



Jr. High Course Catalog 2023.24

OUR MISSION:

Bethlehem Christian Academy will seek to create a desire to know and serve God in the heart of our students by equipping them academically, physically, spiritually, and socially to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.

(This page is intentionally left blank)

Contents

Language Arts.....	6
Language Arts 6	6
Language Arts 7	6
Language Arts 8.....	6
Mathematics	7
Math 6.....	7
Pre-Algebra (7)	7
8 th Grade Algebra 1 (8)	8
Science	8
General Science (6).....	8
General Science (7)	8
Physical Science (8)	9
History	9
Ancient History (6).....	9
Medieval History (7).....	10
Georgia Studies (8).....	10
Bible.....	10
DeepRoots Bible (6).....	11
The Mission of God: Old Testament Survey (7).....	11
True Hero: New Testament/Jesus (8)	11
Physical Education & Health	11
Physical Education (7).....	11
Physical Education/Health (8).....	12
Enrichments (6)	12
Visual Arts.....	12
General Music.....	13
Design Studio.....	13
Physical Education	13
Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)	13
Media Skills.....	14
JH Electives (7-8).....	14
Art	14
Chorus.....	14

Technology and Robotics 14
Life Skills..... 14

(This page is intentionally left blank)

Bethlehem Christian Academy Jr. High School Course Offerings

Language Arts

Language is the art of written and oral communication. For students to function as authentic Christians in today's culture, it is imperative that they can identify truth, believe the Bible alone as absolute truth, and effectively communicate their beliefs. Through the exposure to a variety of literature, all students at Bethlehem Christian Academy will learn to analyze written works in light of a Biblical worldview. Whether speaking, writing or interpreting, excellence is pursued through sequential objectives and skill development. Colossians 3:17 states, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through God the Father through Him." (NKJV) Students will seek to glorify God by becoming competent, fluent users of the English language.

Language Arts 6

6th grade language arts is a time to expand children's God-given love of language by analyzing novels, learning the fundamentals of writing through a checklist system, and expanding their knowledge of all things grammar. We will dedicate portions of each quarter to novels such as *Wonder*, *Long Walk to Water*, and *The Bronze Bow*. We will also focus a portion of each quarter on a few pieces of the writing process, as well as several mini grammar lessons. God has instilled in each of us a desire to please, and as we work through the year, students will understand that having excellence in communication skills is a means of reflecting God's character to others.

Language Arts 7

7th grade language arts focuses on increasing children's ability to evaluate novels, write detailed paragraphs, and master grammar concepts. We will dedicate portions of each quarter to novels such as *Wrinkle in Time*, *The Hobbit*, and *New Kid*. Each quarter will also be used to review grammar concepts and develop detailed writing samples. God has instilled in each of us a desire to please, and as we work through the year, students will understand that having excellence in communication skills is a means of reflecting God's character to others.

Language Arts 8

8th grade language arts students will daily refine grammar skills already learned by writing routinely over time. They will analyze different sources and form research papers as well as use their God-given creativity to write creative pieces. Along with writing and grammar, students will expand their vocabulary and literary analysis skills by reading *Out of the Dust*, *Moon over Manifest*, and *The Outsiders*. We will delve into each novel by exploring themes and using biblical integration to see the novel from a Christian point of view.

Mathematics

God has created an orderly and consistent world with perfect design and creativity, as is revealed through His Word. Mathematics is the fundamental basis for understanding His order and design to reveal the complexity with which He created His universe. His design is not a random act of nature, but rather His perfect plan of creation. God is the Divine Inventor of all mathematical structures, reasoning, and foundational mathematical facts. As God's children, we use abstract problem solving to learn more about His world, our purpose and place in His world, and His desire for us to know and follow Him. Students will understand and verbally demonstrate how mathematics is used in everyday life and its relationships to other academic subjects. They will also expand in their critical thinking, reasoning, and problem-solving skills.

Math students will focus on five mathematic domains during their years in junior high: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability.

Math 6

Sixth grade math is designed to be a bridge from the elementary math classroom to the beginning steps of algebra. Positive number decimal and fraction operations will be covered in the Number System within the order of operations. In the Expressions and Equations units, students will learn about parts of algebraic expressions, writing and solving equations and inequalities with positive numbers. Sixth grade students will begin working with understanding ratios and ratio reasoning during the Ratios and Proportions units. In Geometry, students will work with area and perimeter of polygons and the surface area and volume of rectangular prisms. During the Statistics and Probability units, students will calculate the measures of central tendency, which include mean, median, mode and range.

