



MS Course Curriculum Guide

2024-25

MISSION STATEMENT

Charlotte Christian School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school, equipping and developing students to effectively integrate Biblical truth and learning into their daily lives and to impact the culture for Christ.

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Middle School Course Descriptions

[Bible](#) | [Math](#) | [Language Arts](#) | [Science](#) | [Social Studies](#) | [World Language](#) | [Life Fitness](#) | [Electives](#)

BIBLE

Grade 5

The Prophecy of Christ

Bible 5 is a study of the book of Genesis, starting with Creation and ending with the story of Joseph and the Israelites in Egypt. The initial prophecy of Christ, foretold in Genesis 3:15 (the protoevangelium-the first gospel) and expounded upon through the Abrahamic Covenant, is the central theme of this course. Genesis tells us who God is, who we are, how and why things are broken, and the plan that God has put in place to return His creation to the way it should be.

Grade 6

The Preparation for Christ

Bible 6 is a study of the Old Testament, beginning with Exodus and ending with the 400 Years of Silence. Bible 6 provides students with an overview of the Old Testament and seeks to answer the question, "Where does Jesus show up in the Old Testament?" Students will learn how the people, events, and covenants of the Old Testament prepare us for the first coming of Christ. Upon completion of this course, students will have the ability to understand how the Old Testament points us to Christ and why it matters in their daily lives.

Grade 7

The Plan of Christ

Bible 7 provides students with an overview of the New Testament. Students will learn and understand how the four Gospels fit together and complement each other, as well as early church history, through the book of Acts, followed by the practical daily living instructions of the New Testament letters. This course also includes the Essential Beliefs of Christianity and finishes with a basic understanding of the book of Revelation. Upon completion of this course, students will understand how the New Testament encourages Christians in their daily walk with Jesus and equips them to be the salt and light He has called them to be through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grade 8

The Person of Christ

Bible 8 is designed to give the students an in-depth view of the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ as uniquely presented through the Gospel of John. During this course, students will be exposed to each phase of Jesus' life on earth, His public ministry, trial, death, burial, and resurrection, as well as His pre-existence in the Trinity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. By completing this course, students will have a thorough understanding of the Good News of the Gospels and will also be able to express that Good News to a lost and dying world.

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LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 5

Reading

Grade 5 language arts explores different literary units that include fiction, nonfiction, argumentative, and fantasy units throughout the fifth grade school year. Students will study a variety of short stories, novels, nonfiction texts, nonfiction articles, and argumentative texts and will continue to apply reading comprehension skills and knowledge of literary elements. Students will explore vocabulary practice through Classical Roots and will be active members of a book club throughout the year in small groups within the classroom. Students will have a chance to learn through various research projects, Socratic seminars, and novel studies.

Writing

Grade 5 writing introduces students to various writing skills and genres, covering topics such as writing informative paragraphs, strong opinion paragraphs, five-paragraph essays, and learning to craft a strong email. Students will explore the elements of realistic historical fiction, argumentative/persuasive essays, and various forms of poetry. They will culminate their grade 5 year with the annual capstone research project. Students will also focus on vocabulary development, grammar usage, and spelling throughout the course to enhance their overall writing skills.

Grade 6

Grade 6 language arts introduces students to the integrated nature of the language arts. Acknowledging that communication is a gift from God, sixth graders explore the various ways in which we communicate our thoughts, perspectives, ideas, and emotions via reading, writing, listening, speaking, and visual representations. Students are exposed to a wide variety of genres, using mentor texts to expand their own narrative, expository, and argumentative writing skills and find their unique voice. Thematic units include the power of words, characters in conflict, community and changes, challenges that create champions, and choices. Grammar and vocabulary are woven in contextually as students encounter words through the texts and units.

Grade 7

Grade 7 language arts takes a thematic approach as students study a variety of short stories, novels, nonfiction articles, poetry, and drama and continue to apply reading comprehension skills and knowledge of literary elements. With the foundation of a biblical worldview, students engage with themes through reading, writing, and discussion that include mindset, safety vs. freedom, power and utopia, dehumanization and empathy, truth and beauty, and fate and free will. Students will write in many different forms, such as personal narrative, literary analysis and synthesis, academic summary, poetry, and skits.

