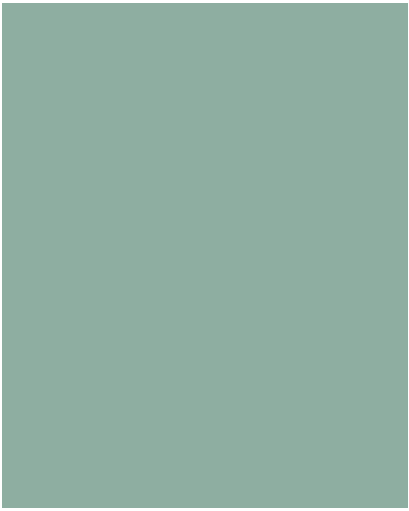
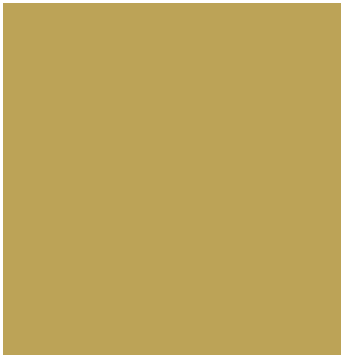


Middle School Course Catalog

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6th - 8th
Grade

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This catalog lists 6th-8th grade courses offered at Oak City Academy. Parents & students need to carefully consider the information in this catalog so they can make informed decisions about their course of study while taking classes at OCA. The Dean of Middle School, Aaron Smith, is available to help students with course selections and answer any questions about their schedules. His contact information can be found on the last page.

MIDDLE SCHOOL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

At the Middle School level, Montessori shifts beyond traditional materials, emphasizing creativity, independence, and responsibility. OCA also adds Classical elements of dialogue, discussion, and problem solving. Our Creative Pathways courses further support real-life skill development to prepare students to impact the world in the 21st Century.



Honors Courses: All students will be eligible to enter honors courses based on teacher and/or parent recommendation. Honors placement is subject to administrative approval. Honors courses are designed to provide acceleration and enrichment. The pace is designed to challenge students and provide exploration and discovery at greater depth.

High School Credit: Select courses give students the opportunity to earn High School credit, once a student passes the class. These classes are listed as "HS Credit" in the course descriptions and only apply to 8th grade students.

Course Length: All core courses are year-long classes (not including Creative Pathways and Enrichments).

Hybrid Program: 6th- 8th graders who are part of OCA's Hybrid Program receive all core courses and a select number of of Creative Pathway electives on campus at OCA 3 days a week (M,T, Th). Hybrid students may opt to take additional classes like extra Creative Pathway Electives or Honors classes (for high school credit) for an additional fee.

Full-Time Program: 6th- 8th graders who are part of OCA's Full-Time Program receive access to OCA's full-time courses, all honors courses (including offerings for HS credit), a robust offering of enrichment classes, and full selection of Creative Pathway electives.



All courses taught for credit receive a letter grade. For High School credit, grading is based on year-long cumulative grades.

All core class grades are based on the following grading allocations example below:

- A: 90-100%
- B: 80-89%
- C: 70-79%
- D: 60-69%
- F: Below 59.5%



Since regular attendance is crucial for academic success, students must be in attendance daily. Class attendance is the responsibility of the students and their families. Failure to meet the attendance policy standards may lead to withholding credit for that class and/or repeating a grade level. Cases involving prolonged illness or unusual circumstances will be reviewed by the school administration. Additional documentation may be requested. Teachers are responsible for recording daily attendance and tardiness. Students are responsible for making up missed work.



Standard Track

All students will follow the Standard or Honors Course Progression.

STANDARD TRACK	6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
ENGLISH & COMPOSITION	ENGLISH 6	ENGLISH 7	ENGLISH 8
HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	CHURCH HISTORY	SOCIAL STUDIES
MATH	MATHEMATICAL FOUNDATIONS	FUNDAMENTALS OF MATHEMATICS	PRE-ALGEBRA
SCIENCE	GENERAL SCIENCE	LIFE SCIENCE	EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE
ENRICHMENT CLASSES	Bible, Speech & Debate, Typing Fundamentals, Music, Leaderspreneurship	Bible, Spanish, Leaderpreneurship, Music, Biblical Perspectives on Sociology & Psychology	Bible, Music, Life-Skills, Leaderpreneurship, College & Career Perspectives (C&C)
CREATIVE PATHWAYS/ ELECTIVES*	STUDENT CHOICE	STUDENT CHOICE	STUDENT CHOICE

Honors Track

All students will follow the Standard or Honors Course Progression.

