

PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

# CURRICULUM GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL





## Bible

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### **Fifth Grade Bible**

In the Fifth Grade Bible course, our goal is to acquaint the students with the basic principles and history of the Bible, equip them to use the Scriptures with ease and confidence, and prepare them to share their knowledge and faith with others according to God's Word. The Bible (NIV) and Christian School International's Witness to the Gospel are our main sources of study. The students explore various sections of the Bible, which include the four Gospels and the Life of Christ. Students learn the themes, authors, and audience of the four Gospels as well as study the word choices of those authors. It is our strongest desire that each student exiting Fifth Grade will have a personal relationship with Christ, a thorough knowledge of Scripture, a clear and precise vision of right from wrong, the tools to lead others to Christ, and spiritual wisdom that only God can impart.

### **Sixth Grade Bible**

In the Sixth Grade Bible course, the students study the House of Israel. This course includes a complete study of the book of Genesis. The main focus of the course is to present the Bible as the story of God's acts and words, written so that the students might know God and themselves, accept His gift of salvation, and live lives of joyful service and obedience. The goal is to help the students understand the Bible literally, culturally and geographically. The students are encouraged with life applications from each unit of study.

### **Seventh Grade: Old Testament Survey**

This Seventh Grade Bible course guides the student through the Old Testament. Each book's background, author, theme, and message are surveyed along with key verses. While examining the particulars of each book, the consistent theme of God's redemption of humankind is reinforced.

### **Eighth Grade: New Testament Survey**

The Eighth Grade Bible course begins with a review of the Old Testament. The Old Testament prepares the way for Christ, and He is fully manifested in the New Testament. All 27 books of the New Testament are examined and presented as God's infallible Word. The overriding theme of the class is presented in John 3:16. Each student finishes the course with the abiding truth that they are secure in God's love for him or her. The goal is that they understand our responsibility as Christians to reflect the love of Jesus by loving others as He loves us.

# History

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## **Fifth Grade: American History**

The Fifth Grade History course is a study of history of the United States with the early American Indians and ending with the wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Both primary and secondary sources are utilized as students survey the influence of historical perspective and point of view on issues, decision-making and actions. A special emphasis is placed on the impact of the Christian faith in the formation of our country and its historical documents. The Constitution, Bill of Rights and the three branches of government are studied, and interactive scenarios are presented to teach basic ideology and principles. Critical thinking skills, discussion and presentation techniques, note taking, role playing and persuasive writing are implemented throughout the course as students participate in learning significant historical events. Most importantly, students are taught that the history of man has a distinct inception, purpose, and end and that God has, and will, oversee even the smallest detail in our American story.

## **Sixth Grade: World History**

The Sixth Grade History course covers the foundations of our society from the early cultures of the world thousands of years ago to the wars and conflicts of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Topics of study include: In the Beginning, Mesopotamia, Ancient Egypt, Foundations of Western ideas, Ancient Rome, Medieval Times and Renaissance, and the dawn of the Modern World. Map skills are reviewed and extended throughout the course. Skills throughout this study include listening, note taking, writing, critical thinking, and discussion. The students also answer questions that require them to recall facts, find the main idea, make inferences, determine cause and effect, and draw conclusions. A biblical worldview is emphasized in this course of study.

## **Seventh Grade: World Geography**

Seventh Grade World Geography is a one-semester course which focuses on the influences of geography upon historic development, government, economics, culture, religion and aesthetics of the world's 10 cultural regions. The emphasis on the physical aspects of geography is designed to encourage students in evaluating and drawing conclusions about cause/effect relationships that might affect the origins, intellectual and social aspects of the major regions of the world. This course is designed to help students develop their biblical worldview by giving them tools to evaluate the world around them and grow in seeing the world through the eyes of Scripture.

## **Eighth Grade: American History**

The American History course focuses on the history of our country and enables students to determine cause/effect relationships throughout the building of our nation as well as predict how current trends in government, economics, religion, and politics might affect the history and the responsibilities related with a Christian worldview. The emphasis of this course is on the Christian heritage of our nation, past and present leaders and events, and the foundations that have shaped our great nation. This course is designed to encourage student awareness of the Judeo-Christian, geographical, and economic influences that have molded our nation; studies also include Texas' role in various major events throughout our history. Current events are also analyzed and evaluated.