Grade 8

Grade 8 language arts emphasizes the study of various genres of literature to expand reading comprehension skills and enhance the understanding of literary elements for the purpose of complex text reasoning. Students cultivate a sense of the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge through biblical integration, reading classic and contemporary literature, and analyzing essential questions. Four units of study examine what it means to be American, what it takes to survive, why we try to imagine the future, and how words inspire change. Students in grade 8 continue developing creative, literary, expository, and persuasive writing skills that support, complement, and make meaning of the units of study.

MATH

Grade 5

Math 5 students add to their solid math fact foundation and are prepared to take their mathematical thinking to the next level. Students will tackle complex tasks involving fractions, decimals, measurement, and geometry during the year, but above all, the goal is for students to finish the year as math problem-solvers, willing to take risks in their learning and communicate their ideas using various strategies. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 6

Math 6

Math 6 students are provided an age-appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics and establish a solid foundation in fundamental middle grades topics such as decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percentages, and tools of geometry. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Advanced Math 6

Advanced Math 6 students continue to strengthen proficiency in all operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. They will develop an understanding of rates, ratios, and percent applications. Students will solve equations, inequalities, and graphs in the coordinate plane. They study the characteristics of angles and side lengths in triangles. Students are introduced to the relationships between diameter, radius, circumference, and area. They will use formulas to find the circumference and area of circles. Students study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students use formulas to find the area, surface area, and volume of prisms, cylinders, and irregular figures. Students will determine the probability of simple and compound events. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 7

Math 7

Math 7 students continue to strengthen proficiency in all operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. They will develop an understanding of rates, ratios, and percent applications. Students will solve equations, inequalities, and graphs in the coordinate plane. They study the characteristics of angles and side lengths in triangles. Students are introduced to the relationships between diameter, radius, circumference, and area. They will use formulas to find the circumference and area of circles. Students use formulas to find the area, surface area, and volume of prisms, cylinders, and irregular figures. Students will determine the probability of simple and compound events. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students are introduced to algebraic topics, including integers, operations with decimals and fractions, and solving equations and inequalities. They will work with square roots, cube roots, and exponents. Students develop an understanding of linear functions, graphing, and analyzing functions that model linear relationships. They will study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students are introduced to angle relationships created by parallel lines and a transversal. They will develop an understanding of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students continue to reinforce and apply problem-solving strategies for a variety of problems. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Algebra 1

Algebra 1 students review pre-algebra concepts and are introduced to the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions, and their graphs. Solving linear, quadratic, rational, radical, and exponential functions; graphing linear equations; solving inequalities; solving systems of linear equations; factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated into the course. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 8

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students are introduced to algebraic topics, including integers, operations with decimals and fractions, and solving equations and inequalities. They will work with square roots, cube roots, and exponents. Students develop an understanding of linear functions, graphing, and analyzing functions that model linear relationships. They will study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students are introduced to angle relationships created by parallel lines and a transversal. They will develop an understanding of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students continue to reinforce and apply problem-solving strategies for a variety of problems. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Algebra I

Algebra I students review pre-algebra concepts and are introduced to the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions, and their graphs; solving linear, quadratic, rational, radical, and exponential functions; graphing linear equations; solving inequalities; solving systems of linear equations; factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated into the course. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Geometry

Geometry students are introduced to the deductive reasoning process in the classical Euclidean tradition. The course includes a study of lines, angles, triangles, circles, polygons, solid figures and how they are related. Concepts are analyzed from the perspective of coordinate geometry, proofs, congruence, similarity, area, volume, and transformations. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

SCIENCE

Grade 5

General Science

Science in grade 5 actively incorporates the scientific method and engineering design process. Inquiry and investigation are the foundation of our science curriculum. In grade 5, students dive deep into investigations that include mixtures and solutions, living systems, and the earth and sun. Students as students question, form a hypothesis, test a hypothesis, record data, and come to a conclusion.

