



# LEAH SCHOOLS NORTH ACADEMY

## Middle School Course Descriptions

### English

#### *English Language Arts 6*

The sixth grade English Language Arts course encompasses writing, grammar, and reading. The course begins with a unit designed to prepare incoming middle school students with basic organization, time management, note-taking, and test-taking strategies. The reading/writing connection is emphasized through author studies, novels, and written compositions. Writing assignments include both formal and informal styles. Poetry is used to foster self-expression and creativity. Daily oral activities provide frequent grammar practice.

#### *English Language Arts 7*

The seventh grade English Language Arts course encompasses writing, grammar, and reading. The reading/writing connection is built into the curriculum and students learn by doing. Vocabulary development is supported through the readings. Students also learn to integrate more sophisticated vocabulary and grammar in their writing. At the same time, listening and speaking are encouraged through formal and informal presentations. Students learn to integrate the writing process into daily activities, use problem-solving and critical thinking skills, develop decision-making skills, and examine their Christian walk using literature as a springboard and writing as a tool for self-reflection.

#### *English Language Arts 8*

The eighth grade English Language Arts course reflects the importance of the writing as a process, emphasizing collaborative learning, critical-thinking skill, reading/writing connection, and the need to integrate more sophisticated grammar and mechanics within writing. Vocabulary, writing, language, and literature are emphasized; listening and speaking skills are important and develop naturally from the learning process.

### Fine Arts

#### *Art 6-8*

Art is a course that addresses art standards using a theme-based approach. Students receive instruction in the elements and principles of design, media and forms, and skills and techniques. Elements and principles include line and pattern; light, value, contrast; and proportion and scale.

#### *Music 6*

Band and Choir will both be explored and investigated and students receive an introduction to these areas of music. There will be introduction to Music theory and begin to develop an appreciation for the various areas that are encompassed by both Band and Choir.

### *Music 7/8*

Music 7/8 will further work with students where Music 6 left off. Band, Choir, and Music theory will all be explored and skills will continue to be developed.

### *Theater 6-8*

Theater will introduce students to all areas of theater including acting, tech support, set-building, make up, costumes, and directing/producing.

## **Health/Physical Education**

### *Health 6-8*

Health class is taken in conjunction with PE. Students learn about food, nutrition, weight management and exercise, health issues, safety, first aid, and sexual education.

### *PE 6-8*

The physical education classes introduce middle school students to a variety of team sports and also some individual life-long sports. Students learn concepts underlying a healthy lifestyle and develop life-long fitness skills through running, jogging, sit-ups, push-ups, and strength training.

## **Languages Other Than English**

### *Spanish 6/7*

Students will be able to recall information learned throughout the year by creating sentences to communicate with peers and others in the community. This course introduces students to the Spanish-speaking world with a balance of grammar and vocabulary in every lesson along with consistent review and assessment.

### *Spanish 1*

8<sup>th</sup> grade students may take Spanish 1 which they can earn high school credit for if they receive a B or higher for each semester. Spanish 1 is an introductory course that incorporates communication skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. Students will develop these skills and gain knowledge of the Hispanic culture as part of this course.

### *Latin 7/8*

In this class, students learn the basics of classical Latin. By studying the language's vocabulary, grammar, and syntax, they not only gain appreciation for its intricacies and nuances but also learn more about their own language and about language in general.

## **Mathematics**

### *Math 6*

In sixth grade Mathematics, the students learn important middle school mathematics concepts and see how they are related. They also gain understanding of underlying principles of Algebra and Geometry. Lessons often include pictures, charts, graphs, and models to assist in the learning process. Students explore and discover the importance of mathematics in daily life.

### *Math 7*

The seventh grade Mathematics course uses real-life data and problems, themes, projects, and modeling to illustrate the everyday usefulness of mathematics. Through numerous real-life applications, students learn to value the mathematics they are learning to see the usefulness of mathematics as a tool for problem solving. Students use calculators to simulate the real-world use of technology.

### *Math 8*

The Pre-Algebra course integrates mathematical strands such as Algebra, Geometry, measurement and data analysis. In the context of interesting applications, students learn, practice and extend mathematical concepts and skills in examples, exercises and special features. Students investigate mathematics with in-class lectures/discussions, hands-on labs, manipulatives and technology activities. The students use calculators as well as other mathematical tools including mental math, estimation and number sense.

### *Algebra 1*

Algebra 1 lays the foundation for all future math courses. Topics include the properties of algebra, linear functions and inequalities, quadratic functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, properties of exponents, simplification of polynomials, factoring, and rational functions. High school credit is earned by successful completion of this class with a minimum grade of a B or higher.

## **Science**

### *Science 6*

In grade 6, the study of science includes the exploration of scientific concepts through laboratory exercises, critical-thinking situations, problem-solving skills, and approaching science by questioning. The integration of these methodologies allows students to explore the world by investigating questions and drawing conclusions. Science is an ever-changing world that incorporates many other areas of study beyond scientific matter. Through this course, students become better acquainted with specific components of science and those components relate to the universe.

### *Science 7*

In grade 7, the study of science integrates the scientific fields of Chemistry and Physics. Critical thinking skills are emphasized as students learn to apply their knowledge to real-life situations. An emphasis is given to developing foundational concepts in Chemistry and Physics to enhance students' success in these high school courses.

### *Biology*

In grade 8, students will be enrolled in high school Biology to begin their study of Life Science.

## **Social Studies**

### *World Cultures*

In grade 6, students are presented a balanced, broad view of the interactions of people with their physical and cultural environments, both historically and in today's global realm. Students learn about physical and cultural geography that will empower them to become thoughtful participants in this world. The five themes of geography (location, place, human/environmental interactions, movement, and regions) are emphasized to connect this global view of the world. This course develops the concept that God created the world for us, and we are the caretakers of it. By knowing more about the world and the people God created to occupy it, students are able to witness God's love and grace.

### *Texas History*

In Texas History, students study the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration. The focus in each era is on the impact of key individuals, events, and issues. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population within and among the regions. Students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens.

### *American History*

Using critical-thinking skills, including the identification of bias in written, oral, and visual materials, student study the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and reconstruction. Students describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns. Students analyze economic factors that influenced the development of colonial America and the early years of the Republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. Students examine American beliefs and principles reflected in the U.S. Constitution and other historical documents. Students evaluate the impact of Supreme Court cases and major reform movements of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as well as evaluating that impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States.

## **Technology**

### *Technology Applications 6-8*

Technology Applications for Middle School will provide all students with foundational skills to help them be successful throughout the rest of their courses and life. Students will learn to type with efficacy and learn the basics of Microsoft Office. Students will learn to select the technology appropriate for the task, synthesize knowledge, create a solution, and evaluate the results. Students will learn to make informed decisions about technologies and their applications. Each year will build on the previous to achieve greater proficiency for high school success.

## **Theology**

### *Theology 6-8*

The purpose of this course is to give students a general overview and appreciation of the ways in which God is revealed. By studying the many books and genres of the Bible, students will come to appreciate the meaning of inspiration and bible interpretation. Through their study of the big picture and story of salvation in Sacred Scriptures, they will come to encounter the living Word of God, Jesus Christ.