



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**2024-2025 CURRICULUM GUIDE**

# Mission Statement

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SouthLake Christian Academy exists for the sake of God's glory and mission; proclaiming the gospel, educating and discipling the whole person in all aspects of God's reality.

## Vision

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SouthLake Christian Academy is that Christ may be preeminent in all things (Colossians 1:18).

## Core Values

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Standards and expectations are the guideposts for success at SouthLake Christian Academy. Our students learn to embrace the school's core values of **respect, integrity, kindness, and joy** while pursuing academic excellence. By living these values, SouthLake Christian students prepare themselves for a fulfilling life of meaning and purpose.

## Our Commitment To Christian Faith

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We believe the Scriptures of the Old and New Testament are verbally-inspired by God, wherein He reveals Himself to humankind, reveals His will and ways for all men and women; and which are of supreme and final authority in faith, life, and standards of education.

## Faculty

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With over 100+, SouthLake Christian's faculty and staff exhibit deep loyalty to the institution, with an average tenure of more than 12 years. Despite this continuity, the teachers consistently innovate in their instruction, curriculum, and assessments, frequently leveraging technology to deepen students' learning experiences.

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# OVERVIEW



# INTRODUCTION TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL

## ***Guiding Hearts, Educating Minds***

At SouthLake Christian Academy, we believe that education extends beyond textbooks and classrooms. Here, we are dedicated to cultivating both the intellectual and spiritual growth of our students. Our mission is to provide a robust, Christ-centered education that prepares students to excel academically while fostering a deep and abiding faith in Jesus Christ.

## ***Academic Excellence***

Our academic program is designed to challenge and inspire. We offer a comprehensive curriculum that includes rigorous core classes such as Mathematics, Science, English, Social Studies, & World Language. Our qualified teachers are passionate about their subjects and are committed to helping students achieve their full potential. For those seeking additional academic challenges, we offer fourteen Advanced Placement (AP) courses. These courses provide college-level curricula, the potential to earn college credit, and help our students to stand out in the college admissions process. We offer a wide array of electives and Fine Arts that allow students to explore their interests and develop new skills.

## ***Electives and Extracurricular Activities***

We believe that a well-rounded education includes opportunities for creative expression, physical activity, and leadership development. Our elective courses provide a platform for students to discover their talents and passions. Outside the classroom, students can join a variety of clubs and organizations that enrich their school experience. Our Student Mission Fellowship (SMF) club offers a unique opportunity for students to engage in global mission work and local community service. Through SMF, students learn to apply their faith in practical ways, developing a heart for service and a deeper understanding of global issues from a Christian perspective. Additionally, our Beta Club, Chess Club, STEM Club, and National Honor Society (NHS) chapters are vibrant communities where students can engage in service projects, develop leadership skills, and build lasting friendships.

## ***Biblical Integration***

At SouthLake Christian Academy, faith is the cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Biblical principles are integrated into every aspect of our curriculum, ensuring that students not only gain knowledge but also wisdom rooted in Christian values. Daily Bible classes, weekly chapel services, and various opportunities for spiritual development are all integral parts of our school life. We also hold weekly Advisory sessions where each high school teacher mentors a small group of students, fostering deep relationships and encouraging spiritual growth. Our aim is to nurture a strong, personal faith in each student, equipping them to navigate life with integrity, compassion, and purpose.

## ***A Community Like No Other***

SouthLake Christian Academy is more than just a school; it is a community where students are known, loved, and encouraged to thrive. Our dedicated faculty and staff are committed to providing a supportive and nurturing environment where every student can succeed. From personalized academic support to spiritual mentoring, we are here to guide each student on their unique journey. We invite you to join our SouthLake Christian Academy family, where academic excellence and faith-based education come together to create an exceptional high school experience. Here, you will find a place to grow, learn, and become all that God has called you to be.

## Intermediate (5th–6th Grade) & Jr. High (7th–8th Grade)

Welcome to our SLCA Middle School, where we offer a nurturing and academically rigorous environment for students in grades 5 through 8. Our middle school is thoughtfully divided into two distinct groups to better address the developmental and educational needs of our students:

- Intermediate School: 5th and 6th grades
- Junior High School: 7th and 8th grades

This document provides an overview of both the Intermediate School and Junior High curricula, designed to build a strong foundation in core subjects while fostering a love for learning and personal growth.

The Middle School years are a unique time in children’s lives as they develop a sense of self. Personal development is a critical facet of what we teach and foster. Students are navigating their place in a community, balancing the desire to become an integrated and responsible member of a group. We embrace this journey, and the Middle School experience is designed to guide students along the way. All students are progressing, developing, and have a lot to learn.

