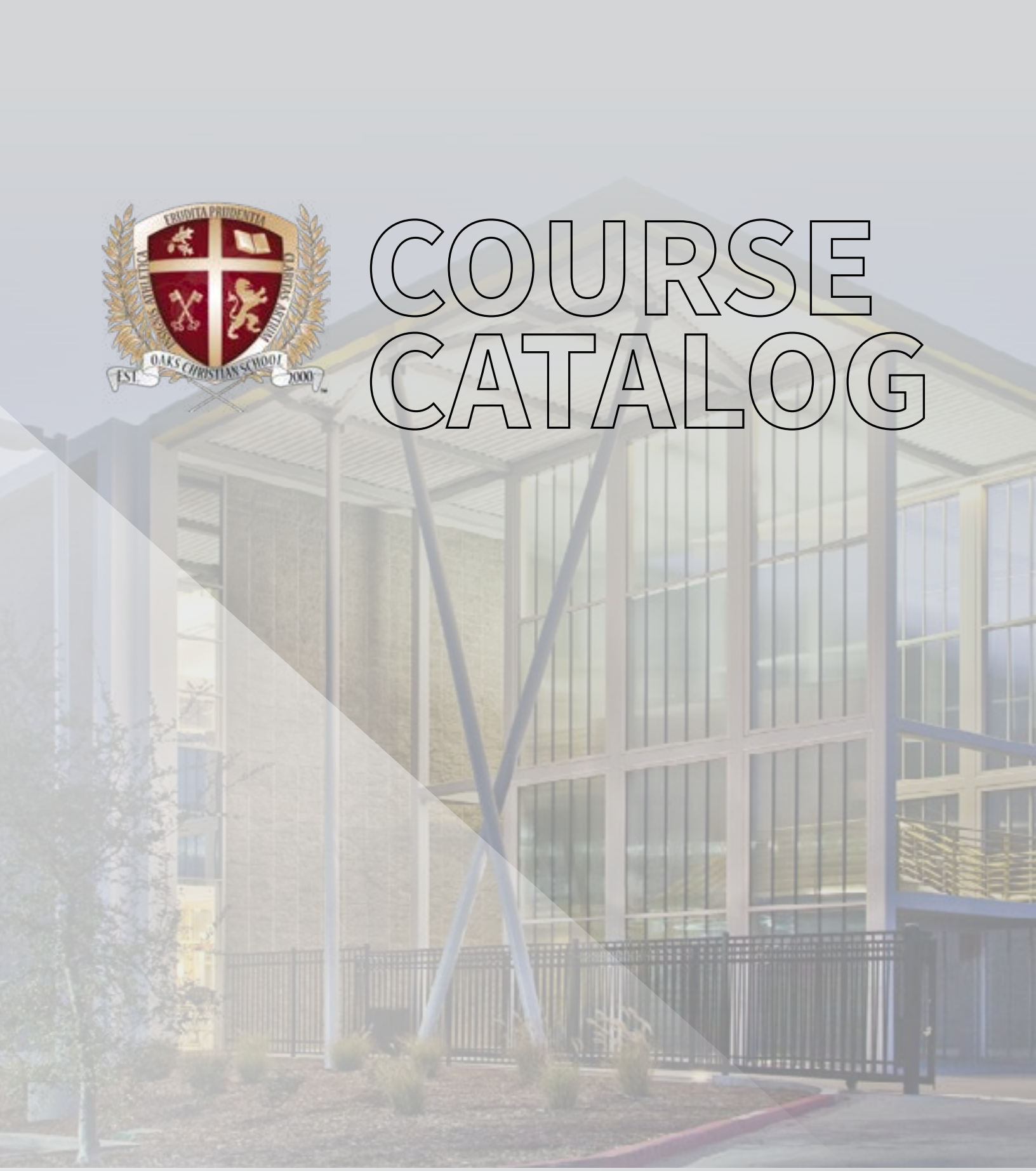


COURSE CATALOG

2026 - 27

OAKS CHRISTIAN MIDDLE SCHOOL • GRADES 6-8

Dear Oaks Christian Middle School Students and Families,

Welcome to an extraordinary community! We are so excited to have you here and to be a part of your academic 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 courses, but as exciting opportunities to explore areas with 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 course with a willingness to learn and to grow.

