

MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE



2026-2027



Middle School Course Information

STANDARD COURSES

Standard Middle School courses are structured to prepare students for success in high school. Since 98% of our high school students go on to college/university, consistently delivering academic rigor and critical thinking skills are a high priority.

HONORS COURSES

The academic expectation in honors courses differs from those in standard courses in at least two ways. First, students will explore topics in more detail and at a higher level of conceptual (abstract) understanding. Second, students will be expected to grasp ideas, solve problems, and produce high-quality work more independently with less teacher assistance. Most honors students enjoy learning in these ways.

COURSES OFFERED IN MIDDLE SCHOOL FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT

Mathematics

- Algebra I Honors
- Geometry Honors

Physical Education

- Personal Fitness

World Language

- French I
- Spanish I



Bible

7th Grade Bible

This course provides students with an overview of the Old Testament, examining God's work in creation, the fall of humanity, and His continuing plan of redemption. Students will study key figures, covenants, and historical events that reveal God's faithfulness and purpose for His people. Through guided readings, discussions, and projects, students will analyze major themes such as obedience, justice, mercy, and covenant relationship. In addition, the course emphasizes personal spiritual formation, encouraging students to grow in prayer, reflection, and service. Practical applications and outreach opportunities help students connect Scripture to real-life experiences, developing both faith and character.

8th Grade Bible

This course provides students with an overview of the New Testament. Emphasis is put on the life of Jesus and His teachings as presented in the Gospels followed by a study of the early church as described in the book of Acts. Finally, students will learn the principles that govern the life of believers as described by the epistles of the New Testament. Throughout their studies, students will learn a process of Bible study that involves observation of the text, interpreting its meaning to find the eternal principles and finally applying those principles to their lives. The ultimate objective is that every student will develop a dynamic and deepening relationship with Jesus Christ.



English

7th Grade English

Seventh grade English students will read across genres, including poetry, short stories, essays, speeches, novels, and expository texts. The curriculum is chosen to compel students to consider multiple and diverse perspectives through analyzing the language and content of various literary works and their relation to God's word. Emphasis is placed on analyzing plot and character development, themes, and perspectives. Students will develop skills for writing in a variety of genres and building communication by presenting ideas in class. In addition, students will continue to develop their skills of grammar, usage, and mechanics while developing a more in-depth vocabulary. Students will read assigned books, poems, short stories, informational materials, excerpts, and individually chosen books and engage thoughtfully, reflectively, and critically in reading and responding to literature themes, lessons, and messages. Students will write proficiently in a variety of writing styles while developing the use of descriptive language, effective word choice, proper grammar and spelling, and increased vocabulary.

7th Grade English Honors

Seventh Grade English Honors is an advanced course designed for students who demonstrate high achievement and interest in reading, writing, and critical thinking. This course follows the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts, similar to what is presented in Seventh Grade English, while providing increased rigor, greater text complexity, and opportunities for independent enrichment. Students will engage in close reading and analysis of complex literary and informational texts, compose sophisticated written works, and participate in advanced academic discussions.

8th Grade English

Students in Eighth grade English will consider others' perspectives through diverse texts across a wide range of genres in relation to God's word with a focus on reading, writing, and speaking, emphasizing citing evidence from texts to support literary analysis and create logical arguments. Key areas include analyzing complex texts (both literary and informational), developing and supporting arguments in writing, conducting research, and using strong grammar, vocabulary, and presentation skills. Students will learn to read for both explicit meaning and logical inferences, analyze text craft and structure, and respond to literature.



8th Grade English Honors

Eighth Grade English Honors is an advanced course designed for students who demonstrate high achievement and interest in reading, writing, and critical thinking. This course follows the Florida B.E.S.T. Standards for English Language Arts, similar to what is presented in Eighth Grade English, while providing increased rigor, greater text complexity, and opportunities for independent enrichment. Students will engage in close reading and analysis of complex literary and informational texts, compose sophisticated written works, and participate in advanced academic discussions.



History

7th Grade Civics

7th grade Civics explores the origins and purposes of government by examining ancient and contemporary influences and movements; examining the causes, course and consequences of American independence from Britain; examining the individuals, documents and Biblical foundations of American government; evaluating the roles, rights and responsibilities of American citizenship, including the importance of civic engagement; describing the process of becoming a citizen; analyzing the structure and function of government; comparing and contrasting different forms and systems of governments with the U.S. government; exploring historical and contemporary foreign policy issues and events.