Grade 6

Physical Science

Physical Science introduces scientific inquiry, measurement, basic chemistry, waves, electricity, magnetism, force and motion. Physical Science lessons include designing experiments, practicing metric measurement, studying atoms, understanding the periodic table, building electrical circuits, and experimenting with force and motion. Students are engaged in the learning process through group work and the use of science notebooks, which encourage interactive instruction. Critical thinking and hands-on activities enhance content learning. Biblically-centered instruction recognizes God as the creator of all things

Grade 7

Life Science

Life Science is the overall study of living organisms from the cell to the human body. The study of microscopes and cells leads to units on plants, the classification of living things, protists, human biology, genetics, and animal ecosystems. In addition to identifying, observing, and collecting organisms, students perform dissections to study the structure and function of certain animals and organ systems. Critical thinking and hands-on activities enhance the content of learning. Biblically-centered instruction recognizes God as the Creator of all living things.

Grade 8

Earth Science

Earth Science investigates and provides students with an appreciation for the enormity and beauty of God's creation from the heavens to the Earth. This class focuses on the Earth's composition and its systems' functions. Major topics include the nature of science and inquiry, Earth's structure, Earth's oceans, weather and climate, and the solar system, stars, and galaxies. Students will explore in depth the sun, moon, and Earth's relationship, plate tectonics, and the creationist view of Earth's history. Emphasis is on scientific inquiry, engaging hands-on activities, scientific literacy, problem-solving, technology, and real-world application.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 5

Social Studies in grade five is a vertically aligned curriculum bridging lower and middle school. Grade five social studies focus extends from early exploration to westward expansion in United States History. Students engage in active research and inquiry-based learning, with collaboration playing a central role in the curriculum.

Grade 6

Ancient Civilizations

Ancient Civilizations explores the people, events, ideas, innovations, civics, politics, and culture of major Western and Eastern civilizations. The curriculum will begin with creation and the people of the Fertile Crescent, continuing through Egypt, India, Africa, Greece, and Rome in the East and the Mayans, Incas, and Aztecs of the West. The course content will include a basic introduction to the Five Themes of Geography and how those themes affect the development of civilizations. Through the curriculum, students visit and explore ancient sites and museums with the aid of technology. Biblical integration emphasizes history as God's story. Instruction is enhanced as students participate in activities such as creating an exhibit of King Tut's Tomb and participating in Middle Ages Day.

Grade 7

Modern World Civilizations

Modern World Civilizations gives students the opportunity to build upon their knowledge, skills, and understanding of ancient civilizations covered in the sixth grade. Students will begin to study the Renaissance Era (1400s) through contemporary times to develop an understanding of the impact of growing global interactions. The focus will remain on the *Five Themes of Geography* to understand the development of modern societies and regions. Using a biblical lens, the course will guide students through patterns of change and continuity, placing an emphasis on conflict and cooperation, economic development, population shifts, political thought, cultural values, and the impact on the environment over time. Regions and modern societies all over the world will be studied, including Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Grade 8

American Civilizations

American Civilizations begins with the early Native Americans and continues through present-day current events. The focus is on God's sovereignty in events and circumstances of history. Units of study include North Carolina history, European Exploration, the Colonial Period, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, Immigration, WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Cold War Era. Utilizing technology, this course emphasizes reading comprehension, note-taking, and current events. The course culminates with a week-long educational trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Grade 5

World Languages introduces students to the unique qualities of three language options: French, Latin, and Spanish. After exploring all three languages in grade 5, students are expected to commit to one language choice for grades 6-8. Successful completion of levels 1A and 2A will give students Level I credit and may allow them to begin at Level II as a freshman.

French

Grade 6 - Introduction to French

Students are introduced to the French language and the culture of the French-speaking world with a conversational approach. The learning objectives include the development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Culture studies are integrated throughout the course and focus on French culture in North America.

Grade 7 - French 1A

French 1A focuses on the development of listening to and speaking the language and begins the integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. Grammar structures are interwoven with cultural information focusing on the Francophonie outside of France and North America. As they understand contextual directions, commands, keywords, and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read.

Grade 8 - French 1B

French 1B builds on the lessons of French 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of French culture, products, practices, and perspectives and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers.

