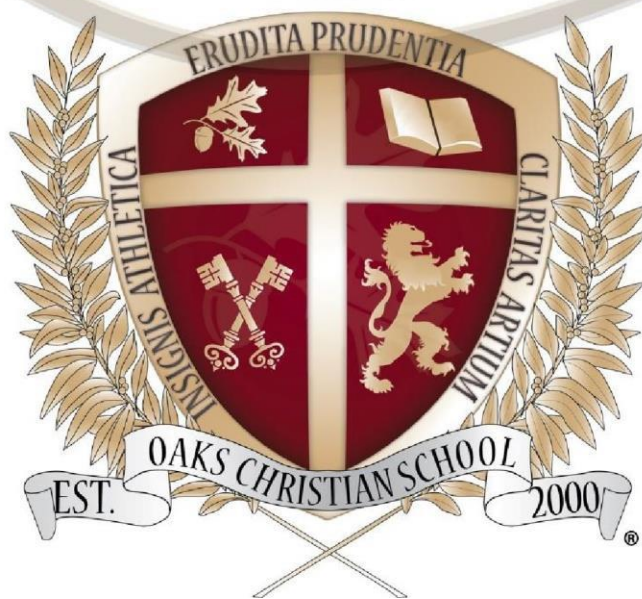


Grades 6-8 24-25 Course Catalog

OAKS CHRISTIAN
SCHOOL



Dear Oaks Christian Students and Families,

Welcome to an extraordinary community! We are so excited to have you here and to be a part of your journey! Know that you have found a place where you can experience the full joy of learning and where you will be encouraged to discover more of who God has made you to be. He has made you and has given you a wonderful purpose for your life.

You will soon find out, if you haven't already, that at Oaks Christian School, you are surrounded by teachers and staff who care deeply about you and who want the very best for you. They are knowledgeable and passionate about their subject areas. It is a true joy for us all to partner with you and with your family in the years to come.

Students, as you look through this Course Catalog, you will find a wide range of exciting options. We encourage you to look at these options as more than just classes, but as exciting opportunities to explore areas in which you may be unfamiliar. You are not expected to already know everything about these topics. Perhaps you know nothing about them at all. Perfect! All we ask is that you walk into each class with a willingness to learn and to grow.

Families, as you peruse the Course Catalog, do so with the idea of helping your student find areas they might want to explore. Please keep in mind that colleges and universities do not look at Middle School report cards. Encourage your child to see each class as an opportunity to grow, to explore new ideas, and to display courage and curiosity. We are excited to partner with you! Each and every day, I am inspired by our young learners, by our amazing staff and faculty, and by the extraordinary opportunities ahead! May this year be truly incredible!

Sincerely,



Dr. Matt Northrop
Associate Head of School for Academics



Preparing Minds for Leadership and Hearts for Service



To dedicate ourselves to Christ in the pursuit of academic excellence, artistic expression, and athletic distinction, while growing in knowledge and wisdom through God's abundant grace.



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MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE COURSES

Grades 6-8

Bible

The Story of Scripture
The Life of Jesus Christ
Bible Exploratory
Bible Discipleship

English

English 6
English 7
English 8
English 8 Advanced*

History

Ancient World Civilizations
Medieval World History
United States History

Mathematics

Math Foundations
Pre-Algebra
Pre-Algebra Advanced*
Algebra Readiness
Algebra 1
Algebra 1 Advanced*
Geometry Advanced*

Science

Integrated Science 6
Integrated Science 7
Integrated Science 8
Conceptual Physics

**In middle school, GPA bumps are not given for students taking advanced level courses.*

**Required course materials for grades 6-8 may be purchased through our online bookstore.
Textbook information is available July 1.**



BIBLE

The Bible department of OCS aims to equip students to address life challenges and to establish a strong biblical foundation which will help students make sense of the world and live purposeful, productive lives. It is our goal and intention to build a foundation of biblical literacy upon which to construct a biblical worldview along with transformational spiritual development. Each of the Bible courses emphasizes the “three strands”: the study of Scripture, reasons to believe, and spiritual growth.

COURSES

The Story of Scripture with Academic Technology (6th grade)

This course introduces the transcendent story of Old Testament Scripture as seen in the New Testament light of Christ. In considering what the Old Testament reveals about God and how we, as humans, encounter Him, students will be invited to take practical steps forward in their own faith while being equipped to take greater ownership of their thinking and spiritual growth.

Academic Technology component – Students receive support in developing academic technology skills. As a Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) school, it is important to train and prepare students for transformative learning experiences in their other academic courses. Students will learn how to create and manage various online collaborative applications. They will also learn to think biblically about online interactions and digital footprints. Additional topics will include basic coding, copyright and fair use rules, laptop care, typing skills, basic troubleshooting, and research skills.

The Life of Jesus Christ (7th grade)

The primary objective for this course is to introduce students to the life and teachings of Jesus Christ through the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. The course is divided into three distinct strands: the study of Scripture, reasons to believe, and spiritual growth. Students will be encouraged to grow in knowledge, in their ability to reason, and in spiritual depth as they discover the love and power of our Risen Lord.

Bible Exploratory (8th grade)

This 8th grade course is an introduction to the exciting story of the first Christian believers but is tailored towards students who are still figuring out their personal beliefs. In thoughtfully considering Jesus and what happens when individuals and communities follow Him, students will be invited to learn from Him while being equipped and challenged to take greater ownership of their thinking, beliefs, and spiritual growth.

Bible Discipleship (8th grade)

In this 8th grade course, students will engage all three strands of our curriculum; however, there will be an emphasis on the practice of spiritual development as a community of students who have a common interest in Christian discipleship. Students will be introduced to the exciting story of the first believers through the Book of Acts. We will study closely what happens when people and communities follow Jesus. Students in this class will be provided opportunities to step out of the classroom and begin to serve and lead in a variety of interactive assignments which include, but are not limited to, worship, leading devotions, sharing their testimony with their peers, and other spiritual development activities. *Students interested in taking Bible Discipleship must complete an application and be approved to take this course.*



ENGLISH

The ability to communicate with words is a gift from God no less marvelous than the intricate, infinite physical world around us. This miracle of language brings knowledge and insight that allows us to better understand who we are and who God has created us to be. In His grace, we seek to teach students the value of this gift and to encourage them to develop their own communication skills—particularly the written word—with fine and refined precision. Working diligently at the way we use language is the key to effective communication. Armed with quality classic literature and regular close-reading discussion, we pursue clear thinking, precise expression, poised speaking, and active listening. Students learn to respond successfully in the many communication venues they will face, and to do so with calm confidence. All our English courses build skills in these five areas: thinking, reading, speaking, listening, and writing.

