



**PCAvirtual Academy  
Middle School  
Course Descriptions  
2019-2020**

**Language Arts**

**Language Arts 1: Grade 6**

This sixth grade language arts class centers on improving reading comprehension through a study of exciting stories, folktales, and heroic adventures from the past and present. In this course, students read short stories and novels, listen to music, read newspapers, and even interview their parents. Students use their understanding of story elements, imaginations and creativity to create their own literary works. Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation are also important components to this sixth grade class. Students have the option of selecting between various novels.

**Language Arts 2: Grade 7**

The seventh grade language arts focus is on the written word and how words can be emotional, persuasive and informative. In this course, students read and listen to other people's words. They analyze what others are saying and how they are saying it. Students read everything from newspapers to novels. There is also a strong emphasis in this class to teach students how to organize and deliver oral presentations that are written in clear and effective messages. Vocabulary, grammar and punctuation components are woven throughout the various lesson modules.

**Language Arts 3: Grade 8**

In this interdisciplinary eighth grade language arts course students develop their reading, writing, speaking, listening and viewing skills—with Biblical principles as the standard—as they explore and enjoy a variety of materials (novels, short stories, poetry, biographies, articles, drama, essays and media). In addition, eighth grade language arts focuses on effective communication strategies that students need in order to establish a Biblical worldview in this changing and challenging society. Students also explore the eighth grade theme of The American Quest: Past, Present and Future.

**Mathematics**

**Mathematics I: Grade 6**

In this Mathematics grade six course students learn about numbers, fractions, percentages and data analysis. Students have opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge of number manipulation by applying it to real world scenarios. The course is packed with games that reinforce and let students practice the skills they learn throughout the course. Working with mathematical concepts and processes learned in this course will assist students' in future mathematic course work.

**Mathematics II: Grade 7**

The purpose of the mathematics in seventh grade is to expand the student's knowledge about transformations of shapes by sliding, flipping, rotating, and enlarging them on the coordinate plane. This course gives students the opportunity to create, investigate, and demonstrate knowledge at both intermediate and advanced levels. In seventh grade math students also work through statistical methods and probability relating them to real world situations.

**Pre-Algebra: Grade 7 or 8**

Pre-Algebra uses the connection between mathematics and music to develop and reinforce mathematical skills and processes. The focus of this course is to enable students to solve real-world and mathematical problems. This hands-on course is full of animations, applications, videos, games, and real-world scenarios. The mode of instruction varies as students interact with instructional software, practice skills on the web, participate in hands-on activities and view instructional videos.

**Algebra I: Grade 8**

Algebra I is the foundation for more advanced math classes in high school. This course helps students continue to develop their problem solving skills while emphasizing data analysis, graphing, factoring, and working with functions and writing expressions and equations. Students are taught by way of varied learning styles using applications, hands-on activities, group interactions, discoveries, and, of course, technology.

**Science****Comprehensive Science I: Grade 6**

The purpose of this sixth grade science course is to provide opportunities for students to study the concepts of life, earth/space and physical sciences. First, students focus on the study of life by describing patterns of structure and function in living things while learning about genetic diversity. Next, students focus on the earth and its components that allow us to survive living on it, while also connecting life patterns to the different environments on earth. Other concepts that are discussed are force and motion, energy and the nature of matter.

**Comprehensive Science II: Grade 7**

In seventh grade science students explore the foundations of science, energy, the Earth and its features, Earth's internal and external structures and how they change, Earth's history, living things and how they change and interact, genetics and heredity, and organization of the living world. Students learn through real-world examples and virtually visit six different continents to see science in action all over the world. Students will participate in activities and online laboratory experiences to apply what they have learned.

**Comprehensive Science III: Grade 8**

The purpose of eighth grade science is to provide opportunities to study concepts of the life, Earth/space, and physical sciences, from a Christian perspective, and to make applications to everyday life. In this course students gain an understanding of how Jesus Christ is revealed by studying His Creation. The Bible helps the student examine the order of the universe and the physical laws God has established to govern it. Topics covered include the nature of science, Earth-space science, properties of matter, changes in matter, matter and energy, and energy flow in the living world.

**Social Studies/History****Civics: Grade 6**

Learning about civics gives students the skills and knowledge necessary to be active citizens who have a positive impact on their communities. Students will discover the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in the United States along with Biblical principles of government. They learn about the structure of the government and how it works at the local, state, and federal levels. Students also discover ways the United States interacts with countries around the world. Geography and economics support the learning of civics in this course.