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8th Grade American History

The intention of this course is to introduce students to the people, events, and ideas that have profoundly shaped the history of America. From the earliest Americans who lived on our continent to the America of a globally connected world of the 21st Century, we will explore Colonial America, the Revolutionary Period, 1800's Growth and Expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, and the Decades of the 20th Century. Students will be challenged to understand our world today in the context of our past.

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Mathematics

7th Grade Math

This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Algebra. The course introduces and develops the concept of a variable. Topics include but are not limited to: real number operations, percents, fractions, and decimals, graphing, solving proportions, divisibility rules, and problem solving.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra Honors

This course introduces and expands the concept of a variable while building a strong foundation in essential mathematical skills. Topics include, but are not limited to, operations with real numbers, percents, fractions, decimals, graphing, solving proportions, divisibility rules, and general problem-solving strategies. Students are expected to enter with strong mastery of prior math concepts and will explore new topics in greater depth and with a higher level of abstract understanding, learning to grasp ideas, solve problems, and produce high-quality work with increased independence.

8th Grade Pre-Algebra

Prerequisite: Math 7

Pre-Algebra is intended to prepare students for Algebra 1. Topics include but are not limited to: simplifying and evaluating algebraic expression, solving multi-step equations, applying skills to work problems, and graphing linear equations.

Algebra 1 Honors

Course Code: 1200320

HS Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra Honors

Placement Criteria: Teacher recommendation, MAP test scores, and a minimum average of 90% or higher in each semester of Pre-Algebra Honors.

NOTE: To progress into Geometry Honors, middle school students must maintain an A average for the full year. If a student's average falls below 90%, their progress will be reviewed by the administration, teacher, department chair, and the student care team to determine appropriate placement.

Algebra 1 Honors is the foundation for all other high school math courses. Students who meet the placement criteria may enroll in Algebra I Honors. This course covers topics including but not limited to the following: the real number system, the fundamentals of algebra, problem solving, graphs and functions, solving equations and inequalities, rational numbers, factoring, and radicals. Students will do more in-depth study of algebra and be asked higher order questions all at a faster pace than the standard course.



Geometry Honors

Course Code: 1206320

HS Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Algebra 1 Honors

Placement Criteria: Teacher recommendation, MAP test scores, and a minimum average of 90% or higher in each semester of Algebra 1 Honors.

NOTE: To progress to Algebra II honors, middle school students must maintain an A average for the full year. If a student's average falls below 90%, their progress will be reviewed by the administration, teacher, department chair, and the student care team to determine appropriate placement.

This course parallels Geometry but teaches and tests students on a more advanced level. Honors Geometry goes further, covering abstract proofs, coordinate and transformational geometry, and non-Euclidean geometries. Students will do a more in-depth study of Geometry and be asked higher order questions all at a faster pace than the standard course.



Science

7th Grade Life Science

Students will learn about living organisms from a single cell size to multicellular. The diversity of topics covered includes cell processes, heredity, microorganisms, protists, fungi, plants, and animals. They will apply the Scientific Method in an inquiry-based approach to science by performing 30-40 labs and activities. Lab safety and proper use of lab equipment are fundamental practices in Life Science. The amazing design, complexity of life, and order of God's creation will be explored, and the magnificence of His creation should lead to a stronger faith.

7th Grade Life Science Honors

This course will explore the science of how living things work and interact with each other. Topics covered in this course include experimental design, basic human anatomy, cell biology and disease, genetics, ecology, adaptation, and bioengineering. Because their course has an honors distinction, students enrolled should expect to be self-disciplined and dedicated to engaging with these topics in a profound and mature manner. Honors students will be expected to both create and solve their own problems and questions throughout the year by building critical thinking and in-depth scientific analysis.

The academic expectations in an honors course like this one differ from those in other courses in at least three ways. First, you are expected to have mastery of the important concepts and skills from courses leading up to this one. Second, you will explore topics in more detail and at a higher level of conceptual (abstract) understanding. Third, you will be expected to grasp ideas, solve problems, and produce high-quality work more independently: with less teacher assistance. Most honors students enjoy learning in these ways.

