

**JH**

**ACADEMIC  
HANDBOOK  
2024-2025**

***Beginning the Trail:***

Guide us, Lord,  
On the trail set before us.  
We come with open minds, hearts, and hands.  
Use every challenge and victory for our good and growth.  
Help us recognize our worth and place in Your story.

***For the Student:***

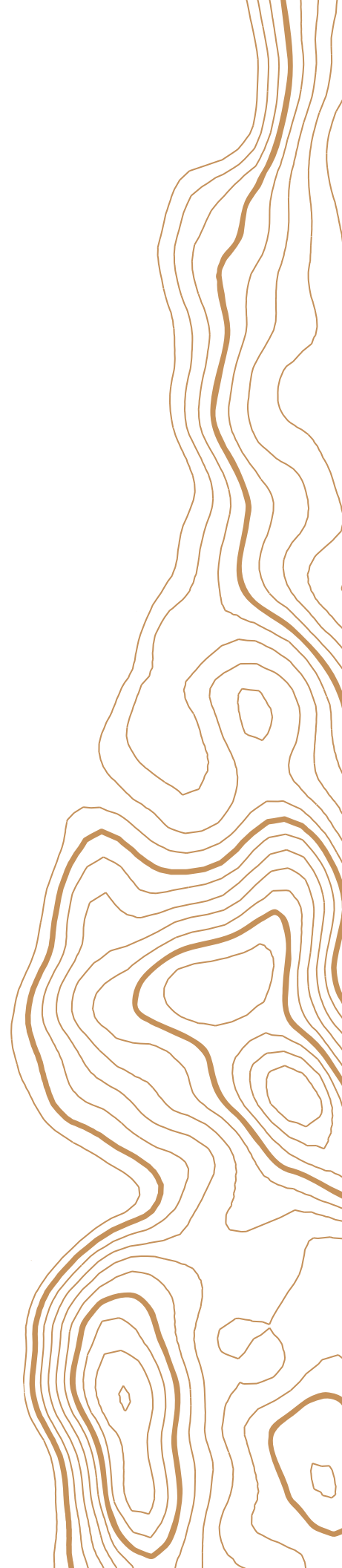
Whether we encounter peaks of achievement  
Or valleys of struggle,  
Each big or small step taken  
Brings opportunities for learning and growth.  
Amid uncertainty and times of conflict,  
Help us:  
Value hard work,  
Not run from struggles,  
Find resilience to persevere.

***For the Parent:***

Let us prepare our children for the trail ahead.  
May we guide them well but not carry their load.  
Remind us that independence is the goal.  
Help us remember that the process of learning and growth  
Is more important than any grade.  
We acknowledge that emotions may cloud perception.  
Help us:  
Listen well,  
Avoid assumptions by asking good questions,  
Remain the calmest voice they hear.

***For the Teacher:***

Help us be good stewards and guides,  
Starting with the end in mind.  
Help us cultivate engaging ecosystems that support learning.  
May we provide appropriate opportunities for struggle  
That build cognitive flexibility.  
Help us:  
Build a supportive community,  
Strengthen the green wall,  
Meet each other, students, and families with His love.