HONORS TRACK	6TH GRADE	7TH GRADE	8TH GRADE
ENGLISH & COMPOSITION	HONORS ENGLISH 6	HONORS ENGLISH 7	ENGLISH 1 HONORS (HS CREDIT)
HISTORY	GEOGRAPHY	CHURCH HISTORY	SOCIAL STUDIES
MATH	ADVANCED FUNDAMENTALS OF MATHEMATICS	PRE-ALGEBRA	ALGEBRA 1 (HS CREDIT) *OPTIONAL FOR HYBRID STUDENTS FOR ADDITIONAL FEE **HONORS ALGEBRA AVAILABLE ON WEDNESDAYS & FRIDAYS
SCIENCE	GENERAL SCIENCE	LIFE SCIENCE	HONORS EARTH & SPACE SCIENCE & LAB (HS CREDIT) *OPTIONAL FOR HYBRID STUDENTS FOR ADDITIONAL FEE **LAB AVAILABLE ON FRIDAYS
ENRICHMENT CLASSES	Bible, Speech & Debate, Typing Fundamentals, Music, Leaderspreneurship	Bible, Spanish, Leaderpreneurship, Music, Biblical Perspectives on Sociology & Psychology	Bible, Music, Life-Skills, Leaderpreneurship, College & Career Perspectives (C&C)
CREATIVE PATHWAYS/ ELECTIVES*	STUDENT CHOICE	STUDENT CHOICE	STUDENT CHOICE

Creative Pathways are electives that students choose to participate in the afternoon.

Creative Pathway classes provide middle school students the opportunity to explore future interests, build practical skills, and discover their unique gifts as they progress towards High School. Through hands-on and project-based learning, the students will engage in creative, technical, and life skills experiences that will encourage curiosity, collaboration, and purposeful learning beyond the classroom. **Creative Pathways offerings will be updated yearly according to availability.**

Students have the opportunity to choose different pathways per their program:

- Hybrid students- choose 2 classes per year (1 class per year if they need to fulfill their PE requirement by taking Fit For Life)
 - **If not playing a sport, Fit for Life would be a required pathway for one semester**
- Full-Time Students- choose 4 pathways per year.
 - **If not playing a sport, Fit for Life would be a required pathway for one semester.**



Creative Pathways are electives that students choose to participate in the afternoon.

Farm to Table

Teaches students the basics of cooking while connecting food to its source through a farm-to-table approach. Students will learn kitchen safety, foundational culinary techniques, simple recipes, nutrition, and how fresh ingredients are grown, harvested, and prepared, developing practical life skills and an appreciation for healthy, thoughtful eating.

Urban Gardening

Urban Gardening teaches students how to grow plants in small or city spaces. Students will learn about soil, plants, sustainability, and caring for God's creation through hands-on gardening projects that connect science, responsibility, and stewardship.

Woodshop

Gives students hands-on experience using tools to design and build simple projects. Students will learn measurement, safety, craftsmanship, coatings, and problem-solving while creating functional items and developing pride in working with their hands.



Fit for Life

Fit for Life helps students develop healthy habits for both body and mind. Students will participate in physical activities, learn the basics of fitness, nutrition, teamwork, and goal-setting, and discover how staying active supports lifelong wellness. All students must fulfill their NC P.E. requirement per school year. **All students must fulfill their NC P.E. requirement per school year (1 Semester). Fit for Life is required for all students unless they play Athletics, which fulfills the NC P.E. requirement.**

Art

Arts encourages creativity and self-expression through drawing, painting, photography and mixed-media projects. Students will explore artistic techniques, elements of design, and art appreciation while developing confidence in their creative abilities.