Pre-Algebra (7)

(Accelerated offered for eligible students)

In seventh grade math integers will be introduced and practiced throughout the year, so that students are proficient using integers in each domain.

In The Number System, students will become proficient with integer operations with fractions and decimals. In Expressions and Equations, students will write and solve multi-step equations and inequalities with integers. Students will also solve and recognize proportional relationships between quantities, including problems involving percent. The study of Geometry will include circles and the volume and surface area of cylinders. In Statistics and Probability, students will use data to compare populations and will find the probabilities of events.

The Pre-Algebra 7th grade course is designed to prepare students to move from concrete mathematical understanding to abstract thinking to prepare students to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Students will practice persevering with mathematical thinking and questioning throughout the units of study.

8th Grade Algebra 1 (8)

(Honors offered for eligible students)

Algebra 1 covers the fundamental concepts of algebra and is a time for students to reinforce and further develop skills to build a foundation for success in advanced mathematics. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Exponents, square and cube roots will be covered in the Number System. Solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities and solving systems of equations will be a focus in the Expressions and Equations units. Students will also solve polynomial equations and will factor equations using FOIL and the box method. Students will also be introduced to the Quadratic formula. In Geometry, students will study triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem and be introduced to vertical and adjacent angles. Within the domain of Statistics and Probability, students will understand domain and range, independent and dependent variables, scatterplots, slope and intercepts, and lines of best fit.

Science

The study of science at Bethlehem Christian Academy presents the world as the creation of God as revealed in Genesis 1:1, In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Through courses in general science, (exploring many facets of the sciences that students will see again at the high school level) and physical science, students will explore God's order, truth, creativity, power, and provision as the physical and living world is studied. To accomplish this, studies will emphasize that evolutionary processes could not adequately explain the diversity, complexity, and order that can be observed in God's creation. Students will gain appreciation and knowledge of accomplishments made in the field of science, practice the scientific method, hone critical thinking skills, and develop a Biblical worldview to intelligently evaluate scientific research and master advanced science objectives and skills.

General Science (6)

This course is an introductory course to a general study of the investigation of earth, life, and physical sciences in a biblical worldview. The course is taught in a Creationist worldview directly correlated with the belief system of the school and God's Word. (Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16). Topics of study include the scientific method, mixtures & solutions, concentrations, saturations, our solar system, cells and DNA. Students will learn through lecture, notetaking, and hands-on lab investigations and experiments. Students will also learn how to safely and successfully execute and lab, and how to write a basic lab report.

General Science (7)

In this course, students explore the Earth's history via archeology, paleontology, and geology, and explore the major human body systems. Integrated within these topics is a biblical view of God's creation and perfect design. The students will learn about the various sciences through lecture, notetaking, and hands-on lab investigations and

experiments. Students will refine their understanding of the scientific method and learn to write more detailed lab reports.

Physical Science (8)

(Honors offered for eligible students)*

The course focuses on the physical aspect of our everyday life, the planet Earth, and our universe. Physical Science provides a detailed introduction to the physical environment and the basic laws that make it work. Students will gain a solid understanding of measurement systems & conversions, atoms & molecules, the atmosphere, and water. This course includes many engaging hands-on experiments. Thought processes, lab experiments, and problem-solving techniques will be stressed above textbook memorization. Integrated in all aspects of the course work will be how God has fashioned all the Physical Laws of the Universe, and how He applies them to everything that happens in all aspects of our lives. It will be emphasized that He is the One who created all attributes and properties of “how things work.” Our mission in this class is to do our best to understand the physical science laws that He set up.

*Honors Option: The accelerated version of the course includes all topics noted above, PLUS simple machines, basic mechanics, Newton’s 2nd law of motion, and energy. These additional topics require significant skill in solving variable equations.

