



MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVE COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

The following requirements will be used this year for all 7th and 8th grade students:

- Each student must take at least 1 quarter of a P.E. elective each year.
- Each student must take at least 1 Fine Arts elective each year.
- Students are allowed to take Choir, Band, or Musical Theater at the same time.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

CHOIR | Semester Course taught by Mrs. Porier

Do you like to sing? Do you enjoy spending time in a fun activity with your friends? Would you like to perform off campus, compete with other middle schools, and spend a day in Dollywood with your friends? If you answered yes to any or all of these questions, then you should register for choir! No prior experiences or auditions are required. Our GCA middle school choir students are athletes, student leaders, chapel leaders, spelling bee winners, actors, actresses, and students that love music. We have competed in music festivals and scored Superior ratings. Come by and see our trophies. Sign up for MS Choir today!

WORSHIP ARTS | Year-long course taught by Mrs. Porier*

Worship Arts is designed to equip you to better serve in the ministry of Grace Christian Academy as skilled and passionate worship leaders. This specialized program will allow students to study and practice skills in worship that are practical to the local church. You will work to develop knowledge and expertise to function in a variety of worship and contexts within the evangelical community. You will receive comprehensive training in choosing music that is relevant to your peers and glorifies God, while honing your talents as public speakers, instrumentalists, and directors along with technical skills such as lighting, audio, pro presenter, camera, and video production. We will have open spots for drums, keys and guitar for the next school year. If you are a musician interested in these areas, please sign up. **By application/interview or audition required*

DRAMA | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Wilson

Do you enjoy a fast-paced class that allows you to move around the room? Then drama is the elective for you. We will learn about improvisation, acting, characterization, sword fighting, pantomime, and much more.

MUSICAL THEATRE | Semester course taught by Mrs. Wilson

This course is available to Middle School students by audition only. These students will perform in the Upper School spring musical. The Upper School musical for 2025 is Newsies. Auditions for this class will be online. Be on the lookout for more information.

INTERMEDIATE BAND | Year-long course taught by Mr. Lawson

Building on the skills learned in Beginner Band, this performance-based group offers opportunities to play as a pep band, jazz band, and concert band all in the same year! We will perform at a few football and basketball games, at local nursing homes, winter and spring concerts, as well as take a trip to a major amusement park. Students enlisting in the class should attend the Summer Band Camp (dates TBA).

DRUMLINE/PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE | Year-long course taught by Mr. Lawson

This performing group is open to students in 7th-12th grades. You will learn everything you need to know in the course and do not have to have any prerequisite skills or training. The first semester is dedicated to learning drumline routines and pep band charts while the second semester is dedicated to learning a wide variety of music ranging in styles from the Blue Man Group to traditional percussion ensemble music. This group will perform with the Intermediate and Advanced Bands on campus for ball games, chapels, student assemblies, and concerts both on and off campus. Students enlisting in the class should attend the Summer Drumline/Percussion Camp (dates TBA).

COLOR GUARD | Year-long course taught by Mrs. Jones

During Color Guard class, the performance-based ensemble will learn and perfect fundamentals of body movement and equipment manipulation through choreographed routines and drill design. Students will develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, and leadership. This class will help students foster their creativity and develop a worship mindset for performing arts.

ART 1 | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Grimmett

In this 9-weeks class, students will explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, and sculpture. We will use different mediums including but not limited to drawing with all different types of utensils (pencils, colored pencils, chalk/oil pastels, etc.), painting with all different types of paint (watercolor, acrylic, tempera), and creating 3-D sculptures.

ART 2 | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Grimmett

In this 9-weeks class, students will draw from their experiences in Art 1 and will focus on further developing their skills in drawing, painting and sculpture using many different mediums. Two-dimensional lessons may include painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking. Three-dimensional projects will also be included.

**Prerequisite: Art 1 must be taken before Art 2*

ADVANCED ART | Semester course taught by Mrs. Grimmett

In this semester long class, students will explore more sophisticated drawing, sculpture, and painting techniques, using a variety of media and methods. This is an advanced class for highly motivated students. Students will engage in long term assignments, that will further strengthen their advanced skills and techniques. Advanced art is best suited for students who already enjoy creating artwork at home or at school. Creating should be one of your favorite activities.

**Requirement/Prerequisite: Class enrollment requires teacher approval. Students must have already taken Art 1.*

S.T.E.M. ELECTIVE

ROBOTICS | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. McReynolds

Come spend nine weeks learning the basics of robotics. We will be using the Lego Mindstorms EV3 system. Lego Mindstorms EV3 is a set that lets you build and program for starter robot models. A programmable

power brick, plus several motors and color, touch, and infrared sensors, help the robot move and communicate.

STEM | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Hilton

This class is designed to give students the opportunity to explore and engage the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) fields through hands-on, project-based learning. Students will develop their critical thinking and problem-solving skills and learn more about the engineering design process by combining each of the STEM disciplines. Creativity, teamwork, communication, and collaboration will be encouraged as students test out various fields of learning and learn more about future STEM careers. The class will be divided into four main introductory units over 9 weeks: Design and Modeling, Automation and Robotics, Coding, and Basic Circuitry Design.

