



METROLINA

CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

2020-2021

PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

At Metrolina Christian Academy, we are committed to our mission to “**lovingly lead and equip students for Kingdom living.**” In keeping with that mission, we seek to lead our students to personally own their faith and to not only possess but live out a Biblical worldview. It is our belief that we should seek to develop a detailed portrait of what a graduate of Metrolina Christian Academy should look like.

The administration and staff of Metrolina Christian Academy have prayed, sought God, and planned meticulously in the development of this portrait. We have used Luke 2:52 as a guidepost for developing this plan. This verse of scripture describes the maturation of Jesus as a young man in four areas. The Bible says in this verse that Jesus grew in **wisdom, stature, favor with God, and favor with man.** We seek to follow this model in developing our students.

From this approach, we prayerfully commit to leading our graduates to be true Warriors for Christ who will possess:

Worldview that is Christ-centered and biblically based

Academic foundation that prepares them for God’s open door at the next stage of life

Redemption that is biblically based and personal

Responsibility that is guided by Scripture and encompasses the individual, culture, and evangelism

Integrity that influences all of life’s decisions

Ownership of the Faith that is personal and transformational

Readiness to engage culture, proclaim the Gospel, and live life to the Glory of God

BIBLE COURSE PHILOSOPHY

The Bible curriculum at MCA aligns and supports our Mission, Vision, and Purpose to lovingly lead and equip students for Kingdom living. This is accomplished as MCA graduates are equipped with a Biblical worldview based upon established spiritual disciplines, sound academic thinking, and appropriate skill development. Articulation of a Biblical worldview solidifies the truth; therefore, an immersion of speech and communication arts will be woven into the curriculum. The Biblical worldview at MCA will be based on the principles and resources of:

- An intellectual defense for the truth.
- Biblically-minded administrators, faculty, and staff.
- Applications and implications of truth.
- Biblical saturation in every discipline, classroom, extra-curricular, and school activity.
- The need for ethics and apologetics to address contemporary cultural issues.
- Chapel programs with experts in the field of evangelism, apologetics, Biblical worldview, and discipleship.
- Spiritual retreats in grades 8, 9, and 12 which remove the students from daily responsibilities and distractions to provide intentional and intensive Bible study and corporate worship.
- Expository and persuasive speeches presented in Bible classes which are developmentally appropriate and measured according to a clearly defined rubric.
- Service opportunities through the MCA Project Serve Program and missions trips where students apply the principles of truth through practical service and evangelism.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - BIBLE

The resources chosen to implement worldview and apologetics instruction are:

- Kindergarten through fifth grade will study *Answers in Genesis*. This curriculum is apologetics based and developmentally appropriate for the elementary learner. It delves into issues regarding the Bible, God, and sin in a manner where children can defend their faith against a fallen world. The course highlights the unique collection of question-answer books from Ken Ham and the creative team at Answers in Genesis to help students focus on Scripture memorization and faith-building truth.
- Sixth graders will use *Running the Race* from *Positive Action for Christ*. This is a character development focused curriculum which will be supplemented with the *Answers in Genesis* apologetics text for 6th grade. Students will articulate their faith through quarterly speeches utilizing visual aids and a variety of presentation styles throughout middle school.
- Seventh grade will use *Route 66* from *Positive Action for Christ*. This curriculum provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God. As students' journey through this survey, they will discover the truths and applications that God has provided in each book of the Bible. The 7th grade Bible course will be supplemented with leadership focused modules to enhance their worldview.
- Eighth grade will build foundational knowledge of anchor books of both the Old and New Testament to prepare students for Old Testament and New Testament survey courses in high school. This course will also include *The Secret Battle of Ideas About God* from Summitt Ministries as an apologetics tool for teaching students the foundation of defending their faith.
- Ninth grade Bible classes experience a survey of the New Testament and the 10th grade Bible classes experience a survey of the Old Testament both using a Master Teacher format. This format allows a master teacher in the scripture to teach in the large group setting balanced with small group reflection. An immersion of apologetics and worldview instruction is woven throughout the lectures and discussions.
- Eleventh and twelfth grade students choose between an array of intense Bible courses all taught in the semester format. They will choose a total of four semester courses which analyze specific scriptural text and biblical disciplines. These offerings include yet are not limited to – Acts and the First Church, Discipleship, Finding God's Purpose, Eschatology, Tactics of Evangelism, Worldview and Apologetics, World Religions and a Defense for Truth, and Biblical Leadership.

6TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts

Students will learn to appreciate God's precious gift of language through literature, vocabulary, grammar and composition. Students will read and respond to a variety of texts through the lens of a Biblical worldview. Students will be exposed to multiple genres and writing styles in order to facilitate a high level of critical thinking. Students will be expected to both understand the message an author seeks to convey and to interact with texts on an inferential level.

Resources: *Easy Grammar Grade 6* by Wanda C. Phillips, EdD., Easy Grammar Systems., 2006; *Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop* by Jerome Shostak, William H. Sadlier, Inc. 2013; Various novels, short stories, and poems

Math

Students will gain a deeper knowledge of God as they explore the mathematical patterns in His creation. Students will explore and master adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing rational and real numbers. Students will utilize a variety of tools and strategies to solve problems involving ratios, proportions, geometry, integers, and solving basic algebraic equations. Students will collect, organize, and analyze data.

Resources: *McGraw Hill Reveal Math 1 consumable* (2019)

Science

Students will deepen their understanding and love for our Creator and His creation while engaging in active and meaningful learning experiences working within the areas of Earth science. Through hands-on activities and investigations, children develop increasing sophistication in their scientific thinking that builds from year to year. Students are taught to evaluate scientific learning through God's word. Classroom lessons are enriched through a variety of STEAM activities that extend beyond the classroom.

Resources: *Earth & Space Science, Purposeful Design* (2017)

Social Studies

Students will survey the earth and its resources, the use of those resources, and the geographic and cultural features of people in the various regions and countries of the world. The varied elements of geography are taught from a strong biblical worldview. Students will further learn how physical geography affects the political and economic aspects of countries and the way of life of their people. Students should develop an appreciation for being stewards of the resources God has provided along with an understanding of the responsibilities of the mandate God has given humans to exercise dominion over creation. As well, students should develop a biblical response to the wonderful diversity of people groups as seen across the globe.

Resources: *Cultural Geography*, BJU Press; *A Journey Through North Carolina*, Gibbs, Smith Publisher; Teacher Created Resources; *Dogonnews* virtual classroom

7TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts

Students will gain skills in literary analysis, critical thinking, grammar, speech, writing, and active listening. This course strives to develop in each student an appreciation for these elements of literature and language and relate them to real life. Above all, however, students will apply a biblical worldview to every text and task, while challenging themselves both academically and spiritually.

Resources: *Literature: Jade* (Mosdos Press); *The Magician's Nephew* (Harper Collins); *The Giver* (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt); and a Student choice biography

Math

Math 7 is a transitional year of math where all elementary mathematical concepts are reviewed for mastery and foundation. Abstract algebraic concepts are introduced so students may have a solid foundation of integers, equations and other algebraic concepts.

Resources: Math 7 – REVEAL Math Course 2 Vol 1 & 2 ...Copyright 2020 McGraw-Hill Education (consumables)

Science

In this course, students will grow their understanding of our God as the creative and detailed Creator. They will study His creation and see that He is a God of order and that His power sustains all living and nonliving things. They will see that every piece of His creation was designed for a purpose and that different components work together as parts of a perfectly designed system. Finally, they will learn principles of how to protect and be good stewards of God's creation.

Resources: Life Science—Purposeful Design (2017)

Social Studies

Students will build upon brief review of history starting with Creation and then progress in a chronological journey around the world studying the ebb and flow of empires, cultures, Christianity, and world religions. It concludes with an examination of the trends of the emerging 21st century.