COURSES

English 6

English 6 students learn the essential elements of the English language through the “Art of Storytelling” as we experience stories and poems from ancient times, integrated with their History studies. We will focus on the creative power of the spoken and written word through the study of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading, and composition. The careful study of grammar trains our students’ minds to dissect, label, and make sense of the rules of the English language through daily practice that produces mastery and confidence in their own writing. Students study the spelling, meanings, and correct usage of over 150 new words that require us to look at words as members of families descended from the Greek and Latin languages. The purpose of English 6 is to provide students learning experiences that build strong reading, critical-thinking, and presentation skills that will also be used in other courses.

English 7

This course takes the foundation of English 6 and sets up the importance of language and identity. As students consider this theme through literature, writing, and public speaking, individual identity is influenced and transformed. Literature, both modern and medieval, shows how identity changes and what influences identity. This then forms the basis for all analytical and descriptive writing: How can we learn about identity through written text? How can we write to reflect our own identity? As the students respond to works of literature using well-supported arguments and begin to recognize literary techniques, a continued focus on vocabulary and grammar helps students begin to understand the importance of precise word usage and their intended meaning.

English 8

In this course, students strengthen their critical thinking skills and become more effective communicators. They learn to analyze grammatical structures in complex sentences and paragraphs and evaluate how diction and syntax can be used intentionally to create a variety of effects. With the goal of precise, effective expression, students increase their vocabulary and work on developing a compelling academic writing style. This sets students up for success in our high school program, which is also a grammar-based look at the power of words. Throughout this course, students will use their understanding of grammar and language, along with critical thinking and knowledge of literary techniques, to thoughtfully analyze classic texts from American literature.

English 8 Advanced

Prerequisite: A year-long grade of 90% or better in the prior grade-level English course, high MAP test Reading and Language scores, and teacher recommendation.

This advanced course relies on the same texts as English 8 but with greater attention to the impact of language choice on meaning. The teacher assumes students have greater facility with their grammar knowledge and can apply it to poignant language analysis. The class moves faster through rudimentary ideas to linger in the abstract and nuanced.



HISTORY

History is the story of God himself, in our understanding of time and space, through the person of His Son on earth and in the work of His Spirit through the ages. The History Department believes that an understanding of the influence of Christianity in history is not a luxury but a necessity. In addition, the value of a well-developed historical education is dependent upon an instructional approach rooted in the “kairos,” or time laden with meaning, rather than the “chronos,” or the simple recounting of events. Through the “kairos” the History Department strives to help students develop the ability to make informed, reasoned, and prayerful decisions for the public good. The Department members work to help students become effective citizens of a diverse society both domestically and globally. In addition to providing a sense of historical memory and perspective, another of the goals for teaching history is to equip students with the necessary tools for them to become independent learners of history for years to come.

COURSES

Ancient World Civilizations (6th grade)

Sixth-grade history is an introduction to the history of the first great civilizations of the world, from beginnings in the Fertile Crescent to Ancient Greece. This is the world of the Bible, the historical stage on which God chose to uniquely reveal Himself in time, as recorded in sacred Scripture. We discover history through the telling of stories based upon the lives of those who came before us.

Medieval World History (7th grade)

Seventh-grade history is a global survey of medieval history. We examine the rise and fall of the great civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. We seek to understand and to appreciate similarities and differences between the cultures of the medieval world and their modern-day counterparts. We inquire as to how cultures and ideas spread and recognize cause-and-effect relationships at work in the development and decline of civilizations and appreciate the uniqueness of the God of Scripture considering the religions and cultural practices of the medieval world.

United States History (8th grade)

In studying the past and making connections to today, students will master specific skills, gain an appreciation for and an interest in American history, understand who we are as Americans, and learn how God has revealed himself in the history of our nation. During the spring semester of this course, students will attend the East Coast Adventure – an historical-based trip to Boston, New York City, Philadelphia and Washington, DC - in which they will walk in the steps of our forefathers, visiting the locations of events they studied through the course of the year. This is a required, culminating trip for all 8th grade students.



MATHEMATICS

For the Christian, any theory of mathematics presupposes belief in God. We should, therefore, expect that mathematics is related to God, the source of truth. Mathematics is grounded in the reality of the order that underpins all of creation, on the structure given to it by the Creator, and on His faithfulness in upholding the world and the laws by which it functions. Oaks Christian students will pursue academic excellence in mathematics by acknowledging the primacy of mathematics as a tool for interpreting the sciences; becoming proficient in interpreting and communicating with the precise, symbolic vocabulary of mathematics; appreciating the coherence and beauty intrinsic to the study of math; developing logical thinking and imagination through exposure to mathematical patterns; and mastering the fundamentals of each course of study they undertake.

COURSES

Math Foundations (Course 1)

In this course, students review the four basic mathematical operations using whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, and apply these operations to the use of ratio, proportion, and percent. The study of algebraic concepts becomes more sophisticated as the students learn integer computation, explore the coordinate plane, write and evaluate expressions, and solve for the unknown. The study of geometry and measurement includes perimeter and area of polygons, and surface area and volume of three-dimensional solids. In addition, students study real-world applications and problem solving.

Math Foundations and Exploration (Course 1)

Prerequisite: A year-long grade of 90% or higher in the prior grade-level math course, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course covers all content of Math Foundations while also providing additional exploration activities that allow students to develop deeper understanding and mathematical reasoning skills. Additional topics in this course include integer operations, adding and subtracting linear expressions, rational number operations, percent change, and simple interest. Having shown mastery in speed and accuracy of basic mathematical operations, students will extend their understanding and skills through their individual development of abstract thinking, problem-solving strategies, and real-world application. Math Foundations and Exploration prepares students to continue onto Pre-Algebra or Pre-Algebra Advanced.

Pre-Algebra (Course 2)

This course provides a foundation in elementary techniques of algebra so that students may go in depth in the subsequent algebra courses. Students are expected to develop speed and accuracy in solving problems and multi-step equations with integers, decimals, and fractions. They also learn to apply algebraic methods to the solution of word problems. In addition, the course covers laws of exponents, statistics and probability, and solving inequalities. Students will study the Cartesian coordinate system and fundamentals of geometry. Pre-Algebra will utilize lessons and guided practice designed to bridge understanding from the concrete to abstract applications of concepts.

Pre-Algebra Advanced (Course 2 & 3)

Prerequisite: A year-long grade of 90% or higher in the prior grade-level math course, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation.

