



# METROLINA

# CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM OVERVIEW

# PORTRAIT OF A GRADUATE

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

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

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

**W**orldview that is Christ-centered and biblically based

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

**R**edemption that is biblically based and personal

**R**esponsibility that is guided by Scripture and encompasses the individual, culture, and evangelism

**I**ntegrity that influences all of life’s decisions

**O**wnership of the Faith that is personal and transformational

**R**eadiness to engage culture, proclaim the Gospel, and live life to the Glory of God

# STANDARDS-DRIVEN CURRICULUM

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Metrolina Christian Academy utilizes a standards-driven curriculum model that is meticulously crafted and designed to prioritize the alignment with specific educational standards rather than being reliant solely on textbooks or resources. Of paramount importance is the selection and integration of standards that assist in our students’ holistic development, which results in a comprehensive and dynamic educational experience. This approach allows us to draw from diverse resources, methodologies, and materials in order to ensure our curriculum is adaptive, engaging, and aligned with the most effective educational practices.

# BIBLE COURSE PHILOSOPHY

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

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

# COURSE DESCRIPTIONS - BIBLE

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The resources chosen to implement worldview and apologetics instruction are:

- Kindergarten through fifth-grade students will complete a survey of the Bible using God's Word as our sole guide and **Summit Ministries: Building on the Rock** as a supplement. Integrated daily lessons constructed in a spiral sequence, thought-provoking questions, and guided assignments will embed an overview of biblical content in student's hearts and minds. In addition, students will be involved in the **Friendly** program in which they will learn the tools and gain character needed to navigate the world and friendships with confidence through the lens of God's word.
- Sixth graders will use **Running the Race** from **Positive Action for Christ**. This is a character development-focused curriculum that will be supplemented with the **Answers in Genesis** apologetics text for 6<sup>th</sup> grade. Students will articulate their faith through quarterly speeches utilizing visual aids and a variety of presentation styles throughout middle school.
- Seventh grade will use **Route 66** from **Positive Action for Christ**. This curriculum provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God. As students journey through this survey, they will discover the truths and applications that God has provided in each book of the Bible. The 7<sup>th</sup>-grade Bible course will be supplemented with leadership-focused modules to enhance their worldview.
- Eighth grade will begin the Summit Ministries apologetics and worldview curriculum program with the book, **Walking in Truth; Christianity in Action** which is centered around the application of biblical truth in the midst of a post-Christian culture. The worldview-centered standards for the Bible prepare students to defend the truth of Christianity and live out a Biblical worldview.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> grade Bible classes experience a survey of the Bible including the Old Testament history and prophecy, as well as the gospels and epistles of the New Testament. An immersion of apologetics and worldview instruction is woven throughout the lectures and discussions.
- The 10<sup>th</sup>-grade Bible classes experience a survey of Christian apologetics through theological and intellectual curriculum objectives. This course provides a foundational understanding of the Christian faith to build and develop a biblical worldview. **Understanding the Faith** from Summit Ministries will be used as the primary tool for this course.
- The 11<sup>th</sup>-grade Bible classes experience an in-depth study of worldviews through theological and intellectual curriculum objectives. This course provides a foundational understanding of how to identify and counter opposing worldviews in defense and articulation of a biblical worldview. **Understanding the Times** from Summit Ministries will be used as the primary tool for this course.
- The 12<sup>th</sup> grade Bible classes experience an outline of the key social issues of today in an effort to positively share culture. This course uses sound theological objectives to help students engage the culture with a biblical worldview. **Understanding the Culture** from Summit Ministries will be used as the primary tool for this course.
- 12<sup>th</sup> grade students have the opportunity to take *Introduction to Christian Religion*: REL 1100 a dual enrollment course with Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary taught on MCA's campus by Mr. Danny McDowell, approved adjunct instructor. REL 1100 is designed to introduce the students to the Christian religion. The course will focus on core beliefs, traditions, and practices of the Christian faith. Some consideration will also be given to how Christianity relates to other major religions.

# 6TH GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## Language Arts

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

**Resources:** *Literature: Pearl* (Mosdos Press); *David Livingstone: Africa's Trailblazer*; *Christian Heroes: Then & Now* (YWAM Publishing); *The Devil's Arithmetic* (Puffin Modern Classics); Simplify Writing

## Math

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

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

## Science

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

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

## Social Studies

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

**Resources:** *Heritage Studies: Ancient Civilizations*, BJU Press; Teacher Created Resources

# 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## Language Arts

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

**Resources:** *Literature: Jade* (Mosdos Press); *The Magician's Nephew* (Harper Publishing); *The Giver* (Houghton Mifflin)

## Math

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

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

## Science

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

**Resources:** Life Science—Purposeful Design (2017)

## Social Studies

Students will survey the history progressions of civilizations in a chronological journey around the world studying the ebb and flow of empires, cultures, Christianity, and world religions. It concludes with an examination of the trends of the emerging 21st century.