# Language Arts

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## **Fifth Grade English**

The Fifth Grade English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills, providing a sequentially oriented curriculum that incorporates the use of rhythm, repetition and student/teacher interaction. This course provides the sustained momentum that allows teachers to build on a student's previous successes. Focus begins with expository paragraph structure and development, moving into various forms of expository essay writing. They write to a variety of audiences using formal and creative forms of writing such as narrative, descriptive, persuasive, creative, compare/contrast and various forms of expository. They continue to develop mastery of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. In addition, students are guided through the research process and complete research papers.

## **Fifth Grade Literature**

The Fifth Grade Literature course emphasizes reading comprehension and literary analysis. Three novels along with a collection of folklore and poetry are the primary tools of instruction to develop literary element concepts such as characterization, plot development, types of conflict, and writing style analysis through figurative language: *The Sign of the Beaver*; *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*; and *Where the Red Fern Grows*. Students begin to develop their concept of a text's theme or message. Vocabulary development is studied through Membean. Individualized practice of comprehension skills is developed with the PCA Reads independent reading program. The instructional intent is to engage students in the kinds of activities that prepare them for reading, thinking, and problem-solving in real-world situations.

## **Sixth Grade English**

The English course focuses on reviewing and expanding grammatical skills using rhythm, repetition, and a question and answer flow to classify each word in a sentence, as well as the sentence as a whole. These concepts are used to expand, improve, and edit writing. The students write for a variety of purposes including responding to topics, developing compositions and sharing thoughts in journal writing. The students write for a variety of purposes including responding to topics, developing sophisticated expository multi-paragraph compositions and writing for the purpose of presenting and debating ideas. Students continue to develop mastery of the writing process, including prewriting, drafting, editing and publishing. The course takes time to focus on and develop each of the traits of writing including ideas, word choice, organization, sentence fluency, voice and conventions.

## **Sixth Grade Literature**

Sixth Grade Literature is a year of significant transition for students as they use the skills they previously learned and apply them to more complex learning in deeper and more rigorous ways. As students read closely to gain understanding and construct meaning from texts, they learn to monitor their own understanding as they read and use strategies to clarify any questions that arise. Students continue to develop their analysis of a text's thematic content, supported with text evidence from conflict and character elements. They also engage in meaningful collaborations with peers to enhance their learning. Membean, an online vocabulary program, is incorporated throughout the year with weekly required times of practice as well as periodic tests. Students read the following novels: *Tuck Everlasting*, *Hatchet*, *D'Aulaires' Book of Greek Myths*, and *Inside Out and Back Again*. Students also read and analyze poetry from a variety of cultures around the



world with emphasis on African/American, Hispanic, and Asian cultures. Individualized practice of comprehension skills is developed with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

### **Seventh Grade English**

This course includes an intensive study in vocabulary, writing, and literature. Students read from different literary genres such as the short story, novel, poetry, and drama. Elements of literature, such as characterization, plot, structure, theme, context clues, and imagery are developed. Through analysis, discussion, and written responses to literature, students examine how an author creates a work of literature. In addition to reading *A Tune for Bears to Dance To*, *The Pearl*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The River*, and *Esperanza Rising* students are also exposed to poetry and various short stories. Oral reports and research are also included in this course, and students continue to compose in all genres and reinforce grammar and language usage skills. Membean, an online vocabulary program, is incorporated throughout the year with weekly required times of practice as well as periodic tests. Individualized practice of comprehension skills continues with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

### **Eighth Grade English**

The Eighth Grade English course offers students the opportunity to expand their knowledge of literature and increase their skills in analyzing and interpreting various texts from a variety of genres while developing vocabulary by using context clues and Membean. They develop their critical thinking skills and cultural awareness by reading several engaging novels: C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*, Simon Wiesenthal's *The Sunflower: On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* paired with Hackett and Goodrich's dramatic interpretation of *The Diary of Anne Frank*, and Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Students practice the development of organized expository and literary analysis paragraphs which develop into essays by practicing analysis of literary elements such as characterization, allegory, irony, imagery, argumentation, and persuasion. Eighth Grade English places a strong emphasis on improving writing skills. Students read examples of excellent writing from a variety of sources to compose literary responses and analyses, and eventually to synthesize multiple text sources into thoughtful presentations of critical thinking. Students are encouraged to incorporate Biblical text and examples into their compositions and presentations throughout the year. Vocabulary development is studied through Membean. Individualized practice of comprehension skills continues with the PCA Reads independent reading program.