This course covers the content of both Pre-Algebra and Algebra Readiness and will require independent learners to grasp concepts through abstract applications and enrichment in some topics. Pre-Algebra Advanced prepares students to continue onto Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Advanced.



Algebra Readiness (Course 3) - 8th grade only

Students placed in Algebra Readiness will continue to learn skills that set them up for future success in Algebra I. Major areas of emphasis include linear equations and functions, geometric shapes, and data analysis. This course builds and expands upon pre-algebra concepts and introduces foundational algebraic concepts. The course moves at a slower pace to allow more time for students to thoroughly grasp concepts. (Algebra Readiness is only offered in our middle school program.)

Algebra 1

Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Algebra with grade of 90% or higher OR Pre-Algebra Advanced/Honors with a grade of 83% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation.

The main purpose of Algebra 1 is to develop students' fluency with linear, quadratic, and exponential functions. The critical areas of instruction involve deepening and extending students understanding of linear and exponential relationships by comparing those relationships and by applying linear models to data that exhibit a linear trend. In addition, students engage in methods for analyzing, solving, and using exponential and quadratic functions. Some of the overarching elements of this course include the notion of function, solving equations, rates of change and growth patterns, graphs as representations of functions, and modeling.

Algebra 1 Advanced

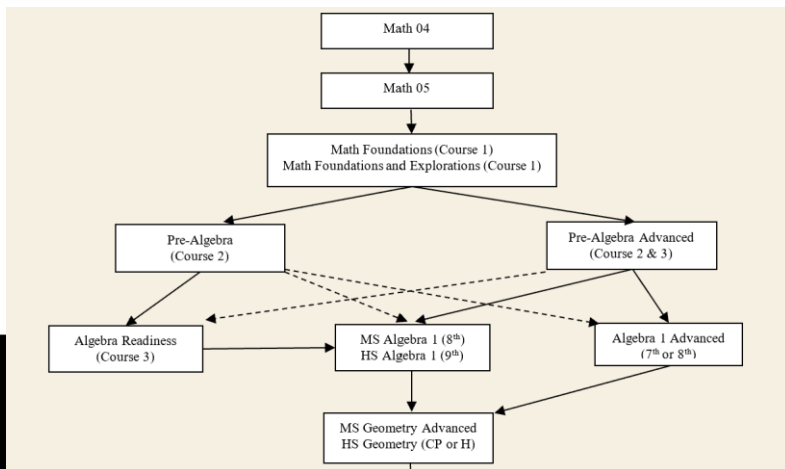
Prerequisite: Completion of Pre-Algebra Advanced with a grade of 90% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on the placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation.

Algebra 1 Advanced covers all course content of Algebra 1 and includes additional topics, incorporates more challenging application and evaluation questions on assessments, and has a higher expectation for abstract reasoning and for the construction of viable arguments. Algebra 1 Advanced prepares students to continue onto MS Geometry Advanced, HS Geometry CP, or HS Geometry Honors.

Geometry Advanced (8th grade only)

Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I Advanced, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP math scores, and teacher recommendation.

The fundamental purpose of Geometry Advanced is to introduce students to formal geometric proofs and the study of plane figures, culminating in the study of right-triangle trigonometry and circles. Students begin to formally prove results about the geometry of the plane by using previously defined terms and notions. Similarity is explored in greater detail, with an emphasis on discovering trigonometric relationships and solving problems with right triangles. The correspondence between the plane and the Cartesian coordinate system is explored when students connect algebra concepts with geometry concepts. Students explore probability concepts and use probability in real-world situations. The major mathematical ideas in this course include geometric transformations, proving geometric theorems, congruence and similarity, analytic geometry, right-triangle trigonometry, and probability. The advanced course incorporates challenging application and evaluation questions on assessments and has a high expectation for abstract reasoning and for the construction of viable arguments. Geometry Advanced prepares students to continue onto Algebra 2 CP or Algebra 2 Honors.



*Dashed lines indicate a placement not typically made



Science

God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and He uses His creation to reveal His existence and character (Gen. 1:1, Rom. 1:20). Man has been charged to explore, develop and subdue the earth for his provision, for the development of culture, and for God's glory (Gen. 1:28). Even though man's understanding is impaired by sin, all truth is God's truth, and the Bible and true facts of science do not conflict. Scientific discovery is *not* a neutral activity and the Christian scientist must be astute in detecting the presuppositions of any theory. Although scientific inquiry and theories have implications throughout all of life—social, political, moral, etc.—it is important to emphasize that they cannot speak definitively on such issues as the nature and purpose of man, the problem of evil, and the existence of God. Ultimately, the study of creation should lead a student to a deeper reverence and love for the person of God.

COURSES
<p>Integrated Science 6</p> <p>Sixth-grade science is an integrated science course. Topics of earth science, life science, and physical science are incorporated together to form a whole understanding of creation and its governing principles. Students will apply scientific thinking by using appropriate tools and techniques to gather, analyze, and interpret data to explore scientific concepts. Through hands-on laboratory investigations, collaborative group work, and rigorous problem and project-based learning, students will foster critical thinking and scientific literacy to equip them to explore and understand the natural world that God created.</p>
<p>Integrated Science 7</p> <p>The seventh-grade science class is an integrated, hands-on, inquiry-based course. Students will use appropriate inquiry tools and techniques to gather, analyze, and interpret data. This course integrates life, earth, and physical sciences and their connections to other areas of science. Students will learn the skills of scientific method, critical thinking, using evidence to support scientific claims, in addition to learning key concepts of scientific study.</p>
<p>Integrated Science 8</p> <p>The eighth-grade science course integrates physical, life and earth sciences including the study of matter, atoms, forces, machines, infectious diseases, chemical reactions, adaptations, and astronomy. A primary focus will be for the students to gain laboratory experience and develop critical thinking skills. They participate in collaborative, hands-on projects that will require them to work as individuals or teams.</p>
<p>Conceptual Physics</p> <p><i>Prerequisite: A yearlong grade of 90% or better in the prior grade-level science course, math placement of Algebra 1 Advanced or higher, and teacher recommendation.</i></p> <p>This eighth-grade advanced science course will focus on the area of conceptual physics including the study of mechanics, forces, energy, simple machines, and thermodynamics with an emphasis on creating mathematical models. A primary focus will be for the students to gain laboratory experience and develop critical thinking skills while modeling the physics of everyday life. They will also encounter hands-on projects that will require them to collaborate in teams as well as individual work. <i>Concurrent enrollment in either Algebra 1 Advanced or Geometry Advanced is required due to the mathematical rigor of the course.</i></p>