The Middle School delivers a rigorous academic curriculum within a holistic framework that promotes whole-child growth. The faculty and staff nurture and support each student through early adolescence as they develop independence and self-confidence. Individual and group work, as well as a cooperative learning opportunities, are important parts of the learning process. We emphasize reading and writing analytically, critical and inferential thinking, making informed civic decisions, and persuasively developing and presenting opinions. Students also learn to balance academic, social, and personal demands by developing and enhancing their organizational and time-management skills.

Our middle school curriculum offers a comprehensive educational experience for Intermediate School (5th and 6th grades) and Junior High School (7th and 8th grades). With a diverse range of subjects and a focus on fostering critical thinking, creativity, and personal growth, we prepare students for future challenges, including readiness for high school. We are eager to support your child’s academic, social, and spiritual development and look forward to partnering with you in their educational journey.







# CORE COURSES

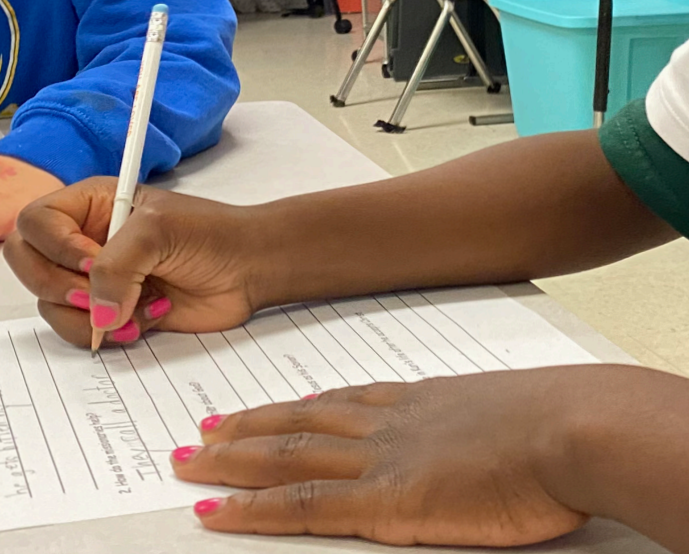


Quarter 1 Year Course 57  
Comprehension Check

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What happens in the passage?  
The \_\_\_\_\_

2. How do the characters feel?  
The \_\_\_\_\_



## **Algebra 1 (Elayn Martin-Gay) 8th Grade**

Algebra 1 introduces students to more advanced algebraic concepts, including linear equations, inequalities, functions, polynomials, and quadratic equations. This course emphasizes critical thinking and problem-solving skills, preparing students for higher-level math. Hands-on activities and real-world applications help students grasp abstract concepts. High School credit may be earned for this course.

## **Bible (Deep Roots) 5th–8th**

Our Bible classes utilize the Deep Roots curriculum, designed to instill a solid understanding of biblical teachings and principles. Students explore the Old and New Testaments, learning about the historical context, key figures, and moral lessons. Through discussions, projects, and memorization of verses, students develop a strong spiritual foundation and a personal connection to their faith. Additionally, 7th & 8th grade students engage with custom-designed curriculum crafted by the lead Bible educator.

## **Geography (Shell Edu Geo) 6th**

In Geography, students explore the physical and cultural landscapes of the world using resources from Shell Edu Geo and Twain Geo. Topics include map skills, continents and oceans, climate, natural resources, and human geography. Students learn to appreciate global diversity and understand the interconnectedness of the world through projects, research, and discussions. Additionally, 6th grade students engage with custom-designed curriculum crafted by the lead Geography educator.

## **Grammar (IEW Fix-It Grammar) 5th–8th**

Grammar classes use the IEW (Institute for Excellence in Writing) Fix-It Grammar curriculum, providing students with a solid understanding of the rules and mechanics of the English language. Topics covered include parts of speech, sentence structure, punctuation, and usage. Through exercises, quizzes, and thematic assignments, students enhance their grammar skills and apply them to their writing.

## **Vocabulary (Learning Works) 5th–6th**

The vocabulary course uses the Learning Works curriculum to introduce students to the Latin and Greek languages their influence on the English language. Students learn common roots, prefixes, and suffixes, enhancing their vocabulary and understanding of word origins. This foundation supports and strengthens their language arts skills.

## **Math (Big Ideas Math) 5th–8th**

Math classes in middle school use the Big Ideas Math program, covering a broad range of topics from basic arithmetic to introductory algebra and geometry. Students work on problem-solving skills, mathematical reasoning, and real-world applications. Interactive activities and hands-on projects make math engaging and relevant.