***Contemplation:***

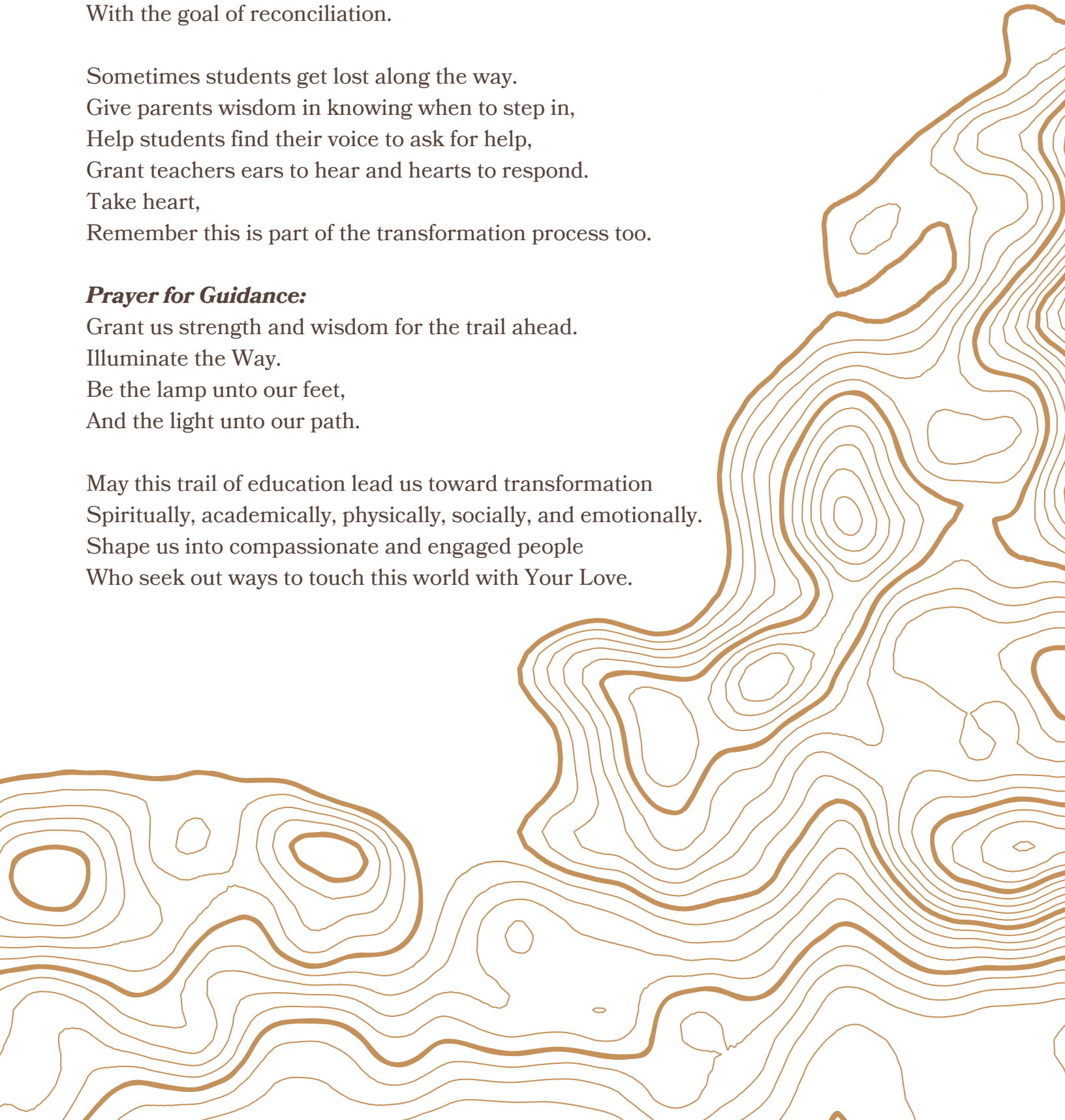
As we walk along the path,  
There may be roots or pebbles along the way.  
Help us deal with little annoyances quickly,  
So they don't grow out of proportion or cause us to stumble.  
Help us resolve conflict  
With the goal of reconciliation.

Sometimes students get lost along the way.  
Give parents wisdom in knowing when to step in,  
Help students find their voice to ask for help,  
Grant teachers ears to hear and hearts to respond.  
Take heart,  
Remember this is part of the transformation process too.

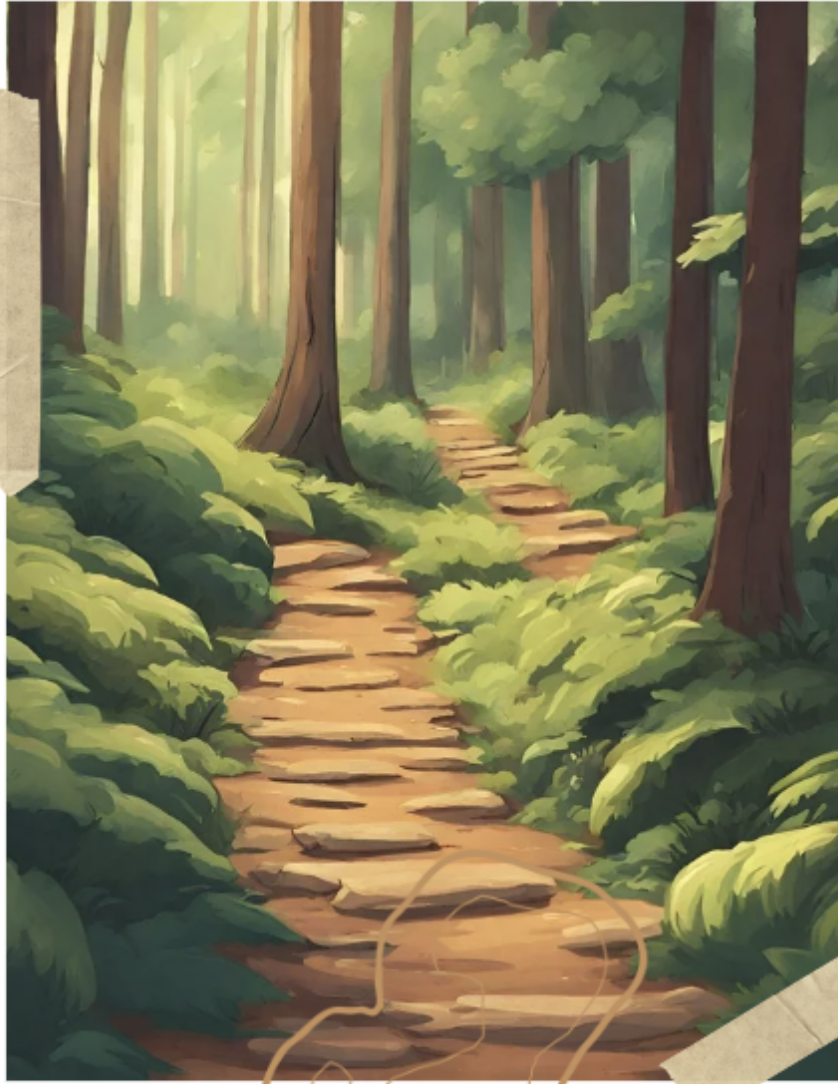
***Prayer for Guidance:***

Grant us strength and wisdom for the trail ahead.  
Illuminate the Way.  
Be the lamp unto our feet,  
And the light unto our path.