## **Math**

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### **Fifth Grade Math**

The Fifth Grade Mathematics course reviews and further reinforces operations with whole numbers, place value from millions to thousandths, graphing, decimals, fractions and geometry. Fundamental algebraic concepts introduced and further developed include ratios, variable, probability and order of operations. Problem solving, logic, and real world applications are emphasized. Building math confidence and providing an enjoyable hands-on learning environment are a primary focus. Math units are seasoned with the biblical principles of order and spiritual truths.

### **Sixth Grade Math**

The Sixth Grade Mathematics course reinforces foundational math concepts and introduces fundamental algebraic skills. The curriculum is devoted to number patterns in algebra, graphs,

decimals, fractions, integers, expressions, equations, percent's, probability, measurement, geometry as well as the use of measurement and data reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments and make recommendations. Projects are assigned periodically and coordinate with other disciplines. Most importantly, mathematics is a course where the students attain a greater awareness of our infinite God.

### **Seventh Grade Math**

The Seventh Grade Math course continues to develop and expand basic skills and concepts studied in Fifth and Sixth Grade. Critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies are further developed throughout the year. The content includes rational number properties, geometry, measuring two (and three) dimensional figures, statistics (analyzing data), Algebra (integers, linear equations and functions), fractions, decimals, percents, proportional reasoning ratios, and probability. Mathematics is a course where the students attain a greater awareness of our infinite God.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Seventh and Eighth Grade

A prerequisite to Algebra I, this course explores and expands on introductory concepts of Algebra such as variables, integers, graphing of inequalities, algebraic phrases, two-step problems, advanced equations and geometric concepts. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on Algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology. Integrated critical thinking skills and problem-solving strategies are applied throughout the year. This course is designed to prepare the student for Algebra I.

### **Honors Algebra I**

Eighth Grade

Prerequisites: *Pre-Algebra, Student must meet 2 of 3 requirements*

- *Grade of 90% or higher in Pre-Algebra for Q1-Q3*
- *NWEA Mathematics MAP Score of 80% tile or above*
- *Department Recommendation/Mathematics Department Assessment*

Honors Algebra I is a course that begins the mathematics journey for students hoping to continue an accelerated track to AP Calculus in Upper School. This course moves at a faster pace and has a higher level of difficulty, including an increased amount of homework outside the school day. Students study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions in both mathematical and real-world situations. Students use graphing technology to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. Students study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents. Students generate and solve linear equation systems with two equations and two variables within real-world contexts and will create new functions through transformations. Critical thinking skills are emphasized to develop competence in problem solving.

# Science

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## **Fifth Grade Science**

The Fifth Grade Science course is designed to develop students' ability to explore, discover and investigate the world around them. In Life Science, students study the classification of vertebrates and invertebrates, cells, plants and the human body system. Within Physical Science, light waves are covered. Within Earth Science, ecology is covered. Students have opportunities to conduct experiments as they work through each topic using the scientific method and metric system. Scientific equipment is utilized throughout the course to provide a hands-on approach to learning about God's design in the world around them.

## **Sixth Grade Science: Earth Science**

Students in the Sixth Grade Science course are involved in a broad range of sciences that make up Earth Science. They review the scientific method and laboratory technique. They further extend their knowledge of measurement and the metric system as well as the use of advanced scientific instruments. Included is an introduction to atomic structure and states of matter. A major component of Earth Science is geology. While studying geology, students delve into such areas as minerals and rocks, erosion, plate tectonics and its impact on the Earth's surface, as well as looking at theories of the Earth's origin. A brief look at ecology helps each student learn how to be a better steward of God's world. Studies of meteorology and astronomy are other major parts of this course. The students study stars, planets, and other astronomical objects as well as the history of space exploration. Concepts for weather and weather forecasting are also explored. Each topic is presented from a biblical perspective.