Resources: Heritage Studies: *Ancient Civilizations*, BJU Press

MIDDLE SCHOOL – 6TH & 7TH GRADE ELECTIVES

Art

Students will build on the foundations laid in lower school art in areas of art history, elements of art, and principles of design and technique. They will explore drawing, painting, collage, graphics, and sculpture. A focus is placed on color theory and compositional elements, as well as maintaining a sketch journal to foster personal artistic growth. Students experience the benefits of peer critique as well as using visual art vocabulary to be able to discuss and evaluate various works of art.

Computer

6th grade students will be presented with a rationale for the study of technology as well as intentional instruction on internet safety and ethical use of technology. Students will be able to determine the reliability of sources of information. Students will also learn to use technology as a tool for communication of data and information. 7th grade students will continue to build on knowledge of the history of technology and understanding digital citizenship. In addition, 7th grade students will learn and apply basic coding and programming skills through HTML.

PE

Physical Education classes are designed to help students develop and practice skills that will help them maintain physical fitness throughout their lives. They will assess different areas such as cardiovascular endurance, flexibility, and muscular strength and endurance. Students will be introduced to lifelong activities designed to increase their likelihood of exercising in the future.

Spanish

Students will learn the basics of Spanish: Spanish speaking countries and their locations; alphabet - syllables, vowels and accents; calendar- days, months; seasons and weather; numbers 0-100; primary colors and greetings; and basic Spanish Bible verses.

Band

Students in 6th through 12th grades study the fundamentals of music through playing wind or percussion instruments. The mission of the band program is to lead students to quality music making experiences through exercising personal responsibility and commitment to group goals and demonstrating proper stewardship of God's gift of music. Band students serve the school body at athletic events and perform a Christmas and Spring Band concert as well as participating in music festivals. The band program consists of concert band and marching band.

Choir

The mission and purpose of Middle School Choir is to equip students to use their talents to glorify God in the classroom and beyond. Choir will introduce a variety of musical genre to teach students the elements of singing. Correct vocal technique will aid students in using their voices properly. Middle School Choir is designed to peak musical interest in students who have never explored their God-given talents, while challenging and refining those students who are gifted in music. Confidence and poise will be gained as students practice and perform for various opportunities. Middle School Choir will be essential for those who have a desire to audition for the Spring Musical. It will also be an integral part of preparing students for High School Choir and Honors Ensemble.

Theatre

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts and history of theatre arts. Students will use various drama techniques to build confidence in their creative talents, cultivate imagination, and develop characterization through role-play. Students will learn and use drama history and theatre vocabulary through interactive class assessments. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group acting, theatre games, performances, as well as script analysis and writing. Students in Theatre will gain knowledge needed to advance to High School Theatre I-II-III. The curriculum will ultimately educate students in the requirements of putting on a creative production that honors God and His standard of excellence.

8TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Language Arts

Students will be exposed to multiple genres and writing styles to facilitate a high level of critical thinking. Students will be expected both to understand the message an author seeks to convey and to interact with texts on an inferential level. As writers, students will work toward mastering the skill of writing paragraphs that are thorough, yet concise, and later expand these paragraphs into full essays, even constructing an MLA research paper. Students will also continue to refine their skills in spelling, vocabulary, and grammar through a cohesive online vocabulary and grammar program.

Resources : *Literature: Gold* (Mosdos Press); *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Prestwick); *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Puffin Classics)

Math 8 Pre-Algebra

The course will prepare students for success in algebra and other secondary mathematics courses, providing students with a basic foundation in algebraic operations and functions, rational numbers, integers, equations with one variable, and inequalities.

Resources: Pre-Alg – Glencoe Pre-Algebra 2012, McGraw-Hill Education, IXL

Math 1

The knowledge, attitudes, and skills nurtured in Middle School Algebra I will provide essential problem-solving skills that students can apply to a wide range of mathematic and scientific disciplines. The course will review pre-algebra skills and provide students a solid foundation in basic algebraic operations, functions, and advanced problem-solving skills.