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

General Electives

Math Essentials
 Build Your Own Business (7th/8th only)
 Creative Writing & Publishing
 MS Academic Seminar (additional fee)
Civil Discourse (semester or year-long)

Modern & Classical Languages

Intro to French (7th/8th only)
French 1* (8th only)
 Intro to Latin (7th/8th only)
Latin 1* (8th only)
 Intro to Mandarin Chinese (7th/8th only)
Mandarin Chinese 1* (8th only)
 Intro to Spanish
Spanish 1*
Spanish 2* (8th only)

Performing Arts

Beginning Band~
Intermediate Band*~
Advanced Concert Band*~
Beginning Orchestra Strings~
Intermediate Orchestra Strings*~
Advanced Orchestra Strings*~
Middle School Vocal Ensemble~
Advanced MS Vocal Ensemble*~ (semester or year-long)
Noteworthy* (7th/8th only)
Principles of Dance~
Intermediate Dance*~
Dance Technique & Composition*~
Introduction to Musical Theater*~ (6th only)
Theater and Vocal Performance* (7th/8th only)
 Drama Production (fall offering)
 Improvisation Comedy & Scene Study (spring offering)
 Beginning Guitar (7th/8th only)
 Intermediate/Advanced Guitar* (7th/8th only)
 Beginning Piano (7th/8th only)
 Intermediate/Advanced Piano* (7th/8th only)

Bolded courses are year-long courses.

*** Indicates a course with recommended or required prerequisites, auditions, applications, and/or approvals by teacher or administration.**

~ Indicates a course that meets the 6th grade year-long Performing Arts requirement.

Please note: Not all courses are guaranteed to be available. In the case that a first choice is not available, every effort will be made to accommodate alternate requests. Elective offerings are based on student requests/sign-ups.

Period 0 Performing Arts Options:

Jazz Lab and World Drumming & Percussion

(Course requests can't be made for Period 0 options at this time, but students may sign-up for those classes after the fall semester begins. Teachers will send out information about Period 0 courses.)

Physical Education

Physical Education (**REQUIRED** if not playing one season of an OCS sport or intramurals)

Principles of Dance

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Intermediate Dance

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Dance Techniques & Composition

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STEM

Intro to Engineering Design & Computer Coding

Intro to Aerospace Engineering

Intro to Computer Science w/ JavaScript* (fall offering, 7th/8th only)

Intro to Computer Science w/ Python* (spring offering, 7th/8th only)

Engineering Explorations* (7th/8th only)

Quest* (7th/8th only)

Visual Arts

Fundamentals of 3D Art/Ceramics

Exploration of Ceramics* (7th/8th only)

Fundamentals of Drawing & Painting

Exploration of Drawing & Painting* (7th/8th only)

Intro to Digital Drawing & Painting* (7th/8th only)

Fundamentals of Digital Photography

Exploration of Digital Photography* (7th/8th only)

Fundamentals of Film Production

Exploration of Film* (7th/8th only)

Multicultural Art

Yearbook* (7th/8th only)



Middle School Elective Descriptions

General Electives

Math Essentials (*semester*) – This course is designed for students needing extra support in math. Regardless of their math level, students will utilize math software to reinforce content in their grade-level course, as well as receive instruction on foundational skills relevant to their individual need. *This course may be required, in lieu of an elective, should a student enter OCS with low math scores or if they fail to pass regular chapter assessments.*

Build Your Own Business (*semester*) – What do Bill Gates, Elon Musk, and Mark Zuckerberg have in common? They would have all taken this class if they had the chance! Learn what it takes to be a leader, how to communicate effectively with others, how to determine products and services that are marketable, and how to think about costs and profit margins as you develop your own business concept. Guest speakers and real-world examples will highlight the traits of Oaks' Portrait of a Graduate: innovative, integrous, purpose-minded.

Creative Writing & Publishing (*semester*) – Every writer begins their career somewhere – and this class aspires to be that place. In this semester-long course, students produce a monthly collection of creative pieces. To prepare for that monthly deadline, students are given time to research, read, write, and revise their pieces for a weekly peer evaluation. During this time, pieces are critiqued as a class and then revised for final publishing. The course focuses on creative storytelling, editing, and publishing skills – all revolved around the goal of creating better writers for the future.

Civil Discourse (*year-long or semester commitment*) – This class will explore the unique art of oral communication. Students will practice prepared and impromptu speaking. The attributes of an excellent oral presentation, primarily of ancient and modern philosophers, will be studied particularly for the purpose of engaging in healthy public discourse. Students receive detailed instruction in public speaking, focusing on the research process and effective delivery. Working in teams and providing peer feedback contributes to the class's community culture. After improving presentation skills, students will learn to properly discuss and debate diverse topics using appropriate terminology and procedures.

MS Academic Seminar (*semester*) – MS Academic Seminar is a fee-based elective intended to support students by improving academic performance and study habits. In addition to content tutoring, Academic Seminar provides time for monitored independent study. Academic Coaches help students advocate for themselves with teachers and serve as an accountability partner. Attention is given toward organization, grade checks, and action plans should a student fall behind. Bi-weekly grade reports, including goals and action plans, are sent to the parent. An Academic Coach does not work with more than two students at one time. *(Other tutoring options are also available; see OC Learning Center for more information.)*



Modern & Classical Language Electives

Note: Intro language courses are one semester long and provide students with an overview of the language and culture. They allow students the opportunity to gain exposure to a language before committing to study the language for extended years. Level 1 courses are equivalent to the first high school level 1 language course, and by taking the level 1 course, students can work towards the high school language requirement of three years of language study, opening their high school studies for either other more specialized classes in other disciplines or more advanced language study, attaining levels four and five. Students planning to attend OCHS are encouraged to begin their language study in middle school; students who do not complete level 1 in middle school will be required to enroll in level 1 language study their ninth-grade year of high school.