8th Grade Physical Science

In this course, students will explore scientific laws of how materials work and interact. Topics covered include types and interactions of different types of energy, force and motion, waves, and chemistry. This course is activity-based and also features basic robotics and programming. Students will learn more of the consistency and genius of God's creation through these natural laws. By the end of this course, students should be able to appreciate and identify the genius of God through examining the laws that govern creation. Additionally, students will learn to apply the scientific method using an inquiry-based approach, and effectively use data collection and graphing to realize God's interaction with His creation.



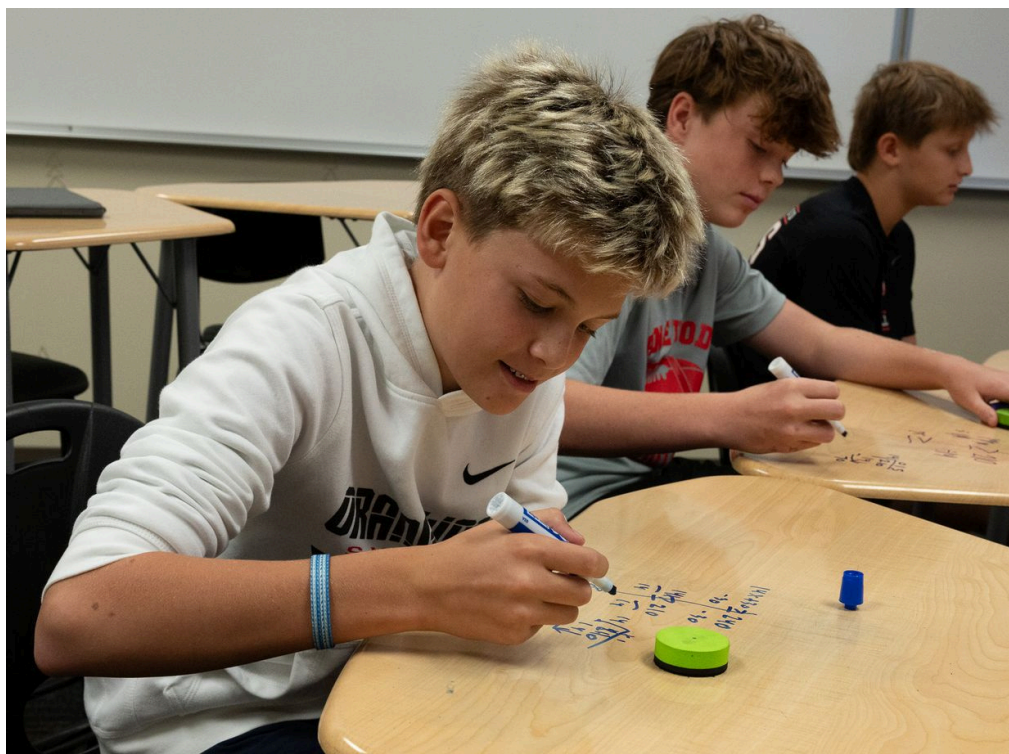
8th Grade Physical Science Honors

HS Credit: 1.0

Corequisite: Algebra 1 Honors or Geometry H

Students must earn an A to receive high school credit.

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Additional Courses At A Glance

Career Prep Courses

MS Creative Writing

MS Early Entrepreneurship

Computer Courses

Computer Literacy(one semester required for 7th grade students)

Innovation Courses

MS E-sports

MS Innovative Fablab

MS Media Production

Performing Arts Courses

MS Band (full year)

MS Choir (full year)

MS Guitar (full year)

MS Theater

Physical Education Courses

MS Conditioning

Personal Fitness (.5 HS Credit)

MS Physical Education

Study Courses

Study Hall

Executive Edge: Skills for School and Beyond

Visual Arts Courses

MS Art

MS Ceramics & 3DArt

World Language Courses (8th grade students)

French I

Spanish I



Additional Courses

Semester Additional Courses

The following additional courses are offered for one semester. Semester electives meet five days per week.