Parents, 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 student 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. Matthew R. Northrop
Associate Head of School

OUR MISSION

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.

OUR MOTTO

Preparing Minds for Leadership and Hearts for Service

OAKS CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
31749 LA TIENDA DRIVE
WESTLAKE VILLAGE, CA 91362
WWW.OAKSCHRISTIAN.ORG
818.575.9900

TABLE OF CONTENTS

GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENTS

6

All 6th Grade Students Take The Following Courses:

- Bible 6: The Story of Scripture with Academic Technology
- English 6
- History 6: Ancient World Civilizations
- Integrated Science 6
- Math course (eligible courses will be listed and recommended in AXIS by current math teacher)
- Choose **one** year-long performing arts elective ***and an alternate***.
- Choose **two** semester electives (including PE if not participating in an OCS sport, OCS dance, or musical theater) OR **one** year-long elective ***and matching alternates***.

7

All 7th Grade Students Take The Following Courses:

- Bible 7: The Life of Jesus
- English 7
- History 7: Medieval World History
- Integrated Science 7
- Math course (eligible courses will be listed and recommended in AXIS by current math teacher)
- 7th grade students get **two** periods for electives (includes PE if not in an OCS sport, dance, or musical theater). Elective courses may be either: **two** year-long classes, OR **one** year-long class and **two** semester classes, OR **four** semester classes. ***Be sure to choose alternates for each elective course selected.***

8

All 8th Grade Students Take The Following Courses:

- Bible Exploratory 8 OR Bible Discipleship 8– only one semester (Application and teacher recommendation required for Discipleship)
- English 8 OR English 8 Advanced (if eligible and recommended by current English teacher)
- History 8: United States History
- Integrated Science 8 OR Conceptual Physics (if eligible and recommended by current science teacher)
- Math course (eligible courses will be listed and recommended in AXIS by current math teacher)
- 8th grade students get two periods and one extra semester for electives to alternate with Bible (includes PE if not in an OCS sport, dance, or musical theatre). Elective courses may be either: **two** year-long classes and **one** semester class, OR **one** year-long class and **three** semester classes, OR **five** semester classes. ***Be sure to choose alternates for each elective course selected.***

BIBLE
DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

The Bible department believes that equipping students to address life challenges and establishing a strong Biblical foundation will help them make sense of the world and live purposeful, productive lives. This foundation will help students develop Biblical literacy upon which to construct a Biblical worldview along with transformational spiritual development.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Give students an opportunity to consider following Christ
- Graduate students with the ability to read, interpret, and understand the Bible
- Provide opportunities for students to join discipleship-oriented classes that focus on developing worshippers of the Triune God*
- Teach students how to apply a Christ-centered Biblical worldview and compare it against other worldviews
- Equip students with a fundamental knowledge of the story of God centered on the Gospel of Jesus Christ that leads to understanding of the core tenants of Christian theology and the shape of the Christian life

** for students in the discipleship course*

BIBLE

BIBLE 6
The Story Of Scripture with Academic Technology

This course introduces the transcendent story of the Old Testament as seen in the New Testament light of Christ. In considering what the Old Testament reveals about God and how humans, encounter Him, students are invited to take practical steps forward in their own faith while being equipped to take greater ownership of their thinking and spiritual growth. This course also focuses on developing the technological skills needed to successfully navigate middle school academics.

BIBLE 7
The Life of Christ

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, using John as the primary text. The beginning of the course sets a solid foundation on topics such as what the Bible is, how it was formed, and how to study it. Following this introductory unit, students are taken through a short but thorough review unit of the Old Testament eras. The remainder of the course is an in-depth study and application of the chronological life and ministry of Jesus. Students learn about the historical life of Jesus, are immersed in the Spirit-filled Word of God, and are given ample opportunity to let it nourish, challenge, and grow their faith.