Resources: Alg 1 – Glencoe Algebra 2014, McGraw-Hill Education and online resources through ConnectEd, IXL

Science

This course is designed to give students an understanding of God's glory and purposes as we explore together His handiwork through varying aspects of His Creation. The authors provide even, well-integrated coverage of physics and chemistry. The language, as well as the course, emphasizes the problem-solving methods of science, and provides opportunity for students to practice using these methods in a variety of laboratory experiences, activities, and demonstrations.

Resources: Physical Science—Purposeful Design (2017)

Social Studies

Students will begin an exploration of the history and heritage of the United States of America from a Biblical perspective. Students will trace the events and people who formed this nation from the beginning of our country to modern U.S. History. Students will also be equipped to examine the successes and failures of our more recent past, and to apply these lessons from the later years of our nation as they build their futures as Godly individuals and citizens.

Resources: *The American Republic*: BJU Press.

Spanish I, 8th

A select group of students will begin the year with a review of the primary studies learned in 6th and 7th grade. Next they will learn interrogative words, verbs and how to conjugate accordingly, irregular verbs, possessive adjectives, stem changing verbs, and informal / formal commands.

MIDDLE SCHOOL - 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

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Media Arts

Students will create, edit, and present media through various presentation tools. They will exemplify their knowledge by creating short movie clips using formatting programs. Various media components will be included in this course as well as using the design process to solve problems. Continued internet safety and ethical use of technology instruction will be provided to students.

Visual Arts

Visual Arts is designed to help students gain a deeper appreciation for Art and God's beauty through exploration of a variety of media with emphasis on the elements of art and principles of design. In this class, students will examine and critique works of art, gain exposure to art history, and of course, create various projects. Some of these projects will include drawing, painting, and using clay. Students will also be expected to keep a sketchbook to enhance their creative art journey.

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION

Preparing for Higher Education

The goal of Metrolina Christian Academy is to equip students both spiritually and academically, with a focus on a variety of experiences to help prepare them for college, vocational training or the work-force. Colleges and universities begin looking at a student's performance in ninth grade. College counselors tell us that they are looking for a well-rounded student, one who excels academically, yet is involved in a variety of extra-curricular activities. Metrolina provides several activities designed to appeal to a variety of interests.

Leadership is another important quality that colleges are looking for. MCA makes several opportunities available for students to be involved in leadership such as Campus United, Student Government, National Honor Society (NHS), and Warrior Servant Leadership. Other leadership opportunities are available through our clubs, sports, and mission activities.

Beginning in the ninth grade, it is important for students to begin keeping a list of their awards, accomplishments, honors, church activities, volunteer records, etc. Our Guidance Counselors will emphasize the importance of keeping a High School Portfolio and will work through various classes to talk with students about their preparations. This will be especially helpful during the college application process.

Focus on Missions

High School Bible classes have required service project hours assigned to students each year. Metrolina provides several opportunities on campus and students can serve through their churches or other ministry organizations. These requirements help us to fulfill two of MCA's purposes: promoting the love of Jesus and teamworking with our parents and churches.

Each year MCA's High School focuses on missions with Missions Week. Our High School Bible classes often adopt a missions emphasis, praying and participating in the activity.

Our clubs offer service project hours while helping various organizations such as Operation Christmas Child, H.E.L.P. Crisis Pregnancy Center, and Heart for Monroe.

For many years Metrolina has provided opportunities for our students to serve the Lord through Missions. We are excited to announce that once again we will offer avenues for you to serve. In Acts 1:8 Christ told the disciples, "...you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." This mandates the church to be the light of the gospel at home, in our country, and all over the globe.

We desire to model this command of scripture by sending out three mission teams. The first team is a local team assigned to Indian Trail. This team does light yard work and construction; as well as ministers at local food pantries and service-based organizations. The second team heads up a state-side mission trip. They serve from impoverished children to the elderly as well as outreach ministry alongside local community partners. The third team is an international team with a mission trip to Guatemala in cooperation with Joshua Expeditions.

NOTES