Latin

Grade 6 - Introduction to Latin

Students are introduced to the ancient Romans' language, history, and culture. Reading, writing, and grammar will be the core part of the course, supplemented with hands-on projects.

Grade 7 - Latin 1A

Latin 1A focuses on the acquisition of fundamental grammar, syntax, and vocabulary so that students will be able to read and translate simple passages in an ancient language. Students will also build vocabulary and Latin roots, thus enhancing their knowledge of English and writing skills. Biblical integration, mythology, Roman culture, and history will also be a part of their study.

Grade 8 - Latin 1B

Latin 1B builds on the lessons of Latin 1A. This course introduces students to the language of ancient Rome with an emphasis on Roman culture, vocabulary, etymology, and basic Latin grammar. Students learn how to decline nouns and conjugate verbs, as well as translate simple Latin sentences.

Spanish

Grade 6 - Introduction to Spanish

Spanish 6 focuses on mastery of the basics of the language. The learning objectives include the development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Culture is integrated throughout the course to develop a better understanding of the Spanish-speaking world.

Grade 7 - Spanish 1A

Spanish 1A focuses on the development of listening to and speaking the language and begins the integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. As they understand contextual directions, commands, keywords and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read. Grammatical structures and culture are interwoven throughout the units.

Grade 8 - Spanish 1B

Spanish 1B builds on the lessons of Spanish 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of Spanish culture, products, practices, and perspectives and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers.

LIFE FITNESS

Emphasis is placed on improving personal fitness through cardiovascular exercise, flexibility, and strength training. Traditional team sports and games are meant to develop enjoyable options for lifetime physical fitness, while wellness instruction introduces goals for lifetime nutrition, exercise, and making healthy life choices.



Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

GRADE 5 ELECTIVES

Students in grade 5 explore predetermined language and elective offerings by rotating through a variety of courses. All grade 5 students will participate in the following:

Music: Students choose between General Music, Band, or Orchestra

Language Wheel: Spanish, French, Latin, Coding, and Study Skills

Elective Wheel: Art, Genius Hour, Communication Skills, and Leadership

GRADE 6-8 ELECTIVES

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Grade 6

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

Yearlong, audition only, fulfills fine arts requirement

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in Alkire and at outside events, including competing in the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) and the Christians in Theatre Arts Festival (CITA). This team serves the school and the community and must commit to the class and team for the entire year. Attendance at outside rehearsals, festivals, and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. This class is open to students in grades 6-8, and an audition is required prior to enrolling. All students who plan to audition for ACT 2 should rank this course as their top fine arts choice on the scheduling survey. Look for audition information in the FOCUS after spring break.

ART 6

Semester (may only be taken once)

Grade 6 art builds on skills and concepts learned in lower school by developing a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of design, building technical skills in a variety of mediums, and developing their understanding of the artistic process. Students also learn about art history and appreciation while exploring drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, collage, and sculpture.

BAND 6

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 6 beginning band is an entry point for any middle school student interested in learning to play a wind, brass, or percussion instrument. Students may choose to begin on one of four instruments: flute, clarinet, trumpet, or trombone. Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of caring for and playing a band instrument and reading basic music notation. Color instruments such as saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone, tuba, and percussion will be added in grade 7 and grade 8 years after students have developed a strong, fundamental knowledge of tone production and music literacy skills. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course. Students enrolled in this class must provide their own instrument, case, and accessories.

CHOIR 6

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Choir 6 is designed to instill a love of singing in an ensemble. Students will learn fundamental singing techniques, music reading skills, and singing in parts. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

ORCHESTRA 6

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 6 beginning orchestra is an entry point for any middle school student interested in learning to play a string instrument. Students may choose to begin on one of four instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass. Instruction will focus on the fundamentals of caring for and playing a string instrument and reading basic music notation. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course. Students enrolled in this class must provide their own instrument, case, and accessories.