BIBLE 8
Exploratory

This course introduces students to the exciting story of the first Christian believers. It 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 are invited to learn from Him while being equipped and challenged to take greater ownership of their thinking, beliefs, and spiritual growth.

BIBLE 8
Discipleship

Prerequisite: Students interested in taking Bible Discipleship must complete an application and be approved to take this course. In this this discipleship-focused course, the emphasis is on the practice of spiritual development as a community of students who have a common interest in Christian discipleship. Students are 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 are given opportunities 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.

ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

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 allow 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 refined precision. Our English program involves five areas of instruction: literature, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and speaking.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Read well for a variety of purposes with an attention to style, argument, and subtlety
- Write a sustained argument in a readable style
- Speak with clarity and effect, with confidence, purpose, winsomeness
- Listen with respect and for understanding
- Become people who possess the skills and wisdom to discern truth by studying cultural, philosophical, and ideological influences in order to weight all expression and argument against the truth of God's word.

ENGLISH

ENGLISH FUNDAMENTALS 6, 7, 8

This course is designed to help students reach their highest potential by providing research-based literacy support for students in grades 6-8. Explicit instruction with guided practice based on the science of reading principles, such as phonemic awareness, systematic phonics instruction, decoding, spelling, vocabulary development, reading fluency & comprehension, and writing composition, are the essential elements of the course. Utilizing a competency-based instructional approach that ensures students demonstrate proficiency in each skill before moving on to the next, to build a strong foundation in English literacy. The course outcome is to achieve confidence through competency in the foundational literacy skills, enabling students to meet grade-level expectations and succeed in more advanced English courses in the future.

ENGLISH 6

Students learn the essential elements of the English language through the "Art of Storytelling," covering a selection of stories from ancient times through the 20th century. Students focus on the creative power of the spoken and written word through the study of grammar, spelling, vocabulary, reading, and composition. Grammar is carefully taught to train students to dissect, label, and make sense of the rules of the English language: daily practice produces mastery and confidence in their own writing. Students study the spelling, meanings, and correct usage of new vocabulary words that enhance their language proficiency and communication skills in both written and spoken contexts. This course builds strong reading, critical thinking, and communication skills which are foundational to the OCS English program.

ENGLISH 7

In this course, students deepen their understanding of how words work through the study of grammatical structures, figurative and poetic language, and scholarly vocabulary. These skills foster thoughtful and precise literary analysis in both written and spoken form. Students are invited to participate in a gracious, hospitable, learning community.

ENGLISH 8

This course strengthen students' critical thinking skills and helps them become more effective communicators through reading, writing, speaking, and listening. They analyze grammatical structures in complex sentences and paragraphs, evaluating how diction and syntax can be used intentionally to create various effects. With the goal of achieving precise, effective expression, students expand their vocabulary and work on developing a compelling academic writing style. Throughout this course, students use their understanding of grammar and language, along with critical thinking and knowledge of literary techniques, to thoughtfully analyze classic texts grounded in American literature and other literary traditions. This course provides a foundation for student success in the high school English program (which also offers grammar-based exploration through the power of words).

ENGLISH 8 ADVANCED

Prerequisite: A grade of 93% or better in English 7, 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 expectation is that 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
DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

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," we strive to help students develop the ability to make informed, reasoned, and prayerful decisions for the public good. Faculty 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, students are equipped with the necessary tools to become independent learners of history.

Gary E. Pate, Founding History Department Chair, Oaks Christian School

STUDENTS WILL:

- Develop historical thinking to engage the world with wisdom, discernment, and purpose, recognizing God's sovereignty in the story of history.
- Utilize history as a meaningful discipline to explore deeper meaning in the past, present, and future, not just chronological cause, and effect.
- Be equipped with necessary tools to become independent learners of history for success in college and beyond.