Yearbook

This course allows students to tell stories through photography, design, and digital media. Students will learn layout design, photo editing, interviewing, and teamwork while creating school media projects and contributing a yearbook.

Theater Arts

Theater Arts helps students build confidence and creativity through acting and performance. Students develop stage presence, voice skills, and teamwork while using storytelling to honor God and grow in character.

Robotics & Coding

Robotics and Coding introduces students to problem-solving through technology. Students will learn basic coding concepts, build and program robots, and work collaboratively to design solutions—developing critical thinking and creativity along the way.

Math

Middle School Mathematics builds a strong foundation in logical reasoning, problem-solving, and numerical fluency. Students develop confidence and perseverance as they apply mathematical thinking to real-world situations through practice, discussion, and analytical reasoning.

Math 6: Mathematic Foundations*

Students develop strong foundational skills in number sense, operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and integers, as well as ratios, percentages, and introductory algebraic thinking. Instruction emphasizes accuracy, logical reasoning, mental math, and real-world applications, while building a solid foundation in geometry, measurement, data analysis, and problem solving.

This course may be skipped for a student coming from 5th grade based on their Math assessment.

BJU: Math 6 Student Edition
Maneuvering the Middle: 6th Grade Curriculum

Math 7: Fundamentals of Mathematics*

Students build on foundational math skills by strengthening fluency with integers, fractions, decimals, ratios, percentages, and proportional reasoning, while expanding into expressions, equations, and introductory algebra concepts. Instruction emphasizes problem solving, accuracy, logical reasoning, and applying mathematics to real-world situations, preparing students for Pre-Algebra and Algebra I.

If an incoming 5th grader is gifted, the student can take this class based on their Math assessment.

BJU Press: Fundamentals of Math Student Edition
Maneuvering the Middle: 7th Grade Curriculum

**Math 8:
Pre-Algebra***

Students transition from foundational mathematics to formal algebraic thinking by working with integers, rational numbers, ratios, proportions, and percentages while developing strong skills in expressions, equations, inequalities, and graphing. Instruction emphasizes logical reasoning, accuracy, problem solving, and real-world application, preparing students for success in Algebra I and higher-level mathematics.

BJU Press: Pre-Algebra Student Edition
Maneuvering the Middle: 8th Grade Curriculum

**8th Honors-
Algebra 1:***
HS Credit

Students develop a strong foundation in algebra by working with variables, expressions, equations, inequalities, and functions. Instruction includes solving linear equations and systems, graphing, working with polynomials, exponents, and quadratic relationships, with an emphasis on logical reasoning, precision, and real-world applications. The course prepares students for advanced high school mathematics by strengthening problem-solving skills and algebraic thinking.

Wednesday & Friday classes are required to fulfill this honors credit.

BJU Press: Algebra Student Edition
Maneuvering the Middle: Algebra



English

English Language Arts develops strong readers, writers, speakers, and critical thinkers. Students will study literature, grammar, vocabulary, and writing while learning to analyze texts, express ideas clearly, and communicate effectively. Through reading, discussion, and writing, students will grow in comprehension, creativity, and confidence.

The English and Language Arts is built in a manner to scaffold from 6th grade on through graduation with the goal of producing confident students who can read well, write well (and even speak well). These skills will carry them far.

Each resource has been carefully selected to achieve those goals. Each year the Curriculum Team reviews resources and teaching techniques to best serve our students.

ELA 6 ELA is designed to bridge the gap between elementary and middle school as students are given a firm foundation in Vocabulary and Grammar while unpacking great works of literature. The writing component of ELA 6 is focused on "Creative Writing," to get students excited about the writing process.