May this trail of education lead us toward transformation  
Spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.  
Shape us into compassionate and engaged people  
Who seek out ways to touch this world with Your Love.



# “THE TRAIL”







# GENERAL INFORMATION

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY**

Students wishing to participate in the rich array of extracurricular opportunities LRCA offers must prioritize academic success. Students are expected to attend at least two blocks during the school day if participating in after-school activities such as games, practices, competitions, concerts, etc. The privilege of participating in extracurricular activities may be limited if a student is placed on academic probation. In such cases, sponsors and coaches will communicate with the Junior High Leadership Team to monitor student progress and determine what steps should be taken with students individually to help them maintain eligibility for particular programs.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PERIODS**

All Junior High students must take at least one semester of a physical education class. Students participating in one of the athletic periods (e.g., football, basketball, volleyball) are not required to take the separate physical education class. Students who participate in teams that meet after school (e.g., cheer, track, cross country, wrestling) are also not required to take the separate physical education class.

Students participating in non-school-affiliated sports (e.g., baseball, dance, tennis, horseback riding) may apply for an alternative physical education credit. Please contact the Junior High Office for more information.

## **SCHEDULES**

Junior High School uses a block schedule. The schedule has “A” days and “B” days that alternate. Each class will be approximately 75 minutes in length. House Time (which includes chapels, assemblies, house meetings, seminars, and other special events) is approximately 30 minutes long. Each student will have eight classes in his or her schedule, four classes each day. Individual student schedules are available at a communicated date in August.

Most required classes meet all year for 7th and 8th grade. Some elective classes meet all year (athletic periods and some performing arts classes), and other elective classes meet for a semester. Some electives can be repeated in the second semester. More information about scheduling for each grade level is found on the following pages.

## **SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST**

Please be very careful about which classes are requested. Schedule changes will only be made if new or unforeseen factors necessitate them. For example, a student adding or dropping a team sport or the school adjusting to balance class sizes or teaching loads could result in a change.

All schedule changes must be made via the Schedule Change Request Form in the Junior High Office. Students may not make schedule change requests without parental approval.



## **ABSENT WORK POLICY**

The student, NOT the teacher, is responsible for arranging to make up missed school work. Students should check FACTS and Schoology information regarding missed class assignments. Students are encouraged to email their teachers with any additional questions regarding classwork.

For each day missed, a student has two school days to complete make-up work. Work that builds, such as math, should be done more quickly. Assignments must be completed within the designated time to avoid a grade of zero. Some work, such as class participation, cannot be made up and may affect grades to a degree.

Other types of assignments or experiences, like quizzes or labs, may also not lend themselves to make-up work. If a parent has called in advance to request them, daily assignments may be picked up in the school office at the end of the school day. Most school assignments can be found on Schoology.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY**

Academic integrity refers to honesty in completing and submitting class or homework assignments. Violations of academic integrity include but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unapproved collaboration, and submitting the work of others as one's own.

Academic integrity violations could result in anything from a zero on an assignment to possible suspension from school. Multiple offenses will carry progressively more serious consequences.

## **ACADEMIC PROBATION**

A student with two or more D's (below 70%) or one F at the semester's end will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will include closer scrutiny and accountability toward student achievement. LRCA desires to partner with families of students struggling academically.

If a student is placed on academic probation, parental involvement, Learner Services (if applicable), and/or other faculty resources are expected to be jointly used to help the struggling student achieve to the best of his or her ability. The administration may place students on individualized action plans to help ensure progress. If the student has not shown improvement after a semester, the administration will determine if dismissal will occur.

## **AI**

Students may not use ChatGPT or any similar artificial intelligence (AI) to generate original content, including, but not limited to, summary or analysis. Consequences may include conversations with the teacher, administration, and/or a zero on the assignment. The opportunity to redo the assignment will be at the school's discretion. All sources used for projects and essays must be accessible to and approved by the instructor.

## **GRADING SCALE**

Percentage grades are rounded up or down to determine letter grades.