HISTORY

6TH GRADE
Ancient World Civilizations

This course is an introduction to the history of the first great civilizations of the world, 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 Scripture. Students discover history through the telling of stories based upon the lives of those who came before us.

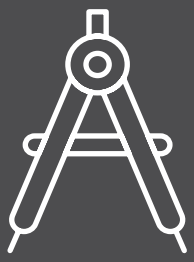
7TH GRADE
Medieval World History

This history course is a global survey of the world's history and many of the themes of civilization. Students examine the rise and fall of the great civilizations in Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas. The course helps students understand and appreciate similarities and differences between cultures of the medieval world and the modern-day world. Students inquire as to how cultures and ideas spread, recognize cause-effect relationships at work in the development and decline of civilizations, and appreciate the uniqueness of the God as they consider the religions and cultural practices of the medieval world.

8TH GRADE
U.S. History

Eighth grade history is a journey through America's past beginning with the settlement of Jamestown in 1607 and continuing to the major events of the 21st Century. In studying America's past, students master specific skills, gain an appreciation for and an interest in American history, understand American identity, and learn how God has revealed Himself in United States history.

MATH
DEPARTMENT



PHILOSOPHY

For the Christian, any theory of mathematics begins with the presupposition of belief in God; therefore, we expect mathematics to be intimately related to God, the source of all truth. In our mathematics instruction we seek to guide students toward a deeper understanding of God's creation, their role within it, and the ways mathematics equips them to fulfill their calling.

Mathematics reflects the reality of the order and structure given by God and demonstrates His faithfulness in upholding the world through the laws He embedded in His creation. As students engage with mathematical concepts, they discover this God-given order and develop the ability to use the structures and designs He has placed within creation. In doing so, mathematics becomes more than a discipline of numbers and formulas—it becomes a means of cultivating awe for God's design and equipping students to steward their gifts and responsibilities faithfully.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Develop Perseverance in Problem-Solving
  Equip students to make sense of and persevere in solving complex problems

- Foster Deep Understanding and Connections
  Strengthen students' conceptual understanding by highlighting the relationships between mathematical concepts and their applications in non-routine and real-world scenarios

- Cultivate Logical and Critical Thinking
  Teach students to construct viable arguments and critique the reasoning of others to deepen their understanding of mathematical concepts

- Promote Precision
  Encourage students to attend to precision (computational/graphical fluency and academic language) in their reasoning in order to communicate effectively

- Encourage Multiple Methods
  Guide students to model mathematics in multiple ways, using tools appropriately to represent their thinking

- Inspire Joy and Curiosity
  Inspire students to discover beauty and truth in mathematics while delighting in the process of problem-solving and exploring patterns in creation

MATH

MATH 6 FUNDAMENTALS AND MATH 6

This course reviews the four basic mathematical operations with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions, and applies these operations to ratios, proportions, and percents. The study of algebraic concepts includes integer operations, graphing on the coordinate plane, writing algebraic expressions and equations, and solving equations. The study of geometry and measurement includes computing the area, surface area, and volume of solids. Students learn to organize data using graphs and charts. Real-life situations are presented to practice math and problem-solving skills while developing a practical understanding of the subject. Math 6 Fundamentals covers the same course standards but with a smaller class size and more review of foundational skills.

MATH 6 ADVANCED

This covers all the content of Math 6 while also providing additional exploration activities that allow students to develop a deeper understanding and mathematical reasoning skills. Additional topics in this course include integer operations, addition and subtraction of linear expressions, operations with rational numbers, percent change, and simple interest. Having shown mastery in speed and accuracy of basic mathematical operations, students extend their understanding and skills through individual development of abstract thinking, problem-solving strategies, and real-world application. This course prepares students to continue to Math 7 or Math 7 Advanced.