## **Seventh Grade Science: Life Science**

The Seventh Grade Life Science course is designed to provide students with a solid foundation to prepare them for high school biology. Emphasis is placed on inquiry skills, interpreting data, understanding relationships in the living world, and making connections between science and the Christian faith. Specific areas of study include cellular structure, plants, animals, disease and microorganisms, heredity, classification, ecology and how these relate to the world God created. Inquiry skills are enhanced by laboratory investigations and hands-on activities. Students study characteristics of organisms belonging to each of the five kingdoms of classification and develop an understanding for the ways living things reproduce and grow.

## **Eighth Grade Science: Integrated Physics and Chemistry**

Eighth Grade Science is an integrated physics and chemistry course in which students learn the basic concepts in each area. The first semester focuses on physics and the basic laws of nature that God established. Topics include electricity and magnetism, electric charges and current, motion, forces and energy. The second semester focuses on chemistry and the processes that occur in the world around us. Students gain a deeper understanding of atomic structure, ionic and covalent bonding and the periodic table. Chemical formulas are studied with an emphasis on balancing chemical equations. IPC uses a hands-on approach to teach the concepts through chapter projects and lab activities throughout the year. Lab safety while learning to manipulate lab equipment is an integral part of the IPC course.

# Fine Arts

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## **Fifth Grade Art**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

Fifth Grade Art is an introductory level course for the Middle School student. Students are introduced to the elements and principles of art and their application for successful drawing and design. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing, painting, mixed media and sculpture. The curriculum integrates biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

## **Sixth Grade Art**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

Sixth Grade Art is an elective art course for the Middle School student. The course is designed to build upon and increase the student's knowledge of the art elements and principles of design. The curriculum is integrated with biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing and mixed media, sculpture. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests are available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

## **Middle School Art**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Art course is a one-semester introductory level course for the Middle School student. There is an emphasis on the elements and principles of design and basic 2-D composition. The curriculum integrates art history and biblical principles. Students explore a variety of media and attention is given to the development of drawing skills and art criticism. Homework is required.

## **Eighth Grade Art**

Eighth Grade Elective

Prerequisites: *Middle School Art, Departmental Recommendation*

One semester course where students begin to see how the creative process relates to all disciplines. Studio assignments have a connection to art history and are reinforced with biblical principles. This course builds on 2D and 3D design skills from previous art courses strengthening analytical thinking skills. Ongoing formative and summative assessments are based on project goals, and evidence of student growth is shown through art portfolios. Homework is required.

## **Honors Eighth Grade Art I**

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Fulfills Upper School Art I Prerequisite for Advanced Art Courses

Prerequisites: *Middle School Art, Departmental Recommendation*

Honors Eighth Grade Art is an introductory level, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design course with an introduction into three-dimensional design for the Upper School student. The



curriculum focus is on creativity. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements/ principles of design and critiquing major projects. Color theory is studied as well. Ceramics, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, and painting using a variety of media is explored. Homework is required and a semester exam is given at the end of each semester. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.

### **Introduction to Instruments**

Fifth Grade Elective

The Fifth Grade Recorder course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fourth grade. Students learn the basics of recorders while increasing pitch and rhythmic accuracy and tone. Students learn music theory concepts of increasing difficulty through rhythm exercises and written work.

### **Beginning Band**

Sixth Grade Elective

Beginning Band is designed with Sixth Grade in mind. This Band has open enrollment so anyone can be a part of this outstanding group. No musical knowledge is necessary, only a willingness to practice at home and work hard in class. Students are taught basic music theory, characteristic tone production, pitch delineation, instrument fingerings and basic rhythmic skills. These fundamentals are needed to advance to the Intermediate Band. Almost no before or after school practices are held for this group. Instruments in the Beginning Band include the following: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Cornet, (Trumpet) French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion. Note: Most students obtain instruments through a rental program at Music & Arts music store. *PCA supplies Tubas, Euphoniums and French Horns for a yearly usage fee of \$240.00.*

### **Intermediate Band**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: *Beginning Band or one year of prior instrumental training.*

The Intermediate Band is a developmental ensemble that is made up of Seventh and Eighth Grade Band Members. An emphasis is placed on the reinforcement of music fundamentals including music theory, characteristic tone production, pitches delineation and advanced rhythmic studies. Students may be required to attend a weekly one-hour section rehearsal. In addition, this group performs at TPSMEA events, invitational contests and festivals, as well as public concerts.