THEATRE 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Theatre 6 is a hands-on course designed to teach students the basics of theatre arts through acting exploration, theatre appreciation, and theatre history. Students will become familiar with the three foundational tools of the actor: the voice, the body, and the creative mind. Upon completion of this course, students will be able to identify components of the stage environment and the five aspects of theatrical design, will practice proper theatre etiquette, will understand and execute rehearsal room protocol, will be able to utilize strong, physical and vocal technique, will be able to analyze dramatic text skillfully, and will be able to work effectively with a scene partner as well as individually to give a truthful performance onstage.

Grade 7

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

[Yearlong, audition only, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in Alkire and at outside events, including competing in the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) and the Christians in Theatre Arts Festival (CITA). This team serves the school and the community and must commit to the class and team for the entire year. Attendance at outside rehearsals, festivals, and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. This class is open to students in grades 6-8, and an audition is required prior to enrolling. All students who plan to audition for ACT 2 should rank this course as their top fine arts choice on the scheduling survey. Look for audition information in the FOCUS after spring break.

ACTING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This hands-on course is designed for the beginning or intermediate actor who would like to develop their acting skills. Over the course of a semester, students will experience improvisation, theatre games, pantomime, script reading, monologues, partner scenes, and group scenes. There are no performances outside of sharing in class for this course.

ART 7

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Art 7 is open to students who have successfully completed Art 6. Students in Art 7 will further develop their knowledge and technical skills in art using a variety of art materials and methods. Emphasis is on developing original solutions to visual challenges. Students will gain a greater understanding of composition and aesthetic quality through drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will study the role that culture and art history play in producing art and will utilize this knowledge in their own art projects.

BAND 7

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 7 band is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 6. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of Band 8. Color instruments such as saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone, tuba, and percussion will be added over the course of this class as students show readiness. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, such as the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CHOIR 7/8

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 7 and 8 choir is open to all students who like to sing. Emphasis is on developing vocal performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school choir. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, such as the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CREATIVE MEDIA 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Creative Media is the place where fine arts and technology meet. Students explore digital art, photography, video production, and graphic design using their school-provided iPad. Through project-based learning using Procreate, Camera, iMovie, and Canva apps, students will develop the technical and design skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world.

DIGITAL MUSIC 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Using Apple's Garageband music production app, students in this course work in a virtual recording studio where they can imagine, rehearse, and bring to life their own original beats and song recordings in different musical styles. Students work through the recording, editing, and mixing process using loops and virtual instruments. This course is an important building block for further study in the digital arts in upper school.

EXPLORATORY ART 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students will stretch the definition of what can be created. Students will explore new and sometimes unusual materials to invent new ways of making art. Traditional art materials will also be used in innovative combinations. We will utilize design, drawing, painting, sculpting, or “invented techniques” to allow students to explore, discover, develop, and create their unique creative expressions.

GUITAR 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic guitar skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Guitar students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own acoustic guitar, case, tuner, and picks.

MIDKNIGHT NEWS 7/8

[Yearlong, application only, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

MidKnight News is the student-led news program for the Charlotte Christian Middle School. During the year, students will create full-length episodes that will air once a month and mini-news episodes that will air weekly. This fast-paced class needs students of all interests in the areas of production, including actors, directors, editors, camera crews, and writers. Application/audition will be required prior to enrollment.

ORCHESTRA 7

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 7 orchestra is open to any student who has successfully completed Orchestra 6. Emphasis is on developing performance technique and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of Orchestra 8. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

UKULELE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic ukulele skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Ukulele students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own ukulele and case.

Grade 8

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

[Yearlong, audition only, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

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ACTING 7/8

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This hands-on course is designed for the beginning or intermediate actor who would like to develop their acting skills. Over the course of a semester, students will experience improvisation, theatre games, pantomime, script reading, monologues, partner scenes, and group scenes. There are no performances outside of sharing in class for this course.

ART 8

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Art 8 is open to students who have successfully completed Art 7 or Exploratory Art with teacher recommendation. Art 8 students will further develop their visual problem-solving skills with an emphasis on increasing technical skills and creative solutions. Students will produce advanced artwork in drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, and mixed media with the goal of achieving higher aesthetic and creative quality. Students also study the art of artists and cultures throughout history and apply these to the use of current art materials and techniques.