<b>A+</b>	<b>97 - 100</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>77 - 79</b>
<b>A</b>	<b>93 - 96</b>	<b>C+</b>	<b>73 - 76</b>
<b>A-</b>	<b>90 - 92</b>	<b>C-</b>	<b>70 - 72</b>
<b>B+</b>	<b>87 - 89</b>	<b>D+</b>	<b>67 - 69</b>
<b>B</b>	<b>83 - 86</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>63 - 66</b>
<b>B-</b>	<b>80 - 82</b>	<b>D-</b>	<b>60 - 62</b>
		<b>F</b>	<b>59 and lower</b>

## **HOMEWORK**

The amount of homework will vary depending on the course, the time of the grading period, and the student's abilities and goals. If a student seems to spend an excessive amount of time on homework, investigate these possibilities first: student procrastination with long-range assignments (e.g., projects, notebooks, book reports, etc.), improper use of study time at school, or inefficient study habits at home. Please consult the teacher if none of these apply and the homework is frequently excessive in a particular class. If your child is consistently experiencing difficulties with overall class load or homework assignments, please contact LeAnn Murry, Assistant Principal for Middle School and Junior High.

## **HONOR ROLL**

The Honor Roll is recognized each semester. In grades 7 and 8, students must have 90% in all core classes: Bible, English, Math, Science, and History.

## **LATE WORK POLICY**

Homework is expected to be turned in on time. Failure to meet this expectation will result in the following grading penalty:

1st class after due date = 50% off

2nd class after due date = Zero

## **SEMESTER EXAMS**

Junior High students have semester exams in Math, Science, English, and History at the end of each semester, both in December and May. Some courses use assessments such as projects, Harkness discussions, or papers.

Dates and times for the junior high exams are announced in the middle of each semester. On exam days, students do not attend regular classes but come only to take the exams.

We expect all students to take semester exams at the established times. Only in extenuating circumstances are students allowed to take exams at times other than as stated in the exam schedule. Approval must be granted in these cases.

**7th Grade** - Semester exams count as a test grade.

**8th Grade** - Semester exams count as 20% of the semester grade.



 **MATH  
PLACEMENT**

Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's continued growth and development. In addition to readiness in reasoning and working with abstract ideas and concepts, other factors to consider are mastery of mathematical skills, academic achievement, motivation, and work ethic.

We know that students mature at different rates, which is often the most important factor. Optimal placement allows students to learn best. If a student is placed in a class that is too difficult, discouragement and possibly a fixed mindset about his or her ability in mathematics may result.

Math placement in any given year does not lock students on a "track." Students are re-evaluated every year to determine the best placement. Because math is sequential, we gather input from several sources in recommending which math class is best for a particular student. Evaluation points include the student's previous mathematics grade, MAP and IXL scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation, and overall academic maturation.

**7th Grade** - Students are placed in 7th Grade Mathematics, 7th Grade Honors Mathematics, 8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra, or 8th Grade Honors Algebra I (high school credit).

**8th Grade** - Students are placed in 8th Grade Pre-Algebra, 8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra, 8th Grade Honors Algebra I (high school credit), or 8th Grade Honors Geometry (high school credit).

These mathematics courses differ in complexity, challenge, speed, depth, and prior necessary knowledge. The LRCA math department has over-arching goals of developing mathematical thinkers who understand mathematical patterns and problem-solving at the conceptual level so that math knowledge and skill are applied to be fluid, adaptive, and advanced.

### **7th Grade Mathematics (full year)**

7th Grade Mathematics is an interactive class that builds on the foundational skills of Pre-Algebra. Students will master concepts of algebraic skills including real and rational numbers, expressions, equations, inequalities, ratios and unit rates, linear functions, and probability. These concepts will be built through hands-on activities, group discussions, and real-world applications.

### **7th Grade Honors Mathematics (full year)**

7th Grade Honors Mathematics is for students who thrive and enjoy learning math. Students should desire a higher order of thinking to draw on a deep prior knowledge of math and recently acquired concepts. Students will combine problem-solving strategies with critical thinking skills through word problems and real-world projects.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of 6th Grade Math with a 90% average or higher, qualifying scores from the year-end test, MAP, IXL, Orleans Hanna, and teacher recommendation

### **8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra (full year)**

8th Honors Pre-Algebra is designed for students who enjoy learning math but who prefer not to take a high school credit class. This class will cover the same concepts as 8th Grade Pre-Algebra. The difference between the two classes will be the pace, depth of material covered, and ability to apply concepts to various problem-solving scenarios. Pre-Algebra includes several broad subjects such as the review of rational number operations, factoring, properties, exponents, variables, and basic equations.

Pre-Algebra also includes concepts from geometry that further the understanding of algebra, such as area, volume, and perimeter.

**Prerequisite:** Completion of 7th Grade Math with a 90% average or higher, qualifying MAP and IXL scores, and teacher recommendation

### **8th Grade Honors Algebra I (full year; 1 High School credit)**

This course is designed to introduce the symbolism and concepts of Algebra and applications to problem-solving. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, an introduction to functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, solving and graphing quadratic equations, and simplifying rational and radical expressions. This course will appear on the high school transcript but does not impact the student's high school GPA. Students will still be required to take four additional years of math in high school.