### **World History: Grade 7**

Origins of humans, river civilizations, the Americas, the Greeks and Romans, India, China, Ancient Asia and Africa were very different places that left their mark on history. History is a journey back into time to reflect on these various contributions. In ancient Egypt students visit the pyramids and find out the secrets of preserving mummies. They see how the Mayans developed astronomy to a precise science. They even investigate the difference between the Athenians and the Spartans. Students will journey through India discovering their contributions to medicine, moving on to Africa to follow the rise and fall of the ancient east African kingdoms of Kush and Axum. Throughout the centuries, and still today, our world is made up of dozens of different cultures. They all are different, and they all have made big contributions to what we know and who we are.

### **United States History: Grade 8**

In eighth grade U.S. History, students explore the history of the United States and analyze the cause and effect in historical events. They investigate history by using the tools of a historian to examine the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events that influenced the development of the United States. Students imagine what it was like to live in the past by reading the stories from the people who experienced it. This course begins with the engaging stories of what brought the earliest American colonists to the New World and ends with the struggles to repair the United States following the Civil War. Vital to the study of this course is the mystery of God's intervention and influence in U.S. history. This course incorporates activities that allow students to examine and increase their faith in God and provides opportunities for critical evaluation of U.S. history through a biblical world view.

## **Foreign Language**

### **Middle School Beginning Spanish**

Interested in learning Spanish? Do countries like Guatemala, Chile, and Spain excite you? In MS Beginning Spanish, students are invited to immerse themselves in the fascinating world of Spanish language and culture. They develop their listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills while broadening their exposure to and appreciation for Spanish cultural similarities and differences. Along the way, they are also encouraged to form humility and other biblical virtues that come to bear when learning about other cultures and to consider the benefits of learning Spanish for the kingdom of God.

### **Chinese I**

This is a virtual course offered through the PC*Aplus* program and includes an extra fee. This is a beginning level course that introduces the student to a variety of areas of Mandarin Chinese (Simplified). In this course, the student learns listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through activities that are based on proven methods of foreign language instruction. Throughout the five units of material (Introduction to Chinese, Greetings, Calendar, Weather, and Time), students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is sprinkled throughout the course in an attempt to help the learner focus on the Chinese speaking world and their culture, people, geographical locations and histories.

### **German I**

This is a beginning level course that introduces the student to a variety of areas of language learning. In this course, the student learns listening, speaking, reading and writing skills through activities that are based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Students further practice and develop their language skills through the use and exploration of biblical lessons. Throughout the five units of material (Greetings, the Date, Weather, Time and Colors), students learn to express themselves using an ever increasing vocabulary, present-tense verbs, articles, and adjectives. Grammar is introduced and practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind.

## **French I**

The goal of this course is to give students basic listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills through activities based on pedagogically proven methods of foreign language instruction. Students practice and develop their language skills through the use and exploration of biblical lessons. Throughout the five units of material - Greetings, Calendar, Weather, Time and Colors - students learn to talk about themselves and other, describe their surroundings and use numbers for dates and time. Regular verbs are introduced in the present tense. Simple grammatical structures are practiced in innovative and interesting ways with a variety of learning styles in mind. Culture is presented throughout the course to help students understand the context of the language and to better understand the perspectives of the French-speaking world and learn to use language for the advancement of the Gospel.

## **Latin I**

There is a reason that “all roads lead to Rome.” Maybe it is because Romans built much of the ancient world’s highway system. Maybe it is also because the Roman culture and Latin language laid the foundation for much of Western culture. In Latin I, students find out for themselves as they take their first steps on a lifelong journey of discovery. The purpose of this course is to give the student a foundation in Latin grammar and vocabulary. This course also acquaints the student with Olympic gods and with the everyday life of the Roman man-in-the-street. It sets the student’s feet on a journey as big as their imagination, with a passport to some of the world’s most exciting places.

## **Spanish I**

In Spanish I, students take a virtual trip to Spain, Cuba, Colombia, and Argentina. As students explore each country, a student blogger is there to help them learn about the place and its unique characteristics. As students travel to each country, they learn how to speak Spanish in many practical and useful ways. Students learn how to greet people, introduce themselves, and speak about their home, family, school, and community. As students learn basic vocabulary and grammar skills, they expand on their knowledge and learn to speak about more complex topics such as shopping, weather, sports, entertainment, and leisure activities. New words and phrases are introduced with text, pictures, and an audio clip that demonstrates proper pronunciation. Students acquire the skills to read, write, speak and learn the basic Spanish grammar that will make improve their communication.