Intro to French (semester) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. This course introduces students to the basics of the French language and the diverse cultures of the French-speaking world. There is an emphasis on the use of stories to contextualize the vocabulary students learn. At the course’s completion, students are expected to be able to engage in basic conversation. *This course is recommended for 7th grade students planning to take French 1 in 8th grade.*

French 1 (year-long commitment) – For 8th grade students only. French 1 equips students to navigate the French-speaking world at a basic level. In this college-preparatory course, students have regular reading, writing, listening, and speaking assessments on the common vocabulary, grammar structures, and nuances of the French language and culture. Students also engage in French cultural experiences to apply their knowledge in a practical, fun atmosphere. By the end French 1, students will have completed the equivalent of one year of high school French. *It is strongly recommended that middle school students first take **Intro to French** in 7th grade before taking **French 1**. French 2 is not available at the middle school level, so taking French 1 is recommended for 8th grade students only.*

Intro to Latin (semester) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. The Intro to Latin course immerses students into the world of a living Latin and Roman culture, thus students learn how to pronounce, speak, read and write beginning level Latin. The Intro to Latin experience will offer an in-depth study and analysis of Roman culture, mythology, history, and engineering. Students will consistently explore and analyze the influences of Latin and the Romans—especially through English derivatives and other classical literary influences. Students will regularly use a vast array of learning media and methods, including project-based approaches. *This course is recommended for 7th grade students planning to take Latin 1 in 8th grade. (Course availability subject minimum course enrollment numbers.)*

Latin 1 (year-long commitment) – For 8th grade students only. This course builds a student’s facility with the Latin language through speaking, vocabulary and grammar. Students will continue to develop reading, writing and translating skills in Latin through reading and writing exercises, and the practice of parsing Latin sentences. To immerse the students into the world of a living Latin, students will study and discuss Roman culture, mythology and history; the students will also explore and analyze the influences of Latin and the Romans—especially English derivatives and their etymologies. By the end of Latin 1, students will have the equivalent of one year of high school Latin. *It is strongly recommended that middle school students first take **Intro to Latin** in 7th grade before taking **Latin 1**. Latin 2 is not available at the middle school level, so taking Latin 1 is recommended for 8th grade students only. (Course availability subject minimum course enrollment numbers.)*

Intro to Mandarin Chinese (semester) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. This course is designed for students with little or no Chinese language skills. The course will provide a beginning to their journey learning the language and exploring the very diverse and ancient culture. The course focuses on providing students with the opportunity to attain very basic Chinese language skills and a basic concept of Chinese culture. Students will be introduced to the Chinese phonetic system and calligraphy writing system as well. At the completion of this course, students should be able to engage in basic current tense conversations in Chinese. *This course is recommended for 7th grade students planning to take Mandarin Chinese 1 in 8th grade. (Course availability subject minimum course enrollment numbers.)*



Mandarin Chinese 1 (year-long commitment) – **For 8th grade students only.** This college preparatory course introduces basic grammar, speech patterns, sentence structure, and common vocabulary used in daily conversation. The course will also introduce the “simplified” Chinese character writing system, including basic strokes, stroke order, radicals, and the Chinese phonetic system which will be used throughout the year. Chinese culture will be included as each unit is being unfolded. By the end of course, students will have the equivalent of one year of high school Chinese. *It is **strongly recommended** that middle school students first take **Intro to Mandarin Chinese** in 7th grade before taking **Mandarin Chinese 1**. Mandarin Chinese 2 is not available at the middle school level, so taking Mandarin Chinese 1 is recommended for 8th grade students only. (Course availability subject minimum course enrollment numbers.)*

Intro to Spanish (semester) – Intro to Spanish introduces students to basic structures, high-frequency vocabulary, speech patterns, sentence structure, art, culture, and geography of Spanish-speaking countries. At the course’s completion, students are expected to engage in basic conversations using present tense verbs. *6th grade students taking this course would only do so in order to take Level 1 in 7th grade in order to take Level 2 in 8th grade.*

Spanish 1 (year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite: For 7th grade students, a year-long grade of 85% or better in Intro to Spanish and teacher recommendation is required.** This course introduces basic grammar, speech patterns, sentence structure, and common vocabulary used in daily interchange. This college preparatory course also introduces students to the art, culture, and geography of the 21 Spanish-speaking countries. A variety of approaches is used to enhance language learning of all types of learners enabling auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learners to thrive. The direct method, where the teaching is done entirely in Spanish, will be the main teaching method, but there will be opportunities to clarify grammar concepts and discuss cultural topics in English. Spanish 1 will focus on developing the following language skills: listening comprehension, reading comprehension, speaking, and writing. At the course’s completion, students are expected to engage in basic conversations using present, present progressive, and simple future tense verbs. By the end of the course, students will have the equivalent of one year of high school Spanish. *It is **strongly recommended** that middle school students first take **Intro to Spanish** before taking **Spanish 1**.*

Spanish 2 (year-long commitment) – **For 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: A year-long grade of 85% or better in Spanish 1 and teacher recommendation. 8th grade students new to OCMS must pass a placement exam and receive department approval.** With a continuing emphasis on oral and reading comprehension, speaking, and writing, this college preparatory course will help students refine their use of the past and present tense verbs in daily conversations. The course will begin with a review of the present tense and move on to the past tense while focusing on developing their listening, reading, and writing skills. Students will learn how to differentiate between preterit and imperfect tenses. They will also become familiar with reflexive verb tenses and a wide variety of structures. Spanish 2 exposes students to more Spanish-speaking countries and teaches the students more about culture through a series of novels that take place in Spanish-speaking environments. *(Course availability subject minimum course enrollment numbers.)*



Performing Arts Electives

Note: All 6th grade students must choose at least one year-long Performing Arts elective.

Beginning Band (year-long commitment) – includes the following instruments:

- **Beginning Flute**
- **Beginning Clarinet**
- **Beginning Alto Saxophone**
- **Beginning Tenor Saxophone**
- **Beginning Trumpet**
- **Beginning Trombone**
- **Beginning Baritone (Euphonium)**
- **Beginning Tuba**
- **Beginning Percussion (drums, bells, etc.)**

This class is the beginning study of a band instrument and is designed for students with no prior experience on a band instrument. Basic skills such as correct hand positioning, tone production, and note reading will be taught. Several performances will be planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a band instrument is required.

Intermediate Band (year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite: *Beginning Band or placement audition with teacher recommendation.*** Designed for students who have been playing for one to two years, Intermediate Band offers a fun and challenging atmosphere that will equip them with the fundamental skills necessary to develop technical excellence. Music theory, music history, scale, and rhythmic studies will be incorporated into daily lessons. Students will refine the mechanics of proper sound production, will acquire knowledge of more difficult music reading, rhythm and rhythm patterns, and will further develop the social skills necessary to function successfully in a large group situation. Students will participate in several performances throughout the school year. Students will be assessed in both written and performance format. Rental or purchase of an instrument is required.

Advanced Concert Band (year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite: *Intermediate Band or placement audition with teacher recommendation.*** Designed for students with one or more years of school band and/or private lessons on a band instrument. This class includes the study and performance of advanced band literature with emphasis on tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Several performances will be planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of an instrument is required.