History

The social studies courses taught at Bethlehem Christian Academy are taught in the context of a Christian worldview; the curriculum is rich in evidence that God intervenes in the affairs of mankind. Students discover spiritual truths through study of the history and government of mankind. The Bible is clear that humanity should keep records for generations to come to understand the works of God, how to live, and how to relate to one another. Psalm 78:1-7 illustrates this, *"Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, Shewing the generation to come the praises of the Lord, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done."*

Through the studies of Ancient History, Medieval History, and Georgia Studies; junior high students at Bethlehem Christian Academy will examine how important past events throughout history have shaped and influenced life today. By learning from the mistakes and achievements of humans in the past, students will be able to compare these to current events and issues in our own culture while carefully maintaining a biblical worldview by applying God’s word to social studies objectives. Social Studies at BCA will serve to equip students to become Christian leaders of tomorrow who will stand for righteousness and truth.

Ancient History (6)

The Mystery of History is a beautifully integrated chronological look at God’s hand and direction in the sculpting of our world and history. Students take an in-depth look at “His”-story through the ages beginning with creation and ending with the cross. They are intentionally exposed to God’s amazing diversity reflected through each culture of His image bearers/mankind. Students explore geography, religions of the world, and the

rise and fall of nations. A strong emphasis is placed on relating geography and the study of world cultures from a Christian worldview.

The first goal of this class is for students to make connections and see God as the author of all. They will be encouraged to view history as a great treasure full of good guys and bad guys whose lives had both a divine plan and purpose. Secondly, students will lay a foundation for future geography studies and build their own personal understandings of governments and nations. Lastly, but most importantly, it is our heart's desire that students will grow in their awe and love of our wonderful LORD and Savior...that their faith and personal walk with our heavenly Father be strengthened...that they would boldly share of this great love as they go out into the world around them.

Medieval History (7)

Seventh grade students continue studying “The Mystery of History” they began in 6th grade and take a journey through the Middle Ages--a yearlong course based upon church history, world history, geography, economics, and government. During Middle Ages History, students journey through time to discover a world of empires. First, students learn how the church was created at Pentecost. Next, students study life and the church during the ancient Roman Empire, concentrating on the uniqueness of the relationship between the church and the government. As the school year progresses, students become familiar with the system of feudalism during the Middle Ages, as well as the dynastic rule that occurred throughout the then known world. Finally, students examine the religious, economic, social, political, and cultural changes that took place during the European Renaissance and Age of Exploration. Throughout Middle Ages History, students strengthen their cartography, critical thinking, and creative writing skills. In addition to studying how to organize answers to essay questions and to write creatively, students experience hands-on learning as they analyze artifacts, examine primary source materials, role play, engage in simulation activities, and work cooperatively.

Georgia Studies (8)

Throughout the year, students will study the geography, government, and history of Georgia within the broader context of United States history. Students will examine various social studies themes, including how people adapt to and change their environment, historical cause and effect, and the cultural responsibilities of a citizen in a democratic society. The social studies skills that will be practiced include information processing, chronology, map skills, and interpretation of historical sources. In addition to studying how to organize answers to essay questions and to write creatively, students experience hands-on learning as they analyze artifacts, examine primary source materials, role play, engage in simulation activities, and work cooperatively.

Bible

Bible courses at BCA are founded upon the belief that God is the author of truth and has revealed Himself through the Bible. God commands His people in Romans 12:2, *Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.* In Psalm 119:9-11, calls for examination: *How can a young*

man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you. To facilitate these objectives, a curriculum is composed of basic Biblical, theological, and practical disciplines of study designed to prepare students to effectively grow in their Christian faith and impact their world for Christ. Bible classes seek to foster growth in character, maturity, wisdom, integrity, and responsibility in the context of God's word. Through dynamic Bible course work, it is our goal and prayer that development of a solid Biblical worldview will lead students toward a lifelong, abundant Christian walk.

DeepRoots Bible (6)

In sixth grade, students will study the New Testament. The focus of this course is on being a disciple of Christ and how to grow in relationship with God. The course starts with learning from Jesus in the Gospels then moves to inductive Bible study in the epistles, also studying the end times and the book of Revelation. The inductive Bible study method is taught and used as a framework to observe, interpret, and apply the Scriptures.

The Mission of God: Old Testament Survey (7)

This course invites students on a global journey to examine the historicity and the plot of the greatest story ever told. Students will be challenged to objectively investigate four of the significant motifs throughout the plot of the Hebrew Bible. Through the introduction to a relational, missional God who created with purpose, students are invited to know Him personally.