## **Pre-Algebra (Elayn Martin-Gay) 7th**

Pre-Algebra is designed to bridge the gap between basic arithmetic and Algebra 1. Students explore topics such as integers, fractions, decimals, ratios, percentages, and basic equations. Emphasis is placed on developing strong problem-solving skills and a solid understanding of mathematical concepts in preparation for Algebra 1.

### **Reading (Into Reading) 5th**

We use the Into Reading program which engages students with a variety of literary genres, including fiction, non-fiction, poetry, and drama. The curriculum emphasizes comprehension, critical thinking, and analytical skills. Novels are also studied to supplement the curriculum. Students participate in group discussions, book reports, and independent reading projects, fostering a lifelong love for literature.

### **Reading (Mirrors & Windows) 6th–8th**

Mirrors & Windows is a curriculum approach that emphasizes both reflection and exploration in literature. By presenting diverse perspectives (mirrors) that reflect students' own experiences and unfamiliar viewpoints (windows) that broaden their understanding, the curriculum aims to foster empathy, critical thinking, and cultural awareness. Through engaging texts and thoughtful discussions, students are encouraged to expand their knowledge and imagination. In addition, students in each grade level read, discuss, and analyze several novels.

### **Social Studies (Discovery Education) 5th–8th**

Social Studies classes cover history, government, economics, and citizenship using materials from Discovery Education. Students learn about significant historical events, influential leaders, and the functioning of governmental systems. The course encourages critical thinking, discussion of current events, and understanding of civic responsibilities. Additionally, 5th–8th grade students engage with custom-designed curriculum crafted by the lead Social Studies educator.

### **Science (Mystery Science) 5th**

Science classes provide a hands-on, inquiry-based approach to learning about the natural world. Topics include life science, physical science, earth science, and environmental science. Students engage in experiments, projects, and field trips that promote scientific thinking and curiosity.

### **Science (Elevate) 6th–8th**

Science (Elevate Curriculum) introduces students to a comprehensive exploration of scientific concepts and principles. Emphasizing hands-on experimentation and inquiry-based learning, this curriculum encourages critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Through engaging activities and real-world applications, students gain a deep understanding of scientific phenomena, preparing them for future academic and practical challenges in the field of science.

### **Spanish Language (Auténtico) 7th–8th**

Our Spanish program introduces students to the basics of the Spanish language and Hispanic cultures. Students learn vocabulary, grammar, and conversational skills through interactive lessons, songs, and activities. The course aims to develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills in an engaging way.

## **Study Hall 7th–8th**

Study Hall is designed to provide students with a structured environment to complete homework, study for tests, and work on projects. It offers a quiet space for independent work, with a teacher available to provide guidance and support. This period helps students develop time management skills, organizational habits, and academic responsibility, ensuring they stay on top of their coursework and prepare effectively for their classes.

## **Technology (Washburn Tech) 7th–8th**

Technology classes focus on teaching students essential digital skills and responsible online behavior. Using the Brittany Washburn Technology curriculum along with PCL Tech, students learn about internet safety, digital footprints, cyberbullying, and ethical use of technology. The course emphasizes critical thinking and responsible decision-making in the digital world.

## **Writing (IEW) 5th–8th**

Our Writing course follows the Institute for Excellence in Writing (IEW) curriculum, focusing on developing strong skills across different styles and formats, including narrative, expository, persuasive, and descriptive writing. Students learn the writing process from brainstorming and drafting to revising and editing. Emphasis is placed on clarity, organization through key word outlines, and creativity.

# FINE ARTS & ELECTIVES



## FINE ARTS & ELECTIVES

Discover the enriching opportunities awaiting your middle school student in our vibrant fine arts program and diverse array of electives. At SouthLake Christian, we nurture creativity and expression through visual arts, music, drama, and more, guided by dedicated instructors who inspire talent and confidence. Our extensive range of electives, from technology and entrepreneurship to foreign languages, ensures every student can explore and excel in areas of interest.

### **Art 5th–8th**

Art classes encourage creativity and self-expression through various media and techniques, including drawing, painting, sculpture, and digital art. Students learn about art history, elements of art, and principles of design. The art program provides opportunities for students to showcase their work in school exhibitions and contests.

### **Band 5th–8th**

Band classes introduce students to playing wind, brass, and percussion instruments. Students learn to read music, understand rhythms, and develop their instrumental techniques. The band performs in concerts and competitions, promoting discipline, cooperation, and a sense of achievement.

### **Choir 5th–8th**

Choir classes provide students with the opportunity to develop their vocal skills and musicality. Students learn about vocal techniques, music theory, and choral literature from various genres and cultures. The choir performs in school concerts and community events, fostering teamwork and a love for music.