GEOGRAPHY/HISTORY ELECTIVES

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Schneider

Have you ever wanted to travel to a distant land? Does the smell of a new atlas make you happy? Well, if you answered yes to either of these questions, then Geography class is the place for you. In this course, you will explore all seven continents, dive deep into the five oceans, scale the world's highest peaks, and plan the vacation of a lifetime all while gaining valuable mapping skills and developing a greater appreciation for God's Creation. Come on along, the journey awaits!

20TH CENTURY AMERICAN HISTORY THROUGH FILM | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Schneider

Love history? Love watching movies? Let's put the two together. In this class, you will study 20th Century American History through the lens of Hollywood's camera. Stand toe to toe with striking workers in NYC. Crawl through the trenches of war-torn France. Solo across the Atlantic to an awaiting crowd of thousands. Break the segregation lines and let equality prevail. Investigate the assassination of JFK. Perch yourself on the back of the greatest racehorse in history. If you think all these things sound cool, they are and they are part of our American story.

BIBLE ELECTIVES

BIBLE JOURNALING | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. McReynolds

Bible journaling is a great creative outlet for many people to enjoy reading scripture, plus it can help you concentrate and really remember what you are reading. If you aren't familiar with how to do it, it is an easy thing to begin. Bible journaling is also a way to combine your love of God with your creative talents. This course is designed to provide easy Bible journaling tips for beginners.

CHRISTIAN MISSIONS | 9-weeks course taught by Mr. Duncan

Christianity is never more than one generation away from extinction. Without courageous and faithful men and women going forward and sharing the good news of Jesus Christ around the world, our faith would not be around today. This class gives you an opportunity to **read** and **learn** about some of these Christian Heroes who, throughout the history of the Church, have taken up the mission, often at great risk to themselves and their families, to carry the gospel to some of the hardest to reach places in the world. God could have chosen any number of ways to share His story with humanity, but He calls on the Church to be His messengers.

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE | 9-weeks course taught by Mr. Duncan

In this elective, we will take time to talk through methods of studying the bible. We will learn how to read, understand, and comprehend scripture together. We will use various resources for the aim of understanding scripture in its proper context. In this, we will read through a book of the bible together.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES

BOYS P.E. | 9-weeks course taught by K-8 PE teacher

It is time to get moving! You will practice physical fitness skills as you play team sports and other games. You will learn the rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports and how to stay injury free as you play. Learn to enjoy a variety of physical activities in an environment where cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition are modeled.

GIRLS P.E. | 9-weeks course taught by K-8 PE teacher

It is time to get moving! You will practice physical fitness skills as you play team sports and other games. You will learn the rules, skills and strategies associated with different sports and how to stay injury free as you play. Learn to enjoy a variety of physical activities in an environment where cooperation, leadership, fair play and friendly competition are modeled.

LANGUAGE ELECTIVES

CREATIVE WRITING | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Kelley

If you are looking for a way to use your imagination, then creative writing is the class for you! Students will have the opportunity to work individually, with partners, and in groups to create short stories, poetry, and various other types of writing. One of the main goals of this class is to show that writing can be FUN!

AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Thomas

This will be an introductory course to American Sign Language (ASL). In this course, you will cover the alphabet, numbers, basic vocabulary, and entry level grammar structuring. This 9-weeks course will provide you with the skills to have a short conversation in American Sign Language and will help you build a foundation for future growth in American Sign Language.

BOOK CLUB | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Mavroff

Do you want to travel to new places, meet interesting characters, and have an exciting adventure? Then book club is the elective for you! Book club is an enjoyable middle school small group elective. Students will encounter high interest novels and interact in a fun engaging way. This is not a class to add the stress of homework. However, it is a great way to improve current reading comprehension, fluency, and experience the adventure found in the pages of a good book.

COMPUTER ELECTIVES

KEYBOARDING | 9-weeks course taught by Mrs. Heather Kelley

If you struggle with typing, then this is the class for you! Students will learn the basics of proper keyboarding techniques, as well as basic formatting for essays and other documents. Those writing assignments aren't going anywhere, so learn how to do them properly now and save yourself lots of stress in the future.

EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT ELECTIVES

MATH LAB | 9-weeks course taught by Mr. Comfort and Ms. Seaman

Math Lab is designed to support MS students who are struggle in math but may benefit from more one-on-one or small group interaction. Teachers will review math concepts as needed and provide extra practice for concept reinforcement. Students attending Math Lab will be expected to work on math concepts ONLY! This elective is not intended to be used as a Study Hall. Only offered 1st-3rd Quarter.

STUDY HALL | 9-weeks course proctored by Core Subject Teachers

This elective serves as an opportunity to use additional class time during the day to complete homework, prepare for upcoming tests and quizzes and other assignments. Students can also use this time to make up quizzes or tests with their teachers. Students who take a study hall will be expected to work quietly during this elective course in order to allow the time to be used effectively for all students.

STUDY HALL WITH LEARNING CENTER SUPPORT | 9-weeks course proctored by GCA Learning Center Staff

To register for this study hall students must have a current Learning Plan or 504 plan with the GCA Learning Center. This elective serves as an opportunity to use additional class time during the day to complete homework, prepare for upcoming tests and quizzes and other assignments. Students can also use this time to make up quizzes or tests with their teachers. Students who take a study hall will be expected to work quietly during this elective course in order to allow the time to be used effectively for all students.