Resources: Revised as of January 2026

- **Spelling and Grammar:** Wordly Wise 3000/Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction/Fourth Edition/Book 6/Kenneth Hodkinson, Sandra Adadms, Erika Hodkinson
- **Additional Teacher Resource:** (As needed) Easy Grammar 6, Teacher Edition
- **Creative Writing:** Teacher Resource-Advanced Academic Writing I/Micahel Clay Thompson/Internal Notes (See Scope and Sequence)
- **Literature (Short Stories):** BJU Press/Literature /7th Grade Literature /Making Connections in Literature Student Edition, 3rd ed.
- **Novels:** Swiss Family Robinson, The Bronze Bow, The Hobbit, & The Book of Three

ELA 7 ELA 7 is designed to build on the foundation students receive in ELA 6. As in 6th Grade, students will advance their study of Vocabulary and Grammar while unpacking great works of literature. The writing component of ELA 7 is focused on "Comparison Writing" with Persuasive Essay 1, Grammar 1, Vocabulary 1 along with Latin & Greek Stems.

Resources: Revised as of January 2026

- **Spelling and Grammar:** Wordly Wise 3000/Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction/Fourth Edition/Book 7/Kenneth Hodkinson, Sandra Adadms, Erika Hodkinson
 - **Additional Teacher Resource:** (As needed) Easy Grammar 6, Teacher Edition
 - **Comparative Essay Writing:** Teacher Resource-The Lost Tools of Writing, Circe Institute (See Scope and Sequence)
 - **Literature (Short Stories):** BJU Press/Literature /7th Grade Exploring Themes in Literature Student Edition, 5th ed.
 - **Novels:** Mr. Frisby and the Rats of NIMH, The Jungle Book, The Witch of Blackbird Pond, Taran Wanderer
-

ELA 8 ELA 8 is designed to build on the foundation students receive in ELA 7. As in 7th Grade, students will advance their study of Vocabulary and Grammar while unpacking great works of literature. The writing component of ELA 7 is focused on "Persuasive Essays" along with Persuasive Essay 2, Grammar 2, Vocabulary 2 as well as Latin & Greek Stems.

ELA 8 Honors (extension of ELA 8 class) - HS Credit

- **Spelling and Grammar:** Wordly Wise 3000/Direct Academic Vocabulary Instruction/Fourth Edition/Book 8/Kenneth Hodkinson, Sandra Adadms, Erika Hodkinson
- **Persuasive Essay Writing:** Teacher Resource-Advanced Academic Writing I/Micahel Clay Thompson/Internal Notes (See Scope and Sequence)
- **Literature (Short Stories):** BJU Press/Literature /8th Grade Literature /Making Connections in Literature Student Edition, 4th ed.
- **Novels:** The Call of the Wild, Animal Farm, The Giver, The High King

Honors Extension Credit

Students enrolled in 8th Grade Honors English will engage in advanced literary analysis, extended writing assignments and higher-level discussion. Honors coursework emphasizes critical thinking, academic rigor, and preparation for upper-level high school studies.

Science

Middle School Science builds curiosity, critical thinking, and a deeper understanding of God's creation through observation, experimentation, and discovery. Students will engage in hands-on labs, investigations, and discussions that develop scientific skills while encouraging thoughtful exploration of the natural world.

6th Grade: General Science

Students explore foundational scientific concepts including matter, energy, forces, Earth systems, and basic scientific processes. Emphasis is placed on observation, experimentation, and building core science vocabulary and skills.

Purposeful Design General Science

7th Grade: Life Science

Life Science focuses on living systems and how they are designed to function. Students study cells, genetics, ecosystems, human body systems, and life processes, developing an appreciation for the complexity and order of living organisms.

Purposeful Design Life Science

8th Grade: Earth & Space Science (Honors Credit)

Earth & Space Science examines Earth's structure, weather and climate, geology, astronomy, and space exploration. Students investigate how Earth and the universe work together, emphasizing systems, patterns, and scientific inquiry.

Purposeful Design Earth & Space Science

Honors Credit will be given to students upon completion of this class.

8th Grade Science Lab - Friday's only - extension of weekly teaching for all grade levels

History & Geography

Middle School History helps students understand the world, ideas, and people that have shaped human civilization. Through discussion, primary sources, maps, timelines, and inquiry-based learning, students develop historical thinking, cultural awareness, and a deeper understanding of how the past influences the present.

6th Grade: Cultural Geography

Students explore world regions, cultures, and physical geography while examining how environment, resources, and beliefs shape societies. Emphasis is placed on map skills, cultural understanding, and global awareness.