Jazz Lab (year-long commitment) – In this course, students will learn the fundamentals of jazz improvisation and technique. In addition to the techniques and rehearsal of performance, students will learn the theory and history of the music performed. Students are taught improvisation, jazz forms, and styles. Students will play beginning to intermediate level jazz music from various selected eras of musical history. Styles of music to be covered: swing, blues, rock, and Latin. *Placement audition required. Period 0 offering. Sign up after school begins.*



Beginning Orchestra Strings (year-long commitment) – includes the following instruments:

- **Beginning Bass**
- **Beginning Cello**
- **Beginning Viola**
- **Beginning Violin**

This class is designed for students with no prior experience with a string instrument. Basic skills such as correct hand positioning, tone production, and note reading will be taught. Several performances will be planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required.

Intermediate Orchestra Strings (year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite:** ***Beginning Orchestra Strings or placement audition with teacher recommendation.*** Designed for students with one or more years of school strings and/or private lessons on a string instrument. This class will build upon the skills learned in Beginning Strings and encourage students to develop the fundamental skills necessary for technical excellence. Music theory, music history, scales, and rhythmic and technique studies will be incorporated into daily lessons. Students will refine the mechanics of proper sound production, acquire knowledge of more difficult music reading and rhythm patterns and will further develop the social skills necessary to function successfully in a large group situation. Students will be assessed in both written and performance formats. Students will participate in at least one performance per semester. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required.

Advanced Orchestra Strings (year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite:** ***Intermediate Orchestra Strings or placement audition with teacher recommendation.*** Designed for students with one or more years of school strings and/or private lessons on a string instrument. This class includes the study and performance of advanced string literature with emphasis on tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Music theory, music history, scales, and rhythmic and technique studies will be incorporated into daily lessons. This class maintains a quick pace of learning music so students should be able to fluidly read basic notes and rhythms in various key and time signatures and maintain excellent social conduct. Students will participate in several performances throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required.

Beginning Piano (semester) – **For 7th & 8th grade students only.** Students will be taught basic skills such as correct hand position, note reading, counting, and basic theory. Students will experience rhythm games and online theory as well as learning basic performance techniques. Each semester will culminate in a recital performed by the students for parents.

Intermediate/Advanced Piano (semester) – **For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite:** ***Beginning Piano or placement audition.*** Students will be taught sight reading, improvising, scales and more advanced theory as well as continuing to master basic piano skills. Students will also explore chording (improvisation using chords and melody line) as well as different techniques for learning music and digital recording. This class requires the ability to work independently on projects assigned by the teacher. Each semester will culminate in a recital performed by the students for parents. *(Course availability is subject to meeting minimum course enrollment numbers and teacher availability.)*

Beginning Guitar (semester) – **For 7th & 8th grade students only.** Beginning Guitar is an introduction to the history and performance of guitar in its many styles. It includes the study of American folk genres, such as blues, jazz, folk, and modern rock, as well as classical repertoire transcribed for the guitar. These genres will be used as a tool for understanding the rudimentary elements of music, expressive devices, and how these can be used to evoke feelings and meaning in a cultural context. Students will learn how to play single-note melodies as well as rhythmic harmonic accompaniment through chords. No recital or concert participation required.



Intermediate/Advanced Guitar (semester) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. **Prerequisite: Beginning Guitar or placement audition.** Students will build on the basic concepts learned in Beginning Guitar. More advanced chords will be taught including bar chords, as well as alternative chord voicings in various fret positions. More advanced melodic playing and note reading will be expanded upon and students will continue to explore a variety of musical genres and styles. Developing theory and performance practice will be emphasized. No recital or concert participation required.

World Drumming and Percussion (semester or year-long commitment) – In this elective, students will learn how to play a variety of percussion instruments from various world traditions. This low-stress high-energy course will dive into the fun side of exploring percussion, drum patterns, styles, and themes through an interactive percussion experience. You will learn how to PLAY as well as how to read rhythms, and the emphasis will be placed on doing (playing). *Period 0 offering. Sign up after school begins.*

Middle School Vocal Ensemble (semester or year-long commitment) – This choir class is designed to help students find and develop a love for singing and performance in a fun and safe environment. Students will grow the voice and develop ensemble singing; study different styles of music; develop needed vocal skills to sing in these styles; become comfortable on stage performing on their own or with a group singing traditional, jazz, gospel, Broadway and pop music; learn movement skills necessary to make performances more dynamic and expressive; explore digital recording and songwriting using apps to make music sound more professional; acquire the tools needed to sight sing and make music independently. MSVE will perform in concerts and one choir festival during the year.

Advanced MS Vocal Ensemble (semester or year-long commitment) – **Prerequisite: Middle School Vocal Ensemble and/or placement audition and teacher recommendation.** This course is an intermediate to advanced level of mixed voice singing at OCMS, open to students by audition. Students will enjoy learning all choral styles and will build on the basics of music training. Students will learn to sing in two- and three-part harmony. The Advanced MS Vocal Ensemble will perform several times throughout the year. Previous choral or vocal experience is necessary.

Noteworthy A Cappella (year-long commitment) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. **Prerequisite: Middle School Vocal Ensemble, Advanced MS Vocal Ensemble, and/or placement audition and teacher recommendation.** This course is an advanced level of mixed voice singing at OCMS, open to students by audition. Students will enjoy learning all choral styles with a focus on a cappella singing and will build upon music training. Students will learn to sing in three- and four-part harmony. Noteworthy will perform several times throughout the year. Previous choral or vocal experience is necessary.

Introduction to Musical Theater (year-long commitment) – For 6th grade students only. **Prerequisite: placement audition is required.** This class would introduce students to musical theater at a basic level. Students would be exposed to acting techniques, dance, and vocal work. This year-long class would create a space for students to hone their skills and prepare them for Theater and Vocal Performance the following year. This combination choir and theater class may include participating in a Christmas concert, theater and festivals, the Middle School Spring Musical production, and the Arts Extravaganza. Students (and parents) should know that choosing this class is making a pledge to be in the spring production.

Theater and Vocal Performance (year-long commitment) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. **Prerequisite: Introduction to Musical Theater and/or placement audition.** Learn to sing and act using time-tested techniques that will grow your voice while developing acting skills, improvisation, characterization, musical theater, and ensemble singing. A combination choir and theater class, this year-long course will introduce students to vocal performance and dramatic presentations. Projects will include a Christmas concert, theater and festivals, the Middle



School Spring Musical production, and the Arts Extravaganza. Students will develop skills needed for acting for the stage, ensemble and solo singing, microphone use, musical acting (how to sell a song), and movement, as well as understanding of principles of theater production. Students who have taken Choir, Intro to Theater and Vocal Performance, or Dance will be well suited to this class. In preparation for each production or performance, individual auditions will be required for role determination. Students (and parents) should know that choosing this class is making a pledge to be in the spring production.