### **Fifth Grade Choir**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

The Fifth Grade Choir course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the Fourth Grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills, singing alone and with others, while increasing pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and beauty of tone. Students also learn music theory concepts of increasing difficulty through rhythm exercises and written work. All fifth-grade music students are involved in performances throughout the year.

## **Sixth Grade Choir**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

The Sixth Grade Music course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the Fifth Grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills. Special attention is given to the changing voices of boys at this age, and a suitable repertoire is selected. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments, and tests. All Sixth Grade music students are involved in performance throughout the year.

## **Middle School Choir**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester or Two Semester Course

The 7/8 Mixed Choir is an elective course for Seventh and Eighth Grade students designed to build upon music concepts learned in the previous year. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments, and tests. All Seventh and Eighth Grade choir students are involved in at least one major evening performance each semester. Students may request two semesters of choir per year.

## **Musical Theatre**

Seventh Grade Elective

One Semester or Two Semester Course

Seventh Grade Musical Theatre class is an intro to musical theatre course. It is designed for any student interested in this area and promotes the enjoyment and appreciation of all aspects of theatre and music. Classwork focuses on the exploration of theatre literature, performance, cultural connections, and technical requirements. Students will prepare and present as members of small groups and large ensembles. Students will be able to bring in outside material they are working on as well as learn new material in class. There will be one evening performance each semester. Students may request two semesters of this course per year.

## **Lion Singers (Honor Choir)**

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester or Two Semester Course

Eighth Grade Lion Singers is an honors-level elective course for Eighth Grade students designed to build upon music concepts learned in the Seventh Grade choir. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills, as well as dive more into worship-leading, vocal performance techniques, and performing skills. Students also learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises and theory lessons. Lions Singers are involved in at least one major evening performance each semester. Students may request two semesters of Lion Singers per year.

## **Fifth Grade Theatre**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

In the Fifth Grade theatre class, students will participate in a variety of games, activities, and projects that will teach basic concepts for the stage such as stage movement, theater terminology, public speaking, history of theatre, and improvisation. While pursuing excellence in a performance environment, theatre class encourages and increases critical thinking skills, idea generation, group collaboration, confidence, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

## **Sixth Grade Theatre**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

Students will participate in a variety of games, activities, and projects that will teach basic concepts for the stage such as stage movement, theater terminology, public speaking, history of theatre, and improvisation. While pursuing excellence in a performance environment, theatre class encourages and increases critical thinking skills, idea generation, group collaboration, confidence, and listening skills, among other important life skills.

## **Middle School Theatre I**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Middle School Theatre I is an elective course offered to Seventh and Eighth Grade students. In Theatre I, students are introduced to theatre as a gift from their Creator that can be used to bring glory to His name. The students learn the basics of theatrical performance and theatre history. Character development, stage direction and movement are developed through individual and group performances. Students learn the rules of improvisation and create dramatic works through group improvisation and collaborative playwriting.

## **Middle School Theatre II**

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Prerequisites: *Middle School Theater I, Departmental Recommendation*

The Middle School Theatre II elective course is for the eighth-grade student who wishes to continue in theatre. In this class, the students continue to learn more about the production process through the production of a One Act play. Students study, rehearse, design and perform a One Act play for the community and for competition. A student who has completed Middle School Theatre II may go directly into the Upper School Theatre II course.

# **World Languages**

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## **Fifth Grade World Language Spanish**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

The Fifth Grade Spanish course is an exploratory course that uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use learned vocabulary in describing real-life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. In addition to communication skills, Fifth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish-speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages, such as John 14:6, John 3:16, and Matthew 28:19-20, in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

## **Sixth Grade World Language Spanish**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

The Sixth Grade Spanish course uses technology and magnetic cards to introduce vocabulary within the context of logical sentences. The emerging second language is stimulated through the addition of new symbols and re-combinations of previously learned vocabulary symbols. Students begin to use learned vocabulary in describing real-life scenes, which in turn, establishes confidence in language acquisition. In addition to communication skills, Sixth Grade students at PCA develop an awareness of the culture and geography of some Spanish-speaking countries. They also learn about special holiday celebrations and cultural practices. Finally, students are challenged to learn Bible passages in order to be better equipped to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

### **World Languages French**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

*For Rising Seventh Graders: A semester of World Languages is required before a student enters Ninth Grade.*

Middle School World Languages French is an exploratory course designed to introduce students to French language and culture. Basic concepts such as regular and irregular verbs are presented as well as thematic vocabulary. Emphasis is placed on improving students' accent and pronunciation, and listening comprehension is practiced through different types of exercises. Students also explore different French cultural topics such as daily life, schools in France, cuisine, and more.

