in later years and wish to advance, may do so by doubling in Geometry and Pre-AP Algebra II in the high school years (9th or 10th grade). This would lead to being eligible for Pre-AP Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus courses. We encourage parents to read through the sequencing portion of the Mathematics section of the High School Academic Handbook for more information.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

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### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra (full year)

Pre-Algebra is a course designed for junior high students. The objective of this course is to better prepare the student for the study of algebra. Pre-algebra includes several broad subjects such as the review of rational number operations, factoring, properties, exponents, variables, and basic equations. Pre-Algebra also includes concepts from geometry that further the understanding of algebra, such as area, volume, and perimeter. Most students take this course. Sign up for this or Algebra I.

### Pre-AP Algebra I (full year; 1 High School credit)

**Prerequisites:** Completion of Pre-Algebra with an 87% average or higher and teacher recommendation.

This course is designed to introduce the symbolism and concepts of Algebra and applications to problem-solving. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, an introduction to functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, solving and graphing quadratic equations, and simplifying rational and radical expressions. This course counts as a high school credit and will appear on the high school transcript. Fewer students take this course.

### Pre-AP Geometry (full year; 1 High School credit)

**Prerequisites:** 90% or above in Pre-AP Algebra I and teacher recommendation. Standardized test scores are also a consideration for enrollment.

This course covers an in-depth study of the concepts of Geometry, including the study of points, lines, planes and angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent and similar triangles and other polygons, circles, and the area and perimeter of geometric figures. Students are introduced to deductive reasoning with an emphasis on proficiency in the use of formal proofs.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Earth Science (full year)

Eighth Grade Earth Science uses an inquiry-based approach to help students learn the concepts and processes of Earth, with a strong emphasis placed on the ways and means of doing science. There are four broad areas: geology- the processes, properties, and composition of the solid Earth; meteorology- the water cycle and weather systems; oceanography- the composition and properties of the Earth's ocean and how they affect the earth; and astronomy- all physical objects beyond Earth. Eighth Grade Earth Science invites students to explore and appreciate God's creation, while developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become good stewards of the planet which He has entrusted to our care.

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade English (full year)

In this course, students grow in literacy, writing, speaking, and listening. They learn to analyze literature through textual annotation and by applying literary terms in discussions and compositions. For informational texts, the focus is on identifying the author's claim and analyzing type of support used. Learning to identify and employ ethos, pathos, and logos provides a focal point in both the understanding and generating of texts. The research and writing component for this course bridges the foundation laid in seventh grade and prepares students for the 9th grade research project. *Vocabulary from Classical Roots Book B* assists in vocabulary acquisition and usage, while grammar emphasis includes sentence diagramming to reinforce parts of speech, complex sentence structure, complex verb recognition, punctuation, and verbals. Major works include *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Christmas Carol*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and one additional text TBD. A variety of poems, essays, and short stories are also studied. The summer assignment will be on *The Giver* and will be released in May.

**Course Fee:** Paperback texts. More details to follow in the Spring.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade American History (full year)**

In Eighth Grade American History, students learn about the making of the United States, beginning with the migration across Beringia from Asia to America and ending with the emergence of the United States as a world power at the start of the 20th century. Students exercise critical thinking skills and learn to think like historians as they analyze and interpret primary sources like old diaries, letters, paintings, and memoirs. Students are challenged to search for God's purpose in historical events so they may know Him better and learn important lessons from the past.

*\*\*For the 2020-21 school year, the name of this course changes to 8th Grade American and Arkansas History.*

### **8<sup>th</sup> Biblical Worldview (full year)**

Eighth Grade Biblical Worldview is designed to help students continue growing in wisdom and in understanding and to encourage them to affirm a life characterized by living out Christianity. As such, it provides an appropriate transition to the increased independent thinking that will characterize future BWV studies. As students work through the book of Acts, they examine the early church and also see the sacrifice displayed by the apostles, focusing on Paul. This study is coupled with a Missionaries and Martyrs unit, in which they learn about other figures in ancient and contemporary history, appreciating the diverse tapestry God weaves as He fulfills His purpose through His people, the Church. Students learn about wisdom literature and parables as genres of literature in the Bible and are challenged to apply wisdom and discernment as they face the challenges of everyday life. This study is deepened as they learn about the role of the Holy Spirit and prayer in the life of a believer, emphasizing God's sovereign care as He leads and equips in the struggle against the ungodly forces and influences of this world. Students also examine the book *Do Hard Things* by Alex and Brett Harris, which challenges adolescents to re-think their teen years, to step out of their comfort zones, and do big things for the glory of Jesus Christ. We end the year with a seminar in which guest speakers help the students prepare for their transition into high school by sharing information and advice about readying themselves intellectually, socially, and most importantly, spiritually.