### **Orchestra 5th–8th**

Orchestra classes focus on string instruments, including violin, viola, and cello. Students receive instruction in technique, music reading, and ensemble playing. The orchestra performs in various school and community events, encouraging dedication and a passion for classical music.

### **Physical Education (PE) 5th–8th**

Physical Education classes promote physical fitness, teamwork, and healthy lifestyles. Students participate in a variety of activities, including sports, games, and fitness exercises. The PE program emphasizes the importance of regular physical activity, sportsmanship, and personal wellness.

### **Spanish Exploration (Auténtico) 5th–6th**

Spanish is offered as a once-a-week special for 5th and 6th graders, transitioning to a core class in 7th grade. During 5th and 6th grades, students focus specifically on vocabulary and cultural elements, ensuring a solid foundation for success in Spanish at the junior high level.



# ACADEMIC SUPPORT

# SPECIALIZED



## Academic Development Center

The purpose of Academic Development Center (ADC)/Specialized Academic Support at SouthLake Christian is to enable students to meet their potential and to facilitate the classroom teachers' meeting the needs of all learners in their classrooms. Our specialized academic support specialists are here to provide expert guidance to ensure your child's academic success. Their expertise and dedication are invaluable assets designed to enhance your child's educational experience and help them achieve their academic goals. Don't hesitate to contact our specialists for any assistance you may require. Please reach out directly to them for personalized support and to address any concerns you may have.

The Academic Development Center collaborate with teachers who embrace strategies of differentiation to meet the needs of the learners in their classrooms, with parents who want to better understand the learning needs of their children, and with outside providers who partner in supporting students.

We seek to provide a learning environment that allows all students to meet their SouthLake Christian's Learning Center is home to four learning specialists who provide a variety of services for students, teachers, and parents.

Acknowledging the demanding nature of SouthLake Christian Academy's curriculum, the institution provides numerous learning programs for students requiring extra help. The academic development center at the school offers Math and Language Enrichment Groups, a tutorial study hall, speech and occupational therapy, mental health counseling, and resources from the National Institute of Learning Development and the Search & Teach program. These resources cater to students needing different levels of educational support and assistance.

*\*Enrollment in programs offered through the Academic Development Center is based on a combination of criteria, such as evaluation results and teacher recommendations and are not covered by general tuition. Acceptance into these programs is at the discretion of the program director.*

## Academic Support Resources

**National Institute for Learning Development (NILD):** The NILD is a nonprofit organization dedicated to training educators to work with children and adults with learning difficulties.

**Search & Teach:** Search & Teach© is an early intervention program developed to meet the educational needs of young learners (K-1) before they experience the frustration of learning failure.

**Discovery for Reading Rx:**

## Discovery for Math Rx:

**Language Enrichment:** The Language Enrichment Groups are offered for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Students participate in 45-minute small group sessions. Each session focuses on targeted reading strategies to increase reading accuracy, fluency, and comprehension. Students receive additional support correlating with classroom instruction in the areas of reading and written expression.

**Math Enrichment:** The Mathematics Enrichment Groups are offered for grades 1-3 and 4-6. Students participate in 45-minute small group sessions. Each session focuses on foundational math skills that are designed to increase problem solving ability and improve mathematical reasoning. Also, students receive tutoring with the concepts currently being taught in their individual classrooms.

**Tutorial Study Hall:** Tutorial Study Hall is designed for middle and upper school students who have a documented condition which affects their learning. These study halls provide directed assistance in study skills, time management, test-taking strategies, and organizational skills.

**Mental Health:** Here at SouthLake Christian Academy we want to carefully show consideration and compassion to our students who may be processing difficult thoughts, fears and emotions. Teachers and staff members have been provided related resource materials to help encourage all the more sensitivity, understanding, and discussion for students in need.

**Occupational Therapy:** Occupational Therapy For a child, two of their most important “occupations” are school and play. As the Occupational Therapist at SouthLake. My goal is to help children of all ages gain confidence and success in these occupations by addressing areas such as coordination, fine motor skills, visual perceptual skills, the ability to focus and attend, handwriting, self-regulation, and classroom skills.

With 25 years of experience as an Occupational Therapist and a parent of two children at Southlake, it is my privilege to work with the students, teachers, and families to enhance students’ abilities by helping to get to the root of any struggles they are having that impact their occupations. In addition to my time at Southlake, I work with children in private practice, have authored a book titled “Why Is My Kid Doing That? A sensory approach to understanding your child’s behavior”, am a guest on parenting podcasts, and write for local parent magazines. You can find me at [www.whymykiddoingthat.com](http://www.whymykiddoingthat.com).

**Speech Therapy:** Speech therapy is offered on a contracted basis. Natasha Kearney, M.A., CCC-SLP, is our contracted Pediatric Speech-Language Pathologist.