**Resources:** Heritage Studies: *World Studies*, BJU Press

# MIDDLE SCHOOL – 6<sup>TH</sup> & 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ENRICHMENTS

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## **Art**

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

## **Computer**

Students in the seventh grade are at various computer literacy levels. This class is designed to develop mature tech users for use in the classroom for their future in education. Students will enhance their skills and terminology to better understand the computer's hardware facility, file management, keyboarding, Microsoft Office, and internet safety.

## **Health Fitness**

Students will not only enjoy the break in their day filled with physical activity, but will also learn why certain physical exercises, stretches, and games benefit their overall health. Proper form and equipment safety will hold utmost importance at the introduction of every new activity. Most children go through more mental, emotional, and physical changes during middle school than during any other time of their lives. This class will help lead the way with a Biblical worldview on how to deal with these changes in a positive way.

## **Hispanic Language and Culture / Intro to Spanish**

Sixth grade students will learn about various Central and South American cultures. Topics covered will range from basic language terminology to family relations and food. Seventh grade students will learn the basics of Spanish. Topics learned in the introductory Spanish are Spanish speaking countries and their locations; alphabet - syllables, vowels and accents; calendar - days, months; seasons and weather; numbers 0-100; primary colors and greetings; and basic Spanish Bible verses.

## **Music Appreciation**

This class will expose students to a variety of musical styles. Students will learn how to create music with instruments, as well as compose music with computer-based tools. A wide range of musical terminology will be covered while students discover the various professional opportunities available in the world of music. Students will learn that the intent of music was for worship and to communicate their praises to the Lord.

## **Band**

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

## **Music & Theater**

This class is designed to encourage middle school students to explore their God-given talents in performing arts. The mission and purpose will be to equip students to use their talents to glorify God in the classroom and beyond. Students will also be introduced to the basic concepts and history of theatre arts. Students will use various drama techniques to build confidence in their creative talents, cultivate imagination, and develop characterization through role-play.

# 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE CORE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

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## Language Arts

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

**Resources:** *Literature: Gold* (Mosdos Press); *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (Prestwick); *The Voyage of the Lucky Dragon* (Mosdos Press)

## Math 8 Pre-Algebra

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

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

## Math 1

Math 1 is designed as an immersion of the fundamental components of Algebra I and Geometry integrated into one course. The course is designed with developmentally appropriate rigor in a scaffolding instructional program for students to explore and develop a comprehensive understanding of Algebra 1 and Geometry. The course supports a blended learning model with personal instruction coupled with virtual tools. Course content includes algebraic expressions, linear equations, systems of equations, exponential functions, statistics, tools of geometry, angles, and geometric figures.

**Resources:** McGraw-Hill Reveal Integrated Math 1 published 2020, McGraw-Hill Education and online resources through ConnectEd

## Science

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

**Resources:** Physical Science—Purposeful Design (2017)

## Social Studies

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

**Resources:** *The American Republic*: BJU Press

## Spanish I, 8<sup>th</sup>

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



# MIDDLE SCHOOL - 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE FINE ARTS

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## **Band**

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

## **Health Fitness**

Students will not only enjoy the break in their day filled with physical activity, but will also learn why certain physical exercises, stretches, and games benefit their overall health. Proper form and equipment safety will hold utmost importance at the introduction of every new activity. Most children go through more mental, emotional, and physical changes during middle school than during in other time of their lives. This class will help lead the way with a Biblical worldview on how to deal with these changes in a positive way.

## **Media Arts**

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

## **Music & Theatre**

Students will be introduced to the basic concepts and history of theatre arts. Students will use various drama techniques to build confidence in their creative talents, cultivate imagination, and develop characterization through role-play. Students will learn and use drama history and theatre vocabulary through interactive class assessments. Students will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group acting, theatre games and performances, as well as script analysis and writing. In addition, aspects of music and choir will be immersed in the class. Choir will introduce a variety of musical genres to teach students the elements of singing. Correct vocal techniques will aid students in using their voices properly. Middle School Choir is designed to pique musical interest in students who have never explored their God-given talents while challenging and refining those students who are gifted in music. Students in Music & Theatre will gain the knowledge needed to advance to High School Theatre I-II-III. The curriculum will ultimately educate students on the requirements of putting on a creative production that honors God and His standard of excellence.

## **Visual Arts**

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

# NOTES

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