Drama Production (fall semester) – Students who love theater will enjoy the opportunity to be part of the cast who presents the middle school fall drama. From character development to curtain calls, this class allows both beginning and experienced actors to grow in their abilities through the process of putting on a show. Enrollment is not based on auditions, but students (and parents) should know that choosing this class is making a pledge to be in the fall production. Rehearsal time outside of class is required, including lunchtime and weekend rehearsals near the dates of the production. (Note: Students who audition for *Theater and Vocal Performance* may want to mark this as their #2 choice!)

Improvisation Comedy and Scene Study (spring semester) – Students who are anxious to try out their improv skills or gain new ones will love this class! This course is an introduction to acting and comedy and is a non-audition class. Occasionally, there may be a need for additional rehearsal time outside of class in preparation for the sketch comedy performance. Students will learn improvisation games and techniques as well as explore the use of improvisation for scene creation and storytelling. This class will culminate with a sketch comedy scene presentation. (Note: Students who audition for *Theater and Vocal Performance* may want to mark this as their #2 choice!)

Principles of Dance (year-long commitment) – This class has an emphasis on fundamental technique and basic performance skills. First-time and/or inexperienced dancers will be exposed to multiple genres (jazz, ballet, contemporary, and hip-hop), and nurtured in personal expression, physical awareness, and creative discipline. Students will be put to the test in these areas during their performance in the annual dance concert. (This class can also earn PE credit.)

Intermediate Dance (year-long commitment) – Prerequisite: Principles of Dance and/or placement audition. Building upon the technique and skills covered in Principles of Dance, this course is designed for students who want to expand their knowledge and ability in dance. Students should have some experience in dance to enter this class. Students will grow in areas of technique, creativity, physical capabilities, personal expression, endurance, rhythm, and choreography. Students will develop and expand their dance vocabulary and skills in many styles of dance. Students will also develop their creative abilities through improvisation, choreography, and performance. Students will be placed in this intermediate dance class based on technique, flexibility, and ability to pick up and retain choreography. (This class can also earn PE credit.)

Dance Technique & Composition (year-long commitment) – Prerequisite: Intermediate Dance and/or placement audition. This course is designed to develop and challenge the skills of previously-trained dancers. Emphasis is placed on proper technique and form through the advanced study of multiple genres (jazz, ballet, contemporary, and hip-hop). Performance skills are also polished through participation in different productions throughout the year, including the annual dance concert. Personal goal setting, concentration on physical discipline, and embracing the creative process are all on the agenda. Students will be placed in this advanced dance class based on technique, flexibility, and ability to pick up and retain choreography. Students should wear appropriate dance attire and bring shoes necessary for jazz and contemporary movement styles. (This class can also earn PE credit.)



If you have questions about placement, please email the following teachers:

Band and Jazz Lab – Mr. Kelly at rkelly@oakschristian.org

Vocal Ensembles and Noteworthy A Cappella – Mrs. Langness at alangness@oakschristian.org

Strings, Piano, and World Drumming – Mrs. Mandojana at nmandojana@oakschristian.org

Guitar – Mr. Rogan at krogan@oakschristian.org

Dance – Mrs. Altizer at maltizer@oakschristian.org

Drama, Improv, and Theater & Vocal Performance – Mrs. Mikhail at rmikhail@oakschristian.org



Physical Education Electives

Note: Students may be exempt from taking a semester of PE each year if participating in an OCS team sport. One season = one semester of PE.

Physical Education (semester) – This course focuses on building confidence, sportsmanship, and character through play and sport. Students will practice basic movement skills including throwing, kicking, catching, running, and other movements creating an environment for students to engage in team sports, allowing them to work together and strategize as a group. Students will develop a deeper understanding of fitness through the introduction of weight training and soft tissue self-care. Operating with a thoughtful and intentional approach, students will be encouraged to think about what is happening to their body during play, sport, exercise, and daily activities.

Principles of Dance/Intermediate Dance/Dance Techniques & Composition (year-long commitment) – These courses may be used to fulfill the yearly semester PE requirement. Course descriptions are found under Performing Arts Electives.

STEM Electives

Intro to Engineering Design & Computer Coding (year-long commitment) – In this class, students will develop basic engineering skills as they create, invent, explore, and discover using a variety of tools and materials. If you are curious and passionate about making things that spring from your imagination, things that inspire you and that you admire, this is the class for you. Students will learn the importance of collaboration, increase tool fluency, become more confident in problem solving, and gain a deeper understanding of the logic behind basic computer coding.

Intro to Aerospace Engineering (semester) – With a truly hands-on approach, students will learn the basics of aerospace engineering. Students will discover the history of rocket development, from the earliest fire arrows in China to modern-day space shuttles. Using a variety of design and building projects such as catapults, kites, airplanes, kit rockets, and rockets made from scratch. The class emphasizes creative hands-on learning, scientific prediction, data collection, teamwork, and critical thinking skills. No previous experience or pre-requisites are necessary to enroll in this class.

Intro to Computer Science with JavaScript (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Intro to Engineering Design & Computer Coding; students must also be concurrently enrolled in or have completed Algebra I.* Students will be introduced to fundamentals of coding in the context of the programming language JavaScript. JavaScript is a language primarily used regarding web design and internet applications. Students will learn to apply concepts such as top-down design in solving complex problems. Topics covered include functions, loops, conditional statements, animation, cybersecurity and citizenship. Students will be expected to occasionally utilize some concepts learned in algebra in this course. Students are required to have a personal device that meets the requirements of the OCS BYOD policy. *(Course availability is subject to meeting minimum course enrollment numbers and teacher availability.)*

Intro to Computer Science with Python (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Intro to Engineering Design & Computer Coding; students must also be concurrently enrolled in or have completed Algebra I.* Students will learn basics of computer science in the context of the python programming language. Python is a computational language that is specifically used for calculations, machine learning, and simulations. This course will focus primarily on math and solving problems through programming and data analysis. Topics covered include functions, loops, conditional statements, data analysis, machine learning, cybersecurity. Students will be expected to utilize math concepts frequently in this course. Students are required to have a personal device that meets the requirements of the OCS BYOD policy. *(Course availability is subject to meeting minimum course enrollment numbers and teacher availability.)*