Art

Students will explore the basic design principles and elements of composition, color, line, texture, pattern, shape, and form. Students will be given many experiences with various materials to develop 2-D artwork. Several art projects will be completed. Art students will have opportunities to compete in art shows and the annual Rotary Chalk Art Festival.

Ceramics and 3-D Art

Students begin an exploration of the structural elements of art used when creating 3-D forms. Additive and subtractive processes are used to manipulate and construct sculptural or ceramic forms in media that may include, but are not limited to clay, wood, plaster, found objects, and paper maché, with consideration of the workability, durability, cost, and toxicity of the media used.

Computer Literacy

Computer Literacy is designed to provide students with a comprehensive foundation in computer systems and their effective use. The course emphasizes the development of keyboarding and typing proficiency, recognizing its importance for efficient computer use and success on digital assessments and standardized testing. Students will build familiarity with commonly used Apple and Google productivity applications and strengthen essential digital literacy skills, including the ability to critically evaluate online information, assess the credibility of digital sources, and distinguish between reliable information and misinformation.

****All 7th grade students are required to take one semester of this course**



Conditioning

Students will engage in a variety of physical activities to build fitness, teamwork, and healthy habits. Units include individual fitness, and wellness education. Students will participate in a variety of workouts in the weight room, gym, and on the baseball or football field. At the end of this course, you will:

- Develop your physical fitness
- Build and refine fundamental movements and apply these movements to daily life
- Learn and apply social skills needed when working with other students in both a small and large group setting
- Have a basic understanding of the physical and psychological needs of the human organism for sports, physical recreation, and fitness

Creative Writing

Writing is a passion and a skill which requires dedication, practice, and vibrant interaction with new material. This course will provide the opportunity to plan, compose, and prepare to publish writing in a variety of genres, such as short fiction, poetry, autobiography, and children's stories. Here, students hone their skills of creative word choice, story and character development, and expressive language while exploring opportunities for writing competitions, publishing, and outreach. The class will also take time to explore writings, video workshops and techniques of published authors. By the end of this course, you will be able to write in a variety of styles, perspectives and genres, give and receive constructive feedback on writing with your peers, grow in confidence as you discover and refine your thoughts, and share your writing with others for the glory of God and the advancement of His Kingdom.

Early Entrepreneurship

The purpose of this program is to introduce students to the concept of entrepreneurship. Students will learn how to generate business and products ideas; create a business plan; promote and market a product. Topics include exploring factors of business success and failure, marketing, advertisement, competition, production, and sales. Instruction and learning activities are provided using hands-on experiences and activities.

Executive Edge: Skills for School & Beyond

This course will provide students the opportunity to learn basic but imperative skills that contribute to effective learning and comprehension. Students will understand helpful notetaking, reading, studying and test-taking strategies.



Innovative Fablab

In this course students will learn the basics of digital fabrication in various mediums using 3D printers, Cricut machines, and laser cutters. Students will learn the basic knowledge of 3D printing, digital artwork, intellectual property standards, in hopes of introducing a new avenue of career potential. At the end of this course, students should be able to obtain at least a mid-level working understanding of various digital fabrication mediums.

Media Production

This course allows students the opportunity to prepare and complete a series of digital video productions that would meet the criteria of producing a livestream, short films, and promotional items. This course also offers students knowledge of the many components of actual production of media content. Students will primarily use their own sense of creation. Through this course students will have a further understanding of the various techniques that one creates when trying to prepare a story, as well as the determination necessary and the technology available to complete their various projects. Students will gain introductory knowledge of Garageband, iMovie, DoInks along with other various software and hardware mediums.

MS Esports

This course is designed to prepare student learners for career readiness, life literacies, and key skills and to provide students with the necessary skills to make informed career and financial decisions, engage as responsible community members in a digital society, and to successfully meet the challenges and opportunities in an interconnected global economy. All students will learn the values gaming for health, enjoyment, challenge, self-expression, and/or social interaction. As well as demonstrate competency in motor skills and movement patterns needed to perform a variety of physical activities. All students will demonstrate understanding of movement concepts, principles, strategies, and tactics as they apply to the learning and performance of specific games, while comprehending concepts related to health promotion and preventative care in gamers as related to the following content areas (the content areas are not listed in any particular order): Nutrition, Injury prevention, Personal health, Mental and emotional health, substance abuse, misuse, abuse, and addiction.