**Prerequisites:** Completion of Pre-Algebra with a 90% average or higher, qualifying MAP and IXL scores, and teacher recommendation

### **8th Grade Honors Geometry (full year; 1 High School credit)**

Standardized test scores are also a consideration for enrollment. This course covers an in-depth study of the concepts of Geometry, including the study of points, lines, planes and angles, parallel and perpendicular lines, congruent and similar triangles and other polygons, circles, and the area and perimeter of geometric figures. Students are introduced to deductive reasoning, proofs, and basic statistical methods. This course will appear on the high school transcript but does not impact the student's high school GPA. Students will still be required to take four additional years of math in high school.

**Prerequisites:** 90% or above in Honors Algebra I, qualifying MAP and IXL scores, and teacher recommendation



# 7TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

## **7th Grade Math (full year)**

See the descriptions above in Math Placement.

## **7th Grade Life Science (full year)**

7th Grade Life Science is an adventure that begins with the characteristics of all things living. An in-depth study of cells and cell processes follows. This prepares us for a study on heredity, including genetics. A tour of the human body comes next as we learn about the basic anatomy and physiology of the eight major organ systems. Life Science would not be complete without a look at the world of plants.

## **7th Grade English (full year)**

Students develop literacy, writing, speaking, and listening skills in this course. Emphasis is placed on reading for meaning, increasing in words read per minute, learning new vocabulary, and distinguishing figurative language from literal. Texts include *The Outsiders* and *The Boy on the Wooden Box*; as well as a variety of short stories, poems, short plays, informational articles, and essays. Each semester students complete an independent reading assignment on a book chosen from an approved list. In the analysis of text, students practice annotation skills. Grammar concepts include learning the parts of speech in greater depth and identifying and using dependent and independent clauses. Students practice writing in a variety of analytical and creative assignments with the goal of understanding the important components of the writing process and applying them consistently. The summer reading assignment will be released at the end of May.

**Required Texts:** Parents must purchase required paperbacks. A list of titles will be released at the end of May.

## **7th Grade World History & Geography (full year)**

7th Grade World History is the continuation of 6th Grade World History, presented chronologically. As students gain greater knowledge of history, we continue to challenge them to view what they learn in the light of God's orchestration of events in bringing about His purposes. We survey the world focusing on Asia, North America, and Europe from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Topics for the year include the following: later Chinese Dynasties, Japan, Cultures of South and Southwest Asia, Early Americas, Europe in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific

Revolution, Age of Exploration, Enlightenment and Revolution, Industrial Revolution, Imperialism, Nationalism, World War I, and World War II.

Class assignments include reading, note-taking, Harkness discussions, timeline creation, and map identifications. Additionally, students will be asked to apply their knowledge of history to write creative journal entries and letters, write and present poems and songs, perform skits, write and debate arguments, and more.

### **7th Grade Biblical Worldview (full year)**

Biblical Worldview students will examine what it means to apply faith to everyday life by reading, studying, and discussing scripture and truth. The life of Christ will be a focal point as students see the paths Jesus walked and hear Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Luke. The purpose of this course, in partnership with families and church communities, is to challenge students to a deeper understanding of their Christian faith, and to choose a life that passionately follows Jesus. Specific units include spiritual disciplines and the basics of the Christian faith, Old Testament history from Judges to Samuel (Judges, Ruth, and Samuel), the life of Jesus according to the Gospel of Luke, and living faithfully in a sin-filled world.

This course is separated by gender to afford the opportunity to discuss sensitive topics. The goal is to navigate cultural and life issues with biblical insight and view them through a biblical lens.

**Boys** - Boys will examine God's instructions and standards for human sexuality through the lens of Ephesians 5:3. Sensitive topics such as sexuality and dealing with the sin of lust will be discussed.

**Girls** - Girls will apply the truth of Proverbs 31 to cultural issues. Sensitive topics such as identity, value, relationships, and technology use will be discussed in light of God's truth about His beloved children.



# 8TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

## **8th Grade Math (full year)**

See Math class descriptions above in Math Placement.

## **8th Grade Earth and Physical Science (full year)**

8th Grade Earth Science uses an inquiry-based approach to help students learn the concepts associated with Earth's processes and how they relate to physical science. There is a strong emphasis placed on the scientific method. Earth science concepts will include mapping technologies, Earth's structure, plate tectonics, Earth's processes (e.g., water cycle, rock cycle, weathering, and erosion), atmosphere, climate, and astronomy. In addition, physical science concepts will also be emphasized throughout this course. Eighth Grade Earth Science invites students to explore and appreciate God's creation while developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become good stewards of the planet He has entrusted to our care.

## **8th Grade English (full year)**

In this course, students grow in literacy, writing, speaking, and listening. They learn to analyze literature through textual annotation and by applying literary terms in discussions and compositions. For informational texts, the focus is on identifying the author's claim and analyzing the type of support used. Learning to identify and employ ethos, pathos, and logos provides a focal point in understanding and generating texts. The research and writing component for this course bridges the foundation laid in seventh grade and prepares students for the 9th-grade research project. Major works include *The Giver*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. A variety of poems, essays, and short stories are also studied. The summer reading assignment will be released at the end of May.