True Hero: New Testament/Jesus (8)

Students will investigate the life, works, and claims of the man who was tried and convicted of claiming to be the King of the Jews. Students will decide for themselves if the man was the long-awaited Jewish Messiah while also identifying if the trial and evidence presented was fair. The goal is to explore the context of Jesus' ministry and his mission.

Physical Education & Health

Physical Education (7)

The Physical Education program provides the students with the opportunity to participate in a wide-ranging program that will develop students' skills in physical activities. Students will participate in lead up games, team sports, and physical fitness activities. The students will participate in physical activities in a positive environment that will reinforce the understanding of the importance of physical education. Students will receive rule instructions, skills, and strategies associated with different sports. These developments will help students become involved in life-long physical activities through sport units. The program promotes positive competition, leadership, and teamwork to accomplish goals.

Physical Education/Health (8)

(for high school credit)

As Christians, we acknowledge that God designed the human body in His image. Health as a subject is taught from a biblical and scientific perspective. A comprehensive health course will ensure that students develop knowledge of God as the creator of human existence and the environment while understanding knowledge of science pertaining to the human body. Health class also relates to all aspects of health: spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social. It is important to foster a desire in the hearts and minds of students to learn lifelong healthy habits in all areas while developing attitudes of respect, responsibility, and a deeper love for God. In Health, students will:

- Develop knowledge of God as Creator.
- Develop knowledge of health and science pertaining to the human body.
- Develop a desire for personal health spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and socially.
- Learn skills necessary to maintain a healthy lifestyle in each area of life.
- Establish attitudes of respect and responsibility.
- Assess personal health and set goals for improvement.
- Develop a deeper love for God.
- Explore all areas of total health: physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual; learning concrete facts and lifelong skills for each area that will serve to foster healthy lifestyles in each student.

Students will also use physical education to develop personal goals through activity and use physical activity to help provide the self-confidence to serve the Lord with all their strength and might. In Physical Education, students will:

- Participate in physical activities in a positive environment.
- Understand physical education.
- Reinforce and master health fitness skills.
- Understand peak performance.
- Make lifetime goals of health and fitness.
- Use teamwork to accomplish goals.

8th grade students will receive high school credit for this PE/Health course.

Enrichments (6)

6th Grade Enrichments is a block in the daily schedule designed to allow students to explore and enjoy various content in different elective areas and build skills in these areas before 7th-12th grades where they will choose elective courses based on their God-given talents and interests. Enrichment classes rotate daily and include classes such as: Visual Arts, General Music, Design Studio, Physical Education, SEL, and Media Skills.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students will delve deeper into the process of making art. They will be exposed to various artists, that will not only inspire their art, but make them more

interested in making artwork that is meaningful to them. This will also be achieved by allowing students more freedom in what they create during a project. They will learn how to make artistic decisions, creative problem solve, and various techniques used in creating artwork. In addition to a growing love for art, Visual Arts aims for students to feel closer to their Creator by creating meaningful works.

General Music

In 6th Grade General Music, students will dive deeper into the art of creating music through singing and playing instruments. Students will learn to read music by engaging in activities that include rhythm reading, learning new instruments, solfege, and sight-singing. Students will also be encouraged to express their musical creativity through activities involving composition and performance. The goal of 6th Grade General Music is to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for music as an audience member, a performer, and as a form of worship.

Design Studio

The Design Studio promotes meaningful collaborative learning that provides students the opportunity to develop communication skills, problem solving skills, and critical thinking skills. Our focus will be to intersect technology, art, science, engineering, and robotics. Students will be encouraged to generate unique and creative ideas to demonstrate learning and knowledge. They will also continue to expand their general computer knowledge and skills using the Office 365 suite, Schoology, and other web-based programs.

Physical Education

In 6th grade Physical Education, students will participate in a variety of activities, games, and exercises to promote individual skill development and improvement, teamwork and cooperation, and the overall enjoyment of an active and healthy lifestyle. Students will also learn general rules and concepts of team sports and recreation and leisure activities, so they have the knowledge necessary to be an educated participant or spectator. In addition, students will continue to develop the concepts of fair play, honest competition, and good sportsmanship.

Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)

We define social and emotional learning (SEL) as an integral part of education and human development. God created us in His image with emotions and designed us to live in healthy, loving community with each other. SEL class will focus on the process through which people acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy, Godly identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others with Christ as our example, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. We will use the five competencies of SEL as a guide for topics in class: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. These five competencies will be taught and practiced from a biblical perspective with scripture serving as the ultimate guide along with sound, research-based curriculum to deliver practical learning for students to grow into spiritually and emotionally healthy adults.

Media Skills

Students will continue to develop a love of reading and learning in Media Skills class. They will be encouraged to read for pleasure and will have the opportunity to check out library books each session. Students will share what they are reading in fun and interesting ways in Media Skills. They will also learn to research topics of interest as well as school-related topics using Britannica School and other credible sources. Finding, using, and evaluating information will be a focus of this class. Media Skills will also promote a passion for reading that develops a strong learner in all subject areas.

JH Electives (7-8)

Junior High Electives allow students to explore and enjoy various content in an elective area each semester based on preference and available capacity. It is our goal to give each student at least one semester of their top elective choice each year of Junior High. Elective offerings include: Art, Chorus, Technology & Robotics, and Life Skills. Students are surveyed in May for electives preferences.

Art

In junior high art, students express themselves creatively through various mediums and techniques. While developing and planning design strategies for each assignment, students produce original compositions. This foundational course will equip students with desired skills for future art courses. The goal is for each student to walk away from this course with an undeniable realization that God's artistry is virtually EVERYWHERE!

Chorus

BCA Junior High Chorus is for students interested in developing their God-given musical talents by learning the basics of choral singing and performing in an ensemble. This course is an elective enrichment opportunity. There will be an emphasis on music theory, sight singing, and vocal technique. A wide variety of choral music in various genres and languages will be studied and performed. Some performances outside the school day are required.

Technology and Robotics

This class provides students with hands-on opportunities to apply science, technology, engineering, and mathematics concepts to real-world situations. Students will have access to Lego Robotics and other tools for creating, building, and inventing. They will be creative and solve problems by thinking outside the box. Students will be enrolled in competitions and work towards goals to build futuristic cities (8th grade) and space colonies on Mars (7th grade). They will continue to expand their general computer knowledge using the Office 365 suite, learning basic troubleshooting, and using additional web-based programs.

Life Skills

This elective is designed to increase student knowledge of practical "life-skills" and age-appropriate wisdom while learning to pursue love, peace, and happiness amid a messed-up world of stress, anxiety, and compromise. You will hear about the significance of self-awareness and learn those practical life things that everyone tells you that you need to

know in such unique and fun way! Classes will include some amazing guest speakers from inside BCA and the outside community.

Following topics will be covered:

- Making Life Taste Good – cooking basics, creating recipes, and BCA’s MasterChef Competition
- Money Matters – start learning the basics of money responsibilities like bank accounts, tips, budgets, paychecks, paying bills, taxes)
- Put you to (wood)Work - learn the basics of woodworking, designing/building simple projects, and fixing/creating simple projects around the school
- Domesticated - laundry (washing and folding) organizational skills in the home
- Becoming a Freshie (aka “Do what I say Not as I do”) -Freshman year, high school prep
- The Art of Happiness – positive, faith-based psychology (strategies for self-doubt, increasing self-worth, finding your passion, tapping into your creativity, and maximizing your emotional energy. Tips for maintaining a healthy lifestyle, strategies for good "self-talk" and eliminating toxic thoughts from your life.
- Shopping Like a Boss - making wise purchases and saving money
- Hitting the car care and how to change that tire!
- Getting the Job - interviews, applications, identifying strengths and values and finding a job that uses both, interviewing skills, and customer service skills
- Who am I? - do you dare to take a deep look into your soul? Being self-aware through the enneagram and other personality tools.
- The Lost Art - having a conversation, listening and communication skills, knowing how and where to meet other people, resolving conflicts, putting forward your best self on social media, making meaningful connections with others in real life, increasing emotional intelligence and soft skills, being a positive influence, basic body language cues
- Field Work Fridays- A time of hands-on learning, training and serving on campus as we team up with teachers around the school. This includes anything from assisting in minor “handy man” jobs to reading and engaging with younger students in the lower school.
- Why is the Baby Crying? – babysitting and basic needs of babies/younger aged children