MATH 7 FUNDAMENTALS AND MATH 7

These are the second courses in a three-course middle school mathematics sequence, preparing students for high school Algebra 1. In this course, students develop proficiency with operations on rational numbers, solve one- and two-step equations, develop an understanding of proportional relationships to solve a wide variety of percent problems, investigate probability, draw statistical inferences by comparing populations, and use 2D and 3D shapes to solve geometric problems. Math 7 Fundamentals covers the same course standards but with a smaller class size and more review of foundational skills.

MATH 7 ADVANCED

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 6 with a grade of a grade of 90% or higher OR Math 6 Advanced with a grade of 85% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation. This course develops mastery of elementary algebra techniques required for further progress in mathematics and for number literacy in society. Topics include solving problems and multi-step equations with integers, decimals, and fractions, applying algebraic methods to solve word problems, and solving inequalities. Students also study the Cartesian coordinate system, linear functions, laws of exponents, statistics and probability, and fundamentals of geometry. This course requires independent learners to grasp concepts through abstract applications and the enrichment of some topics. This course prepares students to continue to Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Advanced.

MATH 8 FUNDAMENTALS AND MATH 8

These are the third courses in a three-course middle school mathematics sequence to prepare students for high school Algebra 1. 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 algebra concepts. The course moves at a slower pace to allow sufficient time for students to thoroughly grasp these concepts. In the transition to algebra, attention shifts from arithmetic operations to the application of their properties; all work revolves around solving a problem. Math 8 Fundamentals covers the same course standards but with a smaller class size and more review of foundational skills.

MATH

ALGEBRA I

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 7 with a grade of 90% or higher and completion of Algebra Readiness summer work or summer school, OR Math 7 Advanced with a grade of 80% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation. Algebra 1 provides a strong foundation for mathematical understanding by focusing on developing fluency in solving linear equations, inequalities, systems, and quadratic equations. This course also explores linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, and symbolically, providing the prerequisite skills for future math courses. Students use problem-solving strategies, analyze critically, and communicate rigorous arguments to justify their thinking. Under teacher guidance, students learn collaboratively by sharing information, expertise, and ideas.

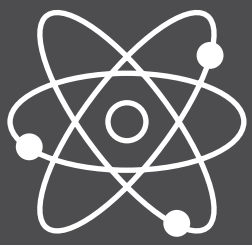
ALGEBRA I ADVANCED

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 7 Advanced with a grade of 85% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on the placement test, high MAP Growth math scores, and teacher recommendation. Algebra I Advanced deepens and extends mathematical understanding by focusing on developing fluency in solving linear and absolute-value equations and inequalities, as well as systems. These skills are extended to solving quadratic equations, exploring linear, quadratic, and exponential functions graphically, numerically, symbolically, as sequences, and by using regression techniques to analyze the fit of models to the distribution of data. Students use problem-solving strategies, question, investigate, analyze critically, construct evidence, and communicate rigorous arguments that justify their thinking. This course develops abstract thinking, deeper problem solving, and mastery of algebra skills to prepare students for Geometry Advanced/Honors and beyond.

GEOMETRY ADVANCED

For 8th-grade students only. Prerequisite: Completion of Algebra I Advanced with a grade of 85% or higher, meets or exceeds benchmark score on placement test, high MAP math scores, and teacher recommendation. Geometry Advanced introduces students to formal geometric proofs and builds upon their prior knowledge of basic figures, developing a more rigorous understanding of their properties and relationships. The course begins with foundational geometric concepts and introductory logic and proof-writing, then explores and analyzes properties of two- and three-dimensional figures and culminates with right-triangle trigonometry and circles. Students explore geometric transformations, understanding triangle congruence through rigid motions and triangle similarity through dilations and proportional reasoning. Topics from Algebra 1, including solving systems of equations, graphing linear equations, and solving quadratic equations, are integrated to strengthen algebraic reasoning within geometric contexts. Major emphasis is placed on problem-solving, precise academic language, and logical quantitative reasoning. Students will also participate in math competitions. Any student advancing from Algebra 1 will be required to complete summer assignments covering topics from the advanced course.