### **World Language Spanish**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

*For Rising Seventh Graders: A semester of World Languages is required before a student enters Ninth Grade.*

Middle School World Languages Spanish is an exploratory course that introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. This course uses interactive lessons that involve activities, games, projects, and technology platforms to help students build language learning skills. One of the main goals of this course is to help students be successful in their language courses in the future.

### **French I\***

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course; US Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Departmental Recommendation*
- *World Languages French with grades of 90 or above for both quarters*
- *English grades of 90 or above for Q1-Q4 of 7th Grade English*

*\*Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee enrollment in this course. Enrollment will be prioritized according to academic performance in prerequisites.*

The French I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs, while students are introduced to the preterit tense of regular verbs. Vocabulary is also emphasized to give the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history and geography of the French-speaking world. Students receive credit toward PCA Upper School PCA graduation requirements.

## **Spanish I\***

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course; US Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Departmental Recommendation*
- *World Languages Spanish with grades of 90 or above for both quarters*
- *English grades of 90 or above for Q1-Q4 of 7th Grade English*

*\*Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee enrollment in this course. Enrollment will be prioritized according to academic performance in prerequisites.*

The Spanish I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs, while students are introduced to the preterit tense of regular verbs. Vocabulary is also emphasized to give the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history and geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Students receive credit toward PCA Upper School PCA graduation requirements.

## **STEM**

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### **Cybersecurity and Game Design in Virtual and Augmented Reality**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

Augmented reality? In the classroom? Yes! In this year-long course taken by Fifth Grade students during their enrichment rotation, students are prepared with the crucial skills needed to be responsible digital citizens in a quickly expanding digital future. Students will learn the fundamentals of cybersecurity, and how to protect their sensitive information on the web. Topics covered will include digital citizenship, cryptography (cyber codes), gaming labs that teach students to spot cyber scams, the basics of coding, recognizing, and defending against cyber-attacks, and learning what exactly hackers are. Most importantly, students will learn that God has given us the knowledge to develop technology and how we, as Christ-followers, are to use this gift accordingly. In the gaming design unit, students will get first-hand experience with game design and virtual world creation, further reinforcing the principles of coding. They will get to project their digital creations in both Virtual and Augmented Reality. Students will learn the basics of computer programming and become familiar using the engineering design process.

### **Exploring Robotics**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

Come change the world with your creative inventions! In this year-long course taken by Sixth Grade students during their enrichment rotation, students will engage in hands-on robotic labs and build collaborative problem-solving skills that are focused on real-world challenges. Students will design, build, and program their own robots. They will use and stretch their imaginations in brand-new ways and will be able to connect their learning to life. From easy-entry projects to limitless creative design possibilities, robotics allows students to learn the essential STEM and 21st century skills needed to become the innovative minds of tomorrow all while having fun! Students will use the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and robotics programming software to invent and innovate their designs. In this course students will work together to build an effective robot, they will systematically test and refine programs, using the



design process to develop a solution in order to complete missions, all while developing skills related to collaboration and teamwork, and life skills for their future careers.

### **Engineering and Aerospace**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Get ready to take off! Come explore the vastness of God's magnificent universe! Investigate, explore, and use creative thinking and problem-solving skills to learn how scientists and engineers make traveling around the globe and beyond possible. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the flight and space unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live-in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. Students will take a virtual trip to the Moon and explore the lunar surface in virtual reality (VR). Students will explore "day of data" with Microsoft Hacking STEM and NASA, to investigate how data powers space exploration. Students will also get to bring Space to the classroom as they will be part of Blue Origin's Club for the Future project and get to design and send postcards to space and back!