**Required Texts:** Parents must purchase required paperbacks. A list of titles will be released at the end of May.

## **8th Grade American and Arkansas History (full year)**

In Eighth Grade American and Arkansas History, students will learn about the making of the United States, beginning with the migration across Beringia from Asia to America and ending with the emergence of the United States as a world power at the start of the 20th century. As this broad American timeline unfolds, students will pause to take a closer look into Arkansas' role in the larger story of our nation. Throughout, students will exercise critical thinking skills and learn to think like historians as they analyze and interpret primary sources like old diaries, letters, paintings, and memoirs.



Students are challenged to search for God’s purpose in historical events so they may know Him better and learn important lessons from the past.

### **8th Biblical Worldview (full year)**

Eighth Grade Biblical Worldview is designed to help students continue growing in wisdom and understanding and to encourage them to affirm a life characterized by living out Christianity. As such, it provides an appropriate transition to the increased independent thinking that will characterize future BWV studies. In essence, this course hopes to help students create their own biblical worldview and learn how to apply it to every area of their lives.

As students work through the book of Acts, they will examine the early church and also see the sacrifice displayed by the apostles, with a focus on Paul. Later in the year, students will research other figures in ancient and contemporary history in the “Missionaries and Martyrs” unit. Students will learn about wisdom literature and parables as genres of literature in the Bible and will be challenged to apply wisdom and discernment as they face the challenges of everyday life. This study is deepened as they recognize the role of the Holy Spirit and prayer in the life of a believer, emphasizing God’s sovereign care as He leads and equips in the struggle against sin.

Students will end the year with the “Do Hard Things” unit, in which they will create a plan to apply the knowledge they have gathered, specifically to difficult cultural issues. This course is separated by gender to afford the opportunity to discuss sensitive topics. The goal is to navigate cultural and life issues with biblical insight and view them through a biblical lens.



# JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVE CLASSES

## FINE ARTS

### **Junior High Art I: Drawing (1 semester)**

In this introductory course, students improve their drawing skills. Based upon the concepts of the book by Betty Edwards, *Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*, students learn to use “right brain mode” thinking, concentrate on lines, and compare spatial relationships. Students experience a variety of media including drawing pencils, charcoal pencils, watercolor pencils, chalk pastels, colored pencils, and oil pastels. They also continue to develop an understanding of the elements of art and principles of design to build their confidence. Through this course, the instructor charges students to explore God’s creation as they examine the nature of what is beautiful in relationship to visual arts. **This class is strongly encouraged for 7th graders interested in the High School Studio I option in 8th Grade.**

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Prerequisite:** None

**Course Fee:** \$10

### **Junior High Art II: Painting (1 semester)**

This semester's course builds on Junior High Art I concepts and introduces students to painting concepts and techniques at the junior high level. This class is open to junior high students who have completed Junior High Art I: Drawing. This course increases students’ confidence to prepare them for the high school’s art courses. This course emphasizes the use of various types of paint, further develops students’ understanding of the elements of art and principles of design, examines color theory, and explores famous artists and styles of painting. Through this course, we will observe God’s beautiful creation and design. **This class is strongly encouraged for 7th graders interested in the High School Studio I option in 8th Grade.**

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Prerequisite:** Junior High Art I: Drawing

**Course Fee:** \$30

### **Junior High Band (full year - 2 semesters)**

The Junior High Band is designed for students with one to two years of experience, but experienced or beginning students in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to join the band! The Junior High Band participates in two to three performances a semester, including concerts and competitions. The band provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities, such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region Band.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Experienced and Beginning Band Students

**Course Fee:** \$100

### **Junior High Orchestra (full year - 2 semesters)**

Junior High Orchestra is designed for students with one to two years of experience, but experienced or beginning students in grades 7 and 8 are welcome to join the orchestra! The orchestra participates in approximately two to three performances a semester, including honor ensembles, concerts, and competitions. It provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities, such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region Orchestra.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** \$100

### **Legacy Choir - Girls (full year - 2 semesters)**

Legacy Choir is a performing ensemble open to all junior high girls. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in her leadership within her section. Students will discover a safe place to overcome singing anxiety and learn to hone their gifts with a great degree of proficiency and excellence. Legacy Choir will give two to three performances a semester, and participate in a Fall Retreat, and a spring trip to Magic Springs Theme Park. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities, such as All-Region Choir auditions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Girls

**Course Fee:** \$20

### **Encore Choir - Boys (full year - 2 semesters)**

Encore Choir is a performing ensemble open to all Junior High boys. This group seeks to be a strong brotherhood of men who are committed to building one another up and to excellence in the pursuit of a strong and unified sound. This introductory choral ensemble will not only equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing technique, and music sight reading skills, but will also challenge the seasoned choral

veteran to grow in his leadership within his section. Encore Choir will give two to three performances a semester and participate in a Fall Retreat and a Spring trip to Magic Springs Theme Park. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities, such as All-Region Choir auditions.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Boys