## **8<sup>th</sup> GRADE PHYSICAL EDUCATION/ATHLETICS**

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### **Physical Education (1 semester or both)**

Physical education incorporates the body, mind, and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students are encouraged to respect and reflect the God-given worth of human life; pursue excellence in lifelong fitness and lifetime activities; and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students are engaged in a variety of lifetime activities: general fitness, basketball, volleyball, speedball, flag football, and soccer. Students also take part in the Presidential Fitness Program. Students are assessed in mile run, shuttle run, pull-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility. Student assessment is completed through participation, written tests, and skills tests. They serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the importance of activity in overall health. Students in 7th and 8th grade are required to dress out for each class period in a grey t-shirt, blue gym shorts, and athletic shoes. The students change in the locker room in the gym. Sign up for this, Athletics, Cheer, Track, Cross Country, or Wrestling. Cheer, Track, Cross Country, and Wrestling meet after school.

### **Junior High Male Athletics (full year)**

Boys playing basketball or football in the 8th grade must request Junior High Male Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day at the same time as the 9th grade Athletics. Additional practice times outside of class are determined by the athletic department. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During the off season, students participate in off-season cardio and strength training activities. Parents or students with questions regarding participation in 8th grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest for more information. Sign up for this or Physical Education.

### **Junior High Female Athletics (full year)**

Girls playing volleyball or basketball in the 8th grade must request Junior High Female Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day. Additional practice times outside of class are determined by the athletic department. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During the off season, students participate in off-season cardio and strength training activities. Parents or students with questions regarding participation in 8th grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest for more information. Sign up for this or Physical Education.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE WORLD LANGUAGE

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### **Honors French I (full year, 1 High School credit)**

**Prerequisite:** Acceptance based on approval of department application

In this course, students acquire the ability to understand basic spoken and written French and begin communicating orally and in writing. They will obtain a diverse vocabulary and build a foundation of simple grammatical structures. Units of vocabulary include time, colors, family, food, locations, and expression of feeling. Students will also develop an understanding of and appreciation for French culture through research and engagement.

Honors French I is a high school course. The successful student will be mature in academic organization and will be self-motivated with a love of language. Students taking Honors French I in the 8th grade should have the goal of taking through at least level III of French during the high school years. LRCA graduation requirements stipulate two years of world language must be completed in grades 9-12.

**Course Fee:** A nominal fee may be charged for a paperback reader.

### **Honors Spanish I (full year, 1 High School credit)**

**Prerequisite:** Acceptance based on approval of department application

Spanish I is a beginning course in Spanish language and culture. It introduces students to the language and develops their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish. A variety of methods and activities are used in order to enhance both language acquisition and understanding of Hispanic cultures. Throughout the course, students engage in simple conversations within the limitations of their knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure. Themes in this course revolve around students and their immediate world; including their interests, likes and dislikes, school life, family, and friends. As part of the cultural component of the course, students discuss some of the practices, products, and perspectives of the diverse Spanish-speaking population.

Honors Spanish I is a high school course. The successful student will be mature in academic organization and will be self-motivated with a love of language. Students taking Honors Spanish I in the 8th grade should have the goal of taking through at least level III of Spanish during the high school years. LRCA graduation requirements stipulate two years of world language must be completed in grades 9-12.