BAND 8

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 8 band is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 7. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school band. Color instruments such as saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone, tuba, and percussion will continue to be added over the course of this class as students show readiness. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, such as the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CHOIR 7/8

[Yearlong, fulfills fine arts requirement](#)

Grade 7 and 8 choir is open to all students who like to sing. Emphasis is on developing vocal performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school choir. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, such as the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

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DIGITAL MUSIC 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Using Apple's Garageband music production app, students in this course work in a virtual recording studio where they can imagine, rehearse, and bring to life their own original beats and song recordings in different musical styles. Students work through the recording, editing, and mixing process using loops and virtual instruments. This course is an important building block for further study in the digital arts in upper school.

EXPLORATORY ART 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students will stretch the definition of what can be created. Students will explore new and sometimes unusual materials to invent new ways of making art. Traditional art materials will also be used in innovative combinations. We will utilize design, drawing, painting, sculpting, or "invented techniques" to allow students to explore, discover, develop, and create their unique creative expressions.

GUITAR 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic guitar skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Guitar students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own acoustic guitar, case, tuner, and picks.

MIDKNIGHT NEWS 7/8

[Yearlong, application only](#)

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ORCHESTRA 8

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 8 orchestra is open to any student who has successfully completed Orchestra 7. Emphasis is on developing performance technique and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school orchestra. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Southern Christmas Show and the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

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[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

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INNOVATION ELECTIVES

Grade 6

DESIGN LAB 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who dream of becoming future innovators - building gadgets, designing solutions, and leaving their mark on the world. In this hands-on course, students will explore using the design process and the tools of innovation, such as 3D printing, laser printing, and structural design. While collaborating with like-minded peers, students will put their design process to work and unleash their creativity in projects that make a positive impact.

MIDKNIGHT INNOVATION 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course encourages students to see their school-issued iPad as a gateway to the world of digital learning and application in all of their classes and everyday life. Through project-based learning using the Keynote, Pages, iMovie, Garageband, and Canva apps, students will develop the design and creation skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world.

ROBOKNIGHTS 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This class is an introduction to the VEX VRC program. It is where students will be introduced to the engineering and programming process through the VEX robotics curriculum. We will explore basic robotics concepts through hands-on building and challenges.

Grade 7

3D SOLID MODELING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who are fascinated by the world of 3D and eager to bring their ideas to life. This exciting course will equip your student with the skills and tools to transform real objects into digital models, design your creations, and see them come to life through 3D printing and laser cutting. Students will use our 3D scanner to capture real objects to 3D print and laser cut. They will learn to design 3D models from scratch, iterate on existing designs, and personalize them with your unique touch using industry-standard software by Autocad and Lightburn.

CODING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for aspiring programmers and tech wizards. This class is the gateway to the thrilling world of coding. We will learn about three diverse coding languages - Swift, Python, and Scratch to unlock the potential for creating captivating games, interactive animations, and powerful applications. Students will master the fundamentals of variables, loops, and conditional statements using Scratch. Students will increase their knowledge of these foundations with Python and learn the language behind Apple's iOS apps using Swift to create their own games and apps.

DESIGN LAB 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who dream of becoming future innovators - building gadgets, designing solutions, and leaving their mark on the world. In this hands-on course, students will explore using the design process and the tools of innovation, such as 3D printing, laser printing, and structural design. While collaborating with like-minded peers, students will put their design process to work and unleash their creativity in projects that make a positive impact.

ENGINEERING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Engineering features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage students' natural curiosity and imagination. Students begin by focusing on their understanding of the engineering design process, which includes defining problems, developing solutions, and optimizing design solutions. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build will foster higher-order thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation, as well as deepen their understanding of how engineering influences the world around them.

INTRO TO ARCHITECTURE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Architecture is open to any student who has successfully completed Engineering or Design Lab 7/8. Students will continue exploring the design process as they investigate a need in the community, develop a solution, and produce a product.

ROBOKNIGHTS 7/8

[Yearlong](#)

RoboKnights is the middle school robotics competition team. The VEX robotics curriculum will introduce students to the engineering and programming process. RoboKnights is a hands-on course in which students build a working robot in order to compete during the spring semester in nationally recognized VEX robotics competitions.