Quest (year-long commitment) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. This class is designed for students to understand the role of science and engineering in allowing humans to explore extreme environments such as those found on Mars and the deep ocean realms of our own planet. Through fun, interactive, hands-on, authentic learning experiences students will model the kinds of scientific work and thinking that has pushed through boundaries and led to the development of many new technologies and exciting discoveries. During the first semester, students learn about Mars, design a mission to explore the planet, build and test model spacecraft and components, and build remote controlled Mars rovers. The second semester is all about ocean exploration. From dive suits to submarines students learn about pressure/density relationships as they explore what makes research in ocean realms so challenging. As a culminating activity, teams of students will design and build their own Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) that will be used to complete a series of real-life challenges in the school swimming pool. *Placement in this class is subject to teacher approval, minimum of 3.0 GPA, and requires an application.*

Engineering Explorations (semester) – For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Intro to Engineering Design & Computer Coding. Engineering Explorations class reinforces an understanding of the creativity involved in how engineers approach innovation, design, and problem solving from blank slate brainstorming to implementing a solution. Working through various advanced, age-appropriate challenges, students follow an Engineering Design Process that gets them thinking like engineers. Whether it's building an electric go kart, participating in a motorized crane competition, or assembling a long-distance water balloon launcher, students will need to draw upon science concepts, tool skills, and collaboration with peers. As they solve problems, they will also explore the role engineering plays in their lives and the world around them. **Students enrolled in this course are required to have a PC laptop (not a MacBook) for use in this course.**



Visual Arts Electives

Fundamentals of 3D Art/Ceramics (semester) – Come explore a variety of art media, applications, and techniques to create 3D art. Some of the projects will include clay, wood, wire, collage, paper mache, and mixed media. Through studying the different 3D assignments, students will learn how to create sculptures in any medium. Assignments will be geared toward both aesthetically pleasing projects and functional pottery. Students are encouraged to give specific attention to craftsmanship and self-expression.

Exploration of Ceramics (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of 3D Art/Ceramics.* This course will continue to build on the skills from the beginning level ceramics class. Students will explore a variety of methods of construction and glazing techniques which reflect a greater level of craftsmanship and ability. In addition, students will be challenged to deepen their knowledge of both technique and concept while becoming more fully involved in all aspects of the ceramics process.

Fundamentals of Drawing & Painting (semester) – Students will discover the joys of seeing the world around them and gain the ability to portray that vision through pencil, pastels, watercolor, tempera, and acrylic paint. Projects will explore a variety of techniques which accommodate students of any ability or level. This class will encourage students to discover their personal style.

Exploration of Drawing & Painting (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Drawing & Painting.* Students will build on skills learned in the Drawing and Painting course and will focus on mastering painting techniques. Using 20th century artists as a guide, students will explore the various techniques and methods used to create paintings and utilize these skills in their own artwork.

Introduction to Digital Drawing & Painting (spring semester) - *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Drawing & Painting and Exploration of Drawing & Painting (or placement based on teacher approval of artistic work).*

Students will synthesize the principles of art and design with the latest techniques of digital art. Understanding the technical nature of digital painting, students must first be adept in the fundamental aspects of art. This course provides hands-on training using popular digital painting software. They will explore the young history of digital art and the latest implementations of this process both culturally and industry wide. The students' work will capture an understanding of color theory, balance, and composition through landscapes, portraits, architectural studies, character creations, narrative illustrations, and more.

Multicultural Art (semester) – This course acquaints students with various art forms from cultures around the world. Combined with art appreciation lessons for each country, students will create their own two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects using a wide range of materials and artistic techniques. Students will gain an appreciation for various cultures and learn the connection between culture and art.

Fundamentals of Digital Photography (semester) – Our photography class is a great way to get to know the basics of photography. We learn how the camera takes a picture and how to make that picture a piece of art. Students can explore their areas of interest in photography and with extra time and effort can expand their talent in photography, no matter what their experience has been. Students will learn how to take photos in fully manual mode, learn workflow utilizing Adobe Photoshop and Bridge software (what to do with their photos after they take them), and photo editing. The school has a limited number of cameras if a student does not have access to their own camera. This is a semester class and is a great prep class for high school photography classes. *DSLR camera recommended.*



Exploration of Digital Photography (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Digital Photography.* Photography can be a powerful vehicle for creating stories. Through guided assignments, students will further build on the techniques learned in Fundamentals of Digital Photography to create bodies of work that tell stories. This will involve shooting projects and assignments outside the classroom. Our class time will be more focused on critiquing work, editing images created outside of class, and finally laying out a book of the work from the semester. *Students must have a DSLR or mirrorless camera to take this course.*

Fundamentals of Film Production (semester) – This digital video course will provide students with a basic understanding of the technology and techniques used in film and explore ways in which film is created to achieve its desired effect on an audience. The emphasis of this course is creation. In groups, students will create their own commercials, music videos, stop motion projects, and simulated interviews. The projects will be critiqued as a class in order to generate new ideas and to introduce different film techniques to strengthen storytelling. Students will also learn how to edit their movies in iMovie.

Exploration of Film (semester) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Film Production.* This class will spend the semester telling the story of being a student at OCMS by creating a variety show. Students will interview faculty, their classmates, and admin to create an engaging show that will air to the school. Students will learn techniques in lighting, recording sound, and writing a script.

Yearbook (year-long commitment) – *For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Digital Photography.* This course creates individualized artwork and produces a corporate class project through the yearbook. Students will take pictures, develop layouts, and design the cover. Students will also learn to prepare pages for submission, to work within deadlines, and to complete the expectations required for the yearbook. The final product is the pictorial representation of student life in middle school. *Due to the demands of this course, an application with teacher recommendations is required, and administration gives final approval of student course request.*



OCS Administration

Rob Black, Head of School

Dr. Matthew Northrop, Associate Head of School for Academics

Administration

Tara Morrow , Principal, Grades 4-8	818-824-9471
Rachel Morales , Academic Dean, Grades 4-8	818-824-9433
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Lucas Weston , MS Dean of Student Life	818-824-9312
Jade Molina , MS Spiritual Life Director	818-824-9496
Stephanie Niednagel , Director of Curriculum, Grades 4-12.....	818-824-9410
Garrick Moss , MS Athletic Director	818-824-9454

Support Staff

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Zoe Irvin , Assistant to the MS Deans & Attendance	818-824-9412
Melanie McAfee , Nurse, Grades 5-8.....	818-824-9431
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