### **Forensics: Medical Detectives**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Get your magnifying glass and notebook ready as we become medical sleuths on a mission! In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose diseases. 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. Throughout the unit, students discover how healthcare professionals act as medical detectives to identify, treat, and prevent illness in their patients. Students apply their knowledge of the human body systems, analyze patient symptoms, perform lab analyses of patient samples, and use other clues to come up with diagnoses. The course uses an activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) instructional design approach, which centers on hands-on, real-world activities, projects, and problems that help students understand how the knowledge and skills they develop in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. The APB approach scaffolds student learning through structured activities and projects that empower students to become independent in the classroom and help them build skill sets to apply to real-world problems.

## **Non-departmental Electives**

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### **Multimedia Journalism**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

In Multimedia Journalism, students will develop an in-depth understanding of digital media in today's world. In the class, students learn the basics of printing and publishing both newspapers and videos. During the year, students learn the importance of journalists in promoting and exploring issues both domestically and internationally. The instructional goal is to provide fundamental theories and lab experience to produce multimedia news stories that combine

different media formats: text, hypertext, audio, video, and photo. Students will learn concepts and skills necessary for developing news stories, reporting, gathering, and production of news in changing media environments.

### **Sports Reporting**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

In Sports Reporting, students will examine different forms of sports media including print, broadcast, and the internet, and their impact on sports. Students learn the fundamentals of various components of sports media such as writing game and feature stories, writing strategies for broadcast, active voice, AP style, internet streaming, shooting on location, anchoring and play by play, and production of the various forms of sports media. This experiential course offers students an opportunity to apply knowledge and skills to sports media activities using the PCA athletic program as their media focus.

### **Christian Scholars**

Fifth Grade Enrichment

This class is designed for fifth grade to increase the student's knowledge of the Bible, develop skills in locating books of the Bible and key passages, and learn how to apply the Bible to their lives. Through small group and interactive lessons, students will build strong Bible skills and will learn scripture and learn about prayer and worship.

### **Christian Scholars**

Sixth Grade Enrichment

This class is designed for sixth grade to increase the student's knowledge of the Bible, develop skills in locating books of the Bible and key passages, and learn how to apply the Bible to their lives. Through small group and interactive lessons, students will build strong Bible skills and will learn scripture and learn about prayer and worship.

### **G610**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

"So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." The G610 course is based on Galatians 6:10 and will focus on God-honoring stewardship of one's time, talents, and gifts. By learning about others, students can apply learning to enhance relationships with friends and classmates. This class works in small groups while developing a heart for service that is relevant to the middle school student.

### **Student Leadership Institute (SLi)**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

MS Student Leadership Institute (SLi) will be a semester-long course which focuses on developing essential leadership skills including critical thinking, public speaking, and team building while examining relevant cultural issues from a Biblical perspective in a fast-paced and fun environment that is age-appropriate for MS students. Cultural topics will include a variety of issues such as

school choice, poverty, healthcare, and social media as well as foundational virtues such as honesty, integrity, justice, charity, and mercy.

### **Study Skills**

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective  
One Semester Course

Study Skills is a one semester elective course that focuses on organizational skills for Seventh and Eighth Graders. The primary goal is for students to learn and practice how to arrange everyday tasks into a system that helps them succeed in life.

### **Learning Lab**

Fifth - Eighth Grade Elective Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: *The student must be enrolled in the Learning Lab. Students must:*

- *Have a documented learning disability with a full individual evaluation*
- *Exhibit an academic need as demonstrated through achievement testing or classroom grades*
- *Demonstrate a need for accommodations*
- *Current testing within three years on file*

Once reviewed by the Director of Specialized Learning, services will be determined based on a continued need. The purpose of Learning Lab is to assist students in monitoring their academic progress, provide test-taking in the lab, develop self-advocacy skills and support classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, during monitored sessions they complete assignments and make-up work, have extended time to complete tests, and use this time to consult with instructors regarding progress on upcoming assignments, tests, or projects as well as grade status. More information can be found on the Specialized Learning Resource tile on MyPCA.

## **Physical Education**

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### **Fifth and Sixth Grade PE**

Fifth and Sixth Grade Enrichment

The purpose of physical education is to guide children to be physically active for a lifetime. It is our goal to enable students through physical education to perform basic skills in individual and team sports and fitness activities. Opportunity is provided to accomplish this goal through activities appropriately designed for the student's developmental level. Believing that God wants us to respect authority and maintain self-control in all areas of our life, physical education provides the perfect setting for learning self-discipline through competition while learning to respect the rules of the game and the officials.