**Course Fee:** \$20

### **Junior High Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Theatre allows students to learn about various acting and theatre elements. Students study acting and design and also learn to look at plays critically. Some activities include writing and performing original pieces, learning monologues, and basic set design. Junior High Theatre provides a great place for students to learn new things, discover unknown elements of their personalities, and hone skills and abilities related to this field. It is also a place where students can work on overcoming shyness and gain confidence as they learn to interact and encourage others by studying and performing in various genres. Students are required to attend the LRCA High School productions. All students will perform in a one-act production at the end of the semester.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **Junior High Technical Theatre (1 semester)**

Junior High Technical Theatre allows students to take a behind-the-scenes look at the theatre. Students will study various technical aspects, from lighting and sound to set design and costuming. Junior High Technical Theatre is a great place for students to learn new things, discover new technology, and hone skills related to this field. It is also a great way to gain experience that can be used in our school's major productions. All students will work backstage during the JH Theatre production at the end of the semester.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** \$20

## **COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE**

### **Introduction to Creative Writing (1 semester)**

Do you get lost in books? Have you ever thought about writing your adventures? If you are a blossoming storyteller or artist, or simply love to write, Introduction to Creative Writing is the class for you. This semester-long course will explore different genres, allowing you to read, write, and practice memoirs, fantasy, short stories, and beyond. Through thinking, reading, and writing, we will cultivate your story heart and dig into

the elements of writing and art while creating our original pieces and ideas for your writing portfolio.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **Introduction to Debate (1 semester)**

Do you like to argue? If so, take Introduction to Debate, and learn how to argue well. In this course, students will examine how they think, gather, and evaluate information to create arguments based on textual evidence. They will explore the topics of critical thinking, media, bias, and logical argument formation for debate. They will practice these skills in class with each other in controlled situations. The course heavily factors student-focused discussion and in-class speaking-based projects.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **Foundations of French and Spanish (1 semester)**

This course is an immersive introduction to two of the world's most widely spoken Romance languages: French and Spanish. Designed for 8th grade students, this course provides a comprehensive overview of the essential linguistic elements providing a basis for a solid understanding of both languages. Emphasis will be placed on pronunciation and practical language use, including greetings, introductions, describing people and places, and discussing dates and times. Students will also be exposed to cultural elements associated with Spanish and French speakers. By the end of the semester, students will have acquired a foundation in both French and Spanish, enabling them to communicate effectively in everyday situations, and priming them to continue deeper language study at the high school level. **Note:** This will be a required class beginning in 2025-2026.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7 & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

## **STEM/ROBOTICS**

### **STEM: Robotics (1 semester)**

As our world becomes increasingly automated, the robotics experience is an asset to any student. Hands-on learning engages students, sparks creativity, and helps in the development of critical thinking skills. Robotics is a hands-on, STEM robotics course that engages students by providing the resources to design, build, and program LEGO® Spike Prime® Robots with block-based coding. Working hands-on with robotics and coding will motivate students to plan, predict, test, problem-solve,



analyze, and explore, deepening their STEM learning and developing career-readiness skills.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **STEM: Engineering Design I (1 semester)**

As our world becomes more reliant on technology, a student's ability to design and create becomes a more valuable skill for the future. In this course, students further the Design Process and use of Tinkercad introduced in Middle School. Students design, construct, and test a toothpick bridge, a marble roller coaster, a marble maze toy, a Rube Goldberg machine, and a CO2 race car; all while learning and applying concepts of physics.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **STEM: Engineering Design II (1 semester)**

This course complements Engineering Design I and allows students to develop engineering and design skills further to create projects, including a popsicle weight-bearing tower, a mechanical hand, a pressurized water rocket, an egg drop, catapults, rubberband helicopters, trigger launchers, paper airplanes, propeller cars, and even hydraulic Judo robots.

**Prerequisite:** None

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

## **OTHER JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVES (1 or 2 Semesters)**

### **Athletics for Males and Females (full year - 2 semesters)**

Boys who play basketball or football and girls who play volleyball or basketball must request 7th or 8th Grade Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day. Additional practice times outside of class are determined by the athletic department. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During the off-season, students participate in off-season cardio and strength training activities. Parents or students with questions regarding participation in 7th-grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest for more information. Students participating in athletics are not required to take the physical education class.

**Prerequisite:** Team Tryout

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

**Fee:** Varies by Sport

### **Math Lab (1 or 2 semesters)**

Math Lab reinforces foundational concepts and skills to support student success with their current math study. Students will be provided with additional examples, re-teaching, enrichment, and opportunities for project-based learning. The goal of Math Lab is to provide students with the assistance and time they may need to gain confidence in their mathematical ability. There will be minimal, if any, outside work assigned for this class. **Note:** Students may be required to take Math Lab based on previous academic record and MAP or IXL scores.