Personal Fitness

HS Credit: 0.5

This class is offered to eighth grade students for high school credit and follows the same curriculum offered in Personal Fitness for high school. Personal Fitness can be used to fulfill the 0.5 credit high school graduation required by OCS for high school. Through this course, students will acquire knowledge of physical fitness concepts, understand the influence of lifestyle on health and fitness, and begin to develop an optimal level of fitness through active participation.

Physical Education

Students will engage in a variety of physical activities to build fitness, teamwork, and healthy habits. Units include team sports, individual fitness, and wellness education. Focus areas will include skill development, sportsmanship, knowledge of the rules for each sport, and staying active for life. At the end of this course, you will:

- Develop your physical fitness

- Build and refine fundamental movements and apply these movements to daily life
- Learn and apply social skills needed when working with other students in both a small & large group setting
- Have a basic understanding of the physical and psychological needs of the human organism for sports, physical recreation, and fitness.

Study Hall

Study Hall provides students with a structured, supervised environment to complete independent academic work. This course is designed to support student success by offering dedicated time during the school day for homework completion, project work, assigned reading, and preparation for upcoming assessments in both core and elective classes. Students are expected to use this time productively, work independently, and maintain a quiet, focused atmosphere conducive to learning.

Study halls require a parent signature and are limited to one semester only.

Theater Basics

A fun-filled class incorporating group improvisation and creative learning. Theater is available to all students who have a desire to learn about theatre arts and basic acting skills. Students will focus on becoming an ensemble as they play theatre games and perform group pieces while learning stage movement and directions in a non-intimidating environment.



Full Year Additional Courses

The following additional courses are offered for the full school year.

Band

The Orangewood middle school band incorporates instruments such as brass, woodwind and percussion instruments, as well as non-traditional instruments such as guitar and keyboard. Students that request band should have prior experience in band or keyboarding class. Students will play a mixture of contemporary and traditional music, and must provide their own instrument. Participation in the Christmas/Spring performance is mandatory.

Choir

Middle School Choir offers the student of choral music an opportunity to develop musical skills and to broaden the musical experience through rehearsal and performance. Participation in the Christmas/Spring performance is mandatory.

French 1 (1.0 Credit)

Course Code: 0701320

Placement Criteria: 80% or above in 7th grade English and teacher recommendation. Students must receive a final grade of 80 percent or higher to receive high school credit for this course.

This course is designed to emphasize speaking and listening skills with students' oral participation in the target language. Reading and writing are introduced and basic grammar structures explained. The focus will be on all four language skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as French culture, history and geography. Each unit will cover vocabulary of a specific theme and grammatical concepts appropriate to level one. As students progress through each unit, they will build upon previous learned material and be given opportunities to strengthen their use of the language through all of the modalities.

Guitar

This is an introductory class to basic guitar skills, such as playing chords, reading tablature, using music theory, note reading, and ensemble playing. Students need to supply their own electric or acoustic guitars (amps are available for use at school). Participation in the Christmas/Spring performance is mandatory.



Spanish I (1.0 Credit)

Course Code: 0708340

Placement Criteria: 80% or above in 7th grade English and teacher recommendation. Students must receive a final grade of 80 percent or higher to receive high school credit for this course.

Spanish I is an introductory course designed for students with little or no previous study of Spanish. This course teaches basic language patterns and vocabulary. Repetition and comprehensible input are important components of this course. The focus is on all four language skills; reading, writing, speaking and listening as well as the culture of the Spanish speaking world. Each unit will cover the vocabulary of a specific theme, (family, school, sports, food, etc.) and grammar concepts appropriate to level one. As students progress through each unit, they will build upon previously learned material and be given opportunities to strengthen their use of the language through all of the modalities.





Community Service

**...Whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant...just as
the Son of Man
did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for
many.
Matthew 20:26, 28**

Orangewood Christian School requires that all students (grades 6-8) participate in a community service program. These hours must be completed at a service organization, which includes the local church.

Middle School students are required to complete 16 hours of community service each year.

Students are responsible for submitting all service hours through the X2Vol.com Profiles. Instructions for registering and submitting hours are available in the Community Service Module of the Academic Advising Class in Canvas.