**Course Fee:** A nominal fee may be charged for a paperback reader.

## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE FINE ARTS

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### **Junior High Art I: Drawing (1 semester)**

In this introductory course, students improve drawing skills. Based upon the concepts of the book by Betty Edwards, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, students learn to use "right brain mode" thinking, concentrate on lines, and compare spatial relationships. Students experience a variety of media including drawing pencils, charcoal pencils, watercolor pencils, chalk pastels, colored pencils, and oil pastels. They also continue to develop understanding of the elements of art and principles of design to build their confidence. Through this course, the instructor charges students to explore God's creation as they examine the nature of what is beautiful in relationship to visual arts.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$10

### **Junior High Art II: Painting (1 semester)**

This semester course builds on the concepts of Junior High Art I and introduces students to painting concepts and techniques at the Junior High level. This class is open to students in Grades 7 or 8 who have completed Junior High Art I: Drawing. This course increases students' confidence to prepare them for the high school's art courses. This course emphasizes the use of various types of paint, further develops students' understanding of the elements of art and principles of design, examines color theory, and explores famous artists and styles of painting. Through this course, we will observe God's beautiful creation and design.

**Prerequisite:** Junior High Art I: Drawing

**Course Fee:** \$30

### **Junior High Digital Arts (1 semester)**

In this exploratory course, students learn the elements and principles of design, as well as foundational concepts of visual communication. While surveying a variety of digital media and art, students use image editing, animation, and digital drawing to put into practice the art principles they learn. Students explore career opportunities in the design, production, display, and presentation of digital artwork. They respond to the artwork of others and learn how to combine artistic elements to create finished pieces that effectively communicate their ideas.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$25

### **Studio Art 1 (2 semesters; 1 High School Fine Arts Credit)**

This course is a year-long survey of studio art open to students in the 8th grade who have excelled in junior high art courses. Students entering this course should already be familiar in the language of art: the elements of art and the principles of design. The instructor exposes students to wet, dry, mixed, and sculptural mediums. Students explore the contemporary artists as an extension of learning the various media and techniques. Students expand their knowledge of composition, artist expression, and aesthetics congruent with Biblical worldview.

**Prerequisite:** Invitation/Application

**Course Fee:** \$30

### **Junior High Photography (1 semester)**

While most people have a camera in their pocket these days, most of them take photos without proper understanding of how they should be taken. Students will be taught a sensitivity to graphic form and a fresh approach to design that becomes more thoughtful, personal and playful as they gain understanding of photography. The students will spend the semester making creative connections between the art form of photography and their own lives. When working on photographic assignments, students will be taught how to respond emotionally and learn how to solve technical problems. They will be asked to think critically about subject matter and make choices when shooting, editing, and printing.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Required Equipment:** DSLR camera. No point and shoot cameras or cellphones will be allowed.

### **High School Band (2 semesters—Full Year Course; 1 High School Fine Arts Credit)**

The Marching Warriors/LRCA Concert Band is a high school performance group that participates in ASBOA and AAA activities, presents concerts in the fall and spring, and plays for high school sporting events. Students are encouraged to audition for All-Region Band and other honors. Students enrolled in the band and wind symphony take a performance/mission-based trip each year. Students must participate in marching band and concert band to enroll in the class.

**Prerequisite:** Two years or more playing experience with an instrument and/or permission from the director.

**Course Fee:** \$150 plus Uniform Fee of \$25-100 (varies)

### **High School Orchestra (2 semesters—Full Year Course; 1 High School Fine Arts Credit)**

The LRCA String Orchestra is a high school performance group that participates in ASBOA and AAA activities, presents concerts in the fall and spring, and plays for various school events. This course has a greater focus on music as worship than high school band. Students enrolled in this class are encouraged to audition for All-Region Orchestra and for other honors.

**Prerequisite:** Two years or more playing with an instrument and/or permission from the director.

**Course Fee:** \$150 plus Concert Attire approximately \$100 if not already purchased.

**Legacy Choir – Girls (1 or 2 semesters)**

Legacy Choir is a performing ensemble open to all girls in the 6th-8th grades. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in their leadership within their section. Students will discover a safe place to overcome singing anxiety and learn to hone their gifts with a great degree of proficiency and excellence. Legacy Choir will give approximately 3 performances a semester and participates in a Fall Retreat and a Spring competition. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities such All-Region Choir auditions.

**\*\*Offered in:** One semester (Fall only) OR two semesters (Fall and Spring)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20

**Encore Choir – Boys (1 or 2 semesters)**

Encore Choir is a performing ensemble open to all boys in the 6th-8th grades. This group seeks to be a strong brotherhood of men who are committed to building one another up and to excellence in the pursuit of a strong and unified sound. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in their leadership within their section. Encore Choir will give approximately 3 performances a semester and participates in a Fall Retreat and a Spring competition. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities such All-Region Choir auditions.