## **Bible**

### **Biblical Literacy & Interpretation: Grade 6**

Students will increase their biblical literacy by reading stories and passages from the Bible. As the student reads, they will identify setting, characterization, conflict, themes, and recognize how each story or passage aligns to the biblical principles of creation, fall, and redemption. Students will analyze each story or passage to observe what does it say, what does it mean, and how they should respond. Finally, students will demonstrate an understanding of biblical literacy and scripture interpretation by selecting their own scriptures and provide their own analysis.

### **Life of Christ: Grade 7**

Acts 4:12 declares that there is no other Name given to mankind, that we might be saved – Jesus. In this course, students get to know Jesus through a topical study of His work and ministry, both on earth and in heaven. Jesus ties together God’s plan throughout the Old Testament and His interaction and intervention in the lives of those who follow Him today. Students explore both the Old Testament roots of Jesus’ various ministries and the way those roles influence their current relationship with Him. The last module takes those ideas and puts them into practice, allowing students the opportunity to see Jesus live His life and do His ministry through them.

### **Lightbearers: Grade 8**

The Lightbearers course is designed to help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview, and how they compare to the tenets of the leading humanistic worldviews of our day. Students learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, law, politics, economics, and history. Some of the issues covered include: abortion, apologetics, cults, evolution, feminism, homosexuality, naturalism, moral relativism, pluralism, relationships, and socialism. By understanding God's total plan, students develop a worldview that influences everything they do.

## **Electives**

### **2D Studio Art**

In 2D Studio Art, you'll learn how to bring your art visions to life. Whatever medium you prefer—painting, drawing, photography—this course will teach you the design elements and principles, as well as the biblical foundations, needed to create an excellent, God glorifying work of art. It will also help you explore your artistic gifts, gain wisdom about the art of critiquing, and discover art careers both in the church and in the world at large. If you've ever dreamed about a vocation in the arts, this rich, biblically integrated course will give you the tools and background that you need to turn those dreams into a reality!

### **Coding Introduction**

In Middle School Coding, you'll get a good introduction to the basics of computer science and discover how to create and build your very own website using HTML and CSS. You'll also become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python and begin to think of coding from a distinctively Christian perspective. By the end of the course, you'll have not only a better idea as to what it means to "program under the lordship of Christ," but also your very own portfolio that will help showcase your skills!

### **Exploring Music**

Students will learn about how we hear music; how music affects our lives; important elements of music like rhythm, pitch, and harmony; different musical genres; singing and the voice; various instruments; music composition; and the history and culture of music over the years. Along the way, students will also learn about the role of music in the Bible and in Christianity, the benefits of music in the Christian life, and how to think of music and musical performance from a distinctly Christian point of view. Tune up your understanding and appreciation for all things music by signing up for this course!

### **Health: Grade 8**

In this Health course students use a biblical worldview to develop the skills for healthy, effective, and godly living. In this course students have an opportunity to develop or enhance life management skills important in making godly decisions for healthy and effective living. Through the study of real life issues, the goal is for the student to form healthy attitudes and behaviors that promote personal development, health and well being.

### **Middle School Physical Education**

Team sports, extreme sports, and outdoor sports are among the types of activities students learn about and participate in during this course! This interactive, highly animated course helps students learn why spiritual health is the most important dimension of health, why exercise is still important from a biblical perspective, how to improve skills and sportsmanship, and how to establish and accomplish goals. It also provides an overview of many dual, team, extreme, and outdoor sports. Students have the opportunity to earn a national award by participating in the Presidential Fitness Challenge. Practicing game strategy, putting the goal of winning in its proper biblical framework, improving sport skill and performance, respecting and loving athletes of all kinds and backgrounds, managing peer pressure and stress in a biblical way, and making good choices

balance out the topics students discover in this course. Fitness logs help students monitor physical activities. Students complete projects that lead to the knowledge, skills, and values they need to implement and maintain a physically and spiritually active lifestyle.

### **Middle School Thinking and Learning Strategies**

Using a sports motif that is sure to capture the attention of every student, this course prepares students to succeed on reading, math and writing assessments as they seek to run the race of high school for God's glory. Through reading, writing, and math activities, students will develop their critical thinking skills and test-taking strategies. The objectives of this course go beyond mere test preparation. In addition to becoming familiar with the common test formats, question-types, and rubrics, students develop the critical thinking skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. Students learn about the importance of using their minds to love and glorify God and learn how to see study and preparation as an act of worship. Students use a variety of learning methods in this course including scoring rubrics, self-assessments, practice tests, and learning log entries.