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

### **Physical Education (1 or 2 semesters)**

Physical education incorporates the body, mind, and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students are encouraged to respect and reflect on the God-given worth of human life; pursue excellence in life-long fitness and lifetime activities; and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students are engaged in various lifetime activities: general fitness, basketball, volleyball, speedball, flag football, and soccer. Students also take part in the Presidential Fitness Program. Students are assessed in mile runs, shuttle, pull-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility. Student assessment is completed through participation, written tests, and skills tests. Students exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the importance of physical activity in overall health.

**Required dress:** Students are required to dress modestly for each class period in a grey t-shirt, blue gym shorts, and athletic shoes. The students change clothes in the gym locker room.

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

### **Study Hall (1 or 2 semesters)**

Students are allowed to request up to one study hall per semester. Requests are made on the Course Selection Form. Study Hall placement is not guaranteed. Students with challenging academic schedules or athletes participating in in-season sports will be given first priority.

**Open to:** 7th & 8th Grade Students

## **8th GRADE ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES**

### **Service (1 semester)**

The purpose of Service is for students to learn what Biblical service looks like through hands-on experience. First, students learn about service, identify individual strengths and interests, and understand the expectations of this unique course. Students are placed where the need is greatest and where the teacher believes the student is best suited. Student input will be considered in the placement process, but the final

decision will be up to the service teacher. Placement will be on campus, and students will report to a selected LRCA staff member: teacher, librarian, office manager, playground teacher, facility manager, coach, administrator, etc. An expectations contract will be signed by both the parent and the student before placement in a service position.

**Prerequisite:** Application

**Open to:** Approved 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **Junior High Worship (1 semester)**

Why do we worship? Because He is worthy! Because we need His presence! Because He tells us to! In Junior High Worship, we will look closely at these answers and discover how worshiping Jesus shapes our everyday lives. There are hundreds of ways in which we can worship the Lord. Music in church or chapel often comes to mind, but Scripture teaches us that we should live every part of our lives as an offering to God. "Every part" means everything we do, like talking, practicing, playing, obeying, etc. Junior High Worship students will study and discuss Scripture, create and present presentations, and plan and lead some chapel worship sessions. Interested students should desire to serve the Lord and lead others. But lead them where? Into the presence of the Lord!

**Prerequisite:** Application

**Open to:** Approved 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** None

### **High School Studio Art I (full year)**

This course is a year-long survey of studio art. Students explore the fundamentals of art including the principles of design, the elements of art, and basic technical skills in 2D and 3D design. The instructor exposes students to wet, dry, mixed, and sculptural mediums. Students explore the entire creative process, which includes concept, critique, competition, and display. The instructor also uses art history and contemporary artists as an extension of learning the various media and techniques. Students expand their knowledge of composition, artistic expression, and aesthetics congruent with Biblical worldview.

**Prerequisite:** JH Art I, JH Art II, and recommendation by Junior High Art Teacher

**Open to:** Approved 8th Grade Students

**Course Fee:** \$45

## 7th GRADE

### COURSE SELECTION HELPFUL INFORMATION

#### **Physical Education, Athletic Periods, and Fine Arts Requirements**

- At least one semester of P.E., a full year of Athletics, or alternative PE credit
- At least one semester of Fine Arts

#### **Full Year Electives**

7th Grade Female Athletics  
7th Grade Male Athletics  
Junior High Band  
Junior High Orchestra  
Legacy Choir - GIRLS  
Encore Choir - BOYS

#### **One Semester Electives**

Junior High Art I: Drawing  
Junior High Art II: Painting  
Junior High Theatre  
Junior High Technical Theatre  
STEM: Robotics  
STEM: Engineering Design I  
STEM: Engineering Design II  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Foundations of French and Spanish\*  
Introduction to Debate

#### **One or Two Semester Electives**

Study Hall  
Math Lab^  
Physical Education

#### **Note:**

\*This class will be required in the 2025-2026 school year for 8th Grade if the class is not taken in 7th Grade.

^This class may be required for some students. Please see the class description.

## 8th GRADE

### COURSE SELECTION HELPFUL INFORMATION

#### **Physical Education, Athletic Periods, and Fine Arts Requirements**

- At least one semester of P.E., a full year of Athletics, or alternative PE credit
- At least one semester of fine arts

#### **Full Year Electives**

8th Grade Female Athletics  
8th Grade Male Athletics  
High School Studio Art I  
Junior High Band  
Junior High Orchestra  
Legacy Choir – GIRLS  
Encore Choir – BOYS

#### **One Semester Electives**

Junior High Art I: Drawing  
Junior High Art II: Painting  
Junior High Theatre  
Junior High Technical Theatre  
STEM: Robotics  
STEM: Engineering Design I  
STEM: Engineering Design II  
Introduction to Creative Writing  
Foundations of French and Spanish  
Introduction to Debate  
Junior High Worship  
Service

#### **One or Two Semester Electives**

Study Hall  
Math Lab^  
Physical Education

#### **Note:**

^This class may be required for some students. Please see the class description.





Little Rock Christian Academy  
19010 Cantrell Road · Little Rock, AR 72223