**\*\*Offered in:** One semester (Fall only) OR two semesters (Fall and Spring)

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20

**Junior High Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Theatre offers students an opportunity to learn about a variety of elements related to acting and the theatre. Students study acting and design and also learn to look at plays critically. Some of the activities include writing and performing original pieces, learning monologues, and basic set design. Junior High Theatre provides a great place for students to learn new things, discover unknown elements of their personalities, and hone skills and abilities related to this field. It is also a place where students can work on overcoming shyness and gain confidence as they learn to interact and encourage others by studying and performing in a variety of genres. Students are required to attend the LRCA high school productions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** None

**Junior High Technical Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Technical Theatre offers students the opportunity to learn all things theatre that go on behind the scenes. Students will study a variety of technical aspects from lighting and sound to set design and costuming. Junior High Technical Theatre is a great place for students to learn new things, discover new technology, as well as hone skills related to this field. It is also a great way to gain experience that can be used in our school's major productions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$20



## 8<sup>th</sup> GRADE: OTHER ELECTIVES

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### **STEM: Medical Detectives (1 semester, Fall Only)**

Students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose disease. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction.

### **STEM: Flight & Space (1 semester, Spring Only)**

The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through Flight and Space. Students discover how convection currents and wind influence things like kites and hot air balloons. Students explore the science behind aeronautics, such as the forces of flight and Bernoulli's Principle, and use their knowledge to design, build, and test different types of "rocket fuel" and balsa design, as well as, construct paper air-powered rockets, water rockets, Mars mini-rovers, and a hovercraft.

### **Service (1 or 2 semesters)**

The purpose of Service is for students to learn what Biblical service looks like through hands-on experience. First, students learn about service, identifying individual strengths and interests and understanding expectations that come with this unique course. Students are placed where the need is greatest and where the teacher believes the student is best suited. Student input will be considered in the placement process, but the final decision will be up to the service teacher. Placement will be on campus, and students will report to a selected LRCA staff member: teacher, librarian, office manager, playground teacher, facility manager, coach, administrator, etc. An expectations contract will be signed by both the parent and the student before placement in a service position. This semester elective may be taken both semesters.

**Prerequisite:** Application and teacher recommendation

**Course Fee:** None

### **Critical Analysis and Debate (1 semester)**

In this course, students examine the way they think, gather, and evaluate information. Students then create arguments based on textual evidence. They explore the topics of critical thinking, media, bias, and logical argument formation. Furthermore, students examine the basics of debate and practice these skills in class with each other in controlled situations. The course heavily favors student-focused discussion and in-class projects.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** None

# Helpful Information for 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Course Selection

## Physical Education, Athletic Periods, and Fine Arts

- At least one semester of Physical Education is required in 8th grade.
- If signing up for athletics, remember it spans an entire year.
- At least one semester of a fine art is required in junior high.

## High School Courses

The courses listed below are available to qualified 8th grade students who have met the required prerequisites and have teacher recommendation. The grades and credit for these courses will appear on the high school transcript. Please note the following regarding high school graduation requirements in math and world language:

Math	4 units, minimum of 1 unit per year (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II required)
World Language	2 years (consecutive years in the same language taken in grades 9-12)

### High School Courses Available to 8th graders

Pre-AP Algebra I  
Pre-AP Geometry  
Honors Spanish I  
Honors French I

### 8th Grade electives that meet for both semesters (full year)

8th Female Athletics  
8th Male Athletics  
High School Band  
High School Orchestra  
Honors French I (High School Course)  
Honors Spanish I (High School Course)  
Studio Art I

### 8th Grade electives that meet for one semester

Junior High Art I: Drawing  
Junior High Art II: Painting  
Junior High Digital Arts  
Junior High Photography  
\*Legacy Choir – Girls  
\*Encore Choir - Boys  
Junior High Theatre  
Junior High Technical Theatre  
STEM: Medical Detectives  
STEM: Flight and Space  
Critical Analysis and Debate  
\*Service  
\*Study Hall  
\*Physical Education

**\*You may sign up for both semesters**