BJU Cultural Geography Part 1 & 2: Student Edition



7th Grade: Church History

Church History examines the growth and impact of Christianity from the early church through modern times. Students study key events, movements, and figures while learning how faith has influenced cultures, governments, and world history.

Selections from ***Trial and Triumph*** and ***Radiant by Richard Hannula***, featuring short biographies of significant men and women from the Early Church, Middle Ages, Reformation, and beyond.

8th Grade: Social Studies

Social Studies challenges students to think critically about history, civics, economics, and society through guided discussion and inquiry. Students analyze ideas, evaluate perspectives, and practice respectful dialogue as they explore how beliefs and values shape communities and nations.

This chronological study of American history from the Age of Exploration through the 19th century, used as primary source documents such as:

- The Declaration of Independence
- The U.S. Constitution & Bill of Rights
- The Federalist Papers
- The Monroe Doctrine



Enrichments are included in the school day for both Hybrid & Full-Time students

Enrichment classes are assigned to all students to enhance their learning alongside their core classes. These classes are held within a classroom setting to build students' skill sets in preparation for our Creative Pathways. Students participate in multiple enrichments per grade for the whole year. Enrichment offerings will be updated yearly according to availability.

6th Grade: Bible, Speech and Debate, Typing Fundamentals, Music, Leaderspreneurship

7th Grade: Bible, Spanish, Leaderpreneurship, Music, Biblical Perspectives on Sociology and Psychology

8th Grade: Bible, Music, Life-Skills, Leaderpreneurship, College & Career Perspectives (C&C)

Bible

This class helps students grow in their understanding of Scripture and develop a strong biblical worldview. Through reading, discussion, memorization, and application, students explore God's Word and learn how biblical truth shapes faith, character, and everyday decision-making. We will walk-through different themes throughout the year such as Character, Generosity, Identity and more.

Life Skills

Life Skills equips students with practical tools for everyday success. Students will learn essential skills such as time management, communication, teamwork, basic financial literacy, organization, and responsible decision-making. Utilizing every day skills needed to be successful, this course will help students grow in independence, character, and confidence as they prepare for real-world responsibilities.

Music

Introduces students to rhythm, melody, and musical expression through listening, performing, and creating music. Students will explore basic music theory, instruments, and vocal techniques while developing confidence, teamwork, and an appreciation for music across cultures.

Speech & Debate

Speech and Debate helps students develop confidence in speaking, listening, and thinking critically. Students will learn how to organize ideas, speak clearly, and respectfully defend their viewpoints through speeches, discussions, and friendly debates. This course builds communication skills, leadership, and confidence while teaching students how to listen well and speak with purpose and integrity.

**Typing
Fundamentals**

This course will help students learn to type accurately and efficiently on a computer keyboard, building skills essential for academic success. Students will practice proper technique, improve speed and accuracy, and grow in confidence using technology for school and beyond while learning digital responsibility.

Spanish

Spanish introduces students to basic vocabulary, conversation, and cultural traditions of Spanish-speaking countries. Students will practice speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Spanish while building confidence in communication and an appreciation for global cultures.

**Biblical
Perspectives on
Sociology &
Psychology**

Biblical Perspectives on Sociology & Psychology helps students understand human behavior, relationships, and society through the lens of Scripture. Students will explore topics such as identity, emotions, decision-making, culture, and community while learning how God designed people to live, grow, and relate to one another. This course encourages critical thinking, empathy, and a Christ-centered understanding of self and others.

**College & Career
Perspectives**

This course equips students with realistic, informed perspectives on life after high school by helping them explore real-world careers, understand college costs vs. earning potential, discover trade and non-college pathways, hear directly from local, working professionals and begin identifying personal strengths, interests, and goals.

Leaderpreneurship

Leaderpreneurship is a hands-on entrepreneurship program where students launch and grow a real business. Taught from a Christian perspective, students learn the foundations of business while developing confidence, creativity, people skills, financial literacy, and stewardship—all with an emphasis on giving back and making a positive impact.



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