Grade 8

3D SOLID MODELING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who are fascinated by the world of 3D and eager to bring their ideas to life. This exciting course will equip your student with the skills and tools to transform real objects into digital models, design your creations, and see them come to life through 3D printing and laser cutting. Students will use our 3D scanner to capture real objects to 3D print and laser cut. They will learn to design 3D models from scratch, iterate on existing designs, and personalize them with your unique touch using industry-standard software by Autocad and Lightburn.

CODING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for aspiring programmers and tech wizards. This class is the gateway to the thrilling world of coding. We will learn about three diverse coding languages - Swift, Python, and Scratch to unlock the potential for creating captivating games, interactive animations, and powerful applications. Students will master the fundamentals of variables, loops, and conditional statements using Scratch. Students will increase their knowledge of these foundations with Python and learn the language behind Apple's iOS apps using Swift to create their own games and apps.

DESIGN LAB 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who dream of becoming future innovators - building gadgets, designing solutions, and leaving their mark on the world. In this hands-on course, students will explore using the design process and the tools of innovation, such as 3D printing, laser printing, and structural design. While collaborating with like-minded peers, students will put their design process to work and unleash their creativity in projects that make a positive impact.

ENGINEERING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Engineering features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage students' natural curiosity and imagination. Students begin by focusing on their understanding of the engineering design process, which includes defining problems, developing solutions, and optimizing design solutions. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build will foster higher-order thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and innovation, as well as deepen their understanding of how engineering influences the world around them.

INTRO TO ARCHITECTURE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Architecture is open to any student who has successfully completed Engineering or Design Lab 7/8. Students will continue exploring the design process as they investigate a need in the community, develop a solution, and produce a product.

ROBOKNIGHTS 7/8

[Yearlong](#)

RoboKnights is the middle school robotics competition team. The VEX robotics curriculum will introduce students to the engineering and programming process. RoboKnights is a hands-on course in which students build a working robot in order to compete during the spring semester in nationally recognized VEX robotics competitions.

PERSONAL SKILLS ELECTIVES

Grade 6

PUBLIC SPEAKING 6

Semester (may only be taken once)

Public Speaking fosters the ability to communicate confidently and effectively to a group. Students will present a variety of in-class presentations that explore informative speech, persuasive speech, improvisational speech, expressive reading, famous speeches from history, and the skills of debate. Students will also learn best practices for incorporating technology as a tool when speaking in front of a group.

STUDY SKILLS 6

Yearlong (Not graded; automatically scheduled in grade 6)

Study skills for grade 6 will alternate days with the World Language choice unless the student wants to participate in additional elective classes. *Any grade 6 student who would like to opt out of study skills to take an additional elective may do so if it works within their schedule.

Grade 7

STUDY HALL 7/8

Semester (Not graded; maximum one per semester)

This class is for students who are self-motivated and have demonstrated the ability to work independently on their homework in a quiet environment. Students will be expected to work on schoolwork or read independently for the entire class period.

SPEECH AND DEBATE 7/8

Semester (may only be taken once)

This course is a place where students develop self-confidence as they learn to construct and perform a variety of speeches in public communication settings. Students will consider topics and issues through a biblical lens as they prepare for in-class debates, public forums, and seminars. By learning proper techniques for research, structure, style, and delivery techniques, students develop the ability to think critically and listen effectively in a meaningful way.

Grade 8

STUDY HALL 7/8

Semester (Not graded; maximum one per semester)

This class is for students who are self-motivated and have demonstrated the ability to work independently on their homework in a quiet environment. Students will be expected to work on schoolwork or read independently for the entire class period.

SPEECH AND DEBATE 7/8

Semester (may only be taken once)

This course is a place where students develop self-confidence as they learn to construct and perform a variety of speeches in public communication settings. Students will consider topics and issues through a biblical lens as they prepare for in-class debates, public forums, and seminars. By learning proper techniques for research, structure, style, and delivery techniques, students develop the ability to think critically and listen effectively in a meaningful way.