SCIENCE
DEPARTMENT



PHILOSOPHY

We believe that God is both the Creator and Sustainer of all things and has chosen to reveal His existence and characteristics through the creation of the natural universe. (Genesis 1:1, Romans 1:20, Colossians 1:17) Created in His image humanity has been tasked with the stewardship of the earth. Understanding the natural universe through scientific inquiry is critical to the faithful exercise of our care for God's creation. Even though as fallen individuals our understanding is impaired by sin, we are nonetheless able to reason and know truthfully. All truth is part of God's truth, hence, the truths we can find in science do not conflict with a proper understanding of the Biblical revelation. Ultimately, the study of God's creation should lead our students to a deeper reverence for, and love of the personal God revealed in Scripture and His created universe. The science department at Oaks Christian is committed to providing the conceptual background and skills needed to accurately investigate and reason well about the natural universe. The classes in all the fields of science are designed to actively involve students in qualitative and quantitative analysis, problem-solving, hands-on lab experiences, as well as verbal and written communication skills. We seek to develop students who are capable and desirous of making informed and ethical decisions in life based on what they have learned with us. Even beyond that we strongly desire that they come to love the Creator and seek the flourishing of their fellow humans and all of His created universe.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Achieve mastery of core science concepts through engaging instruction that prepares them for post-secondary education and real-world problem-solving.
- Apply mathematics, engineering, and technology in a science context.
- Strengthen written and oral communication across all science courses.
- Engage students in scientific inquiry through hands-on experimentation and collaborative problem-solving.
- Think critically by engaging in reading and analyzing a diverse range of scientific texts.
- Examine key scientific discoveries, the contributions of diverse scientists throughout history, and current innovations shaping science today.
- Explore the complexity, order, and beauty of the physical and natural universe which was created by God for our enjoyment and stewardship.

SCIENCE

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 6

This is an integrated science course. Topics of earth science, physical science and life science are incorporated together to form a whole understanding of creation and its governing principles. Students use appropriate tools and techniques to gather, analyze, and interpret data. They think logically to make the relationships between evidence gathered and explanations given. They communicate about their investigations through written reports and oral presentations.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 7

This is an integrated, hands-on, inquiry-based course focusing on the use of the scientific method and cutting-edge technology. This course provides opportunities for students to develop curiosity while utilizing microscopes, the anatomage table, dissections, and model building to better understand the fields of life science, earth science, and physical science.

INTEGRATED SCIENCE 8

In the final year of our Integrated Science program, students in 8th grade will dive deeper in the topics of space, chemistry, physics, and life science. Students engage in qualitative and quantitative laboratory investigations and learn to be proficient in the use of laboratory equipment. Some of the activities include designing a hot pack, constructing rollercoasters, creating a Rube-Goldberg machine, and completing a fossil dig. Students use mathematical computations to analyze data to support their conclusions.

CONCEPTUAL PHYSICS

Prerequisite: A grade of 90% or better in the prior grade-level science course, math placement of Algebra 1 Advanced or higher, and teacher recommendation. Concurrent enrollment in either Algebra 1 Advanced or Geometry Advanced is required due to the mathematical rigor of the course. This advanced science course focuses on areas of physical science including mechanics, forces, energy, simple machines, thermodynamics, and fluid dynamics. The focus will be for the students to gain laboratory experience, math applications, and develop critical thinking skills. They will also encounter hands-on projects that will require them to work as individuals or teams.

RETURN TO
TABLE OF CONTENTS

ELECTIVES

GENERAL ELECTIVES

- Build Your Own Business (7th and 8th only)
- Civil Discourse (semester or year-long)
- Creative Writing and Publishing
- Middle School Academic Seminar (additional fee)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE

- Physical Education
  (REQUIRED if not playing one season of an OCS sport, intramurals, or enrollment in a year-long OCS dance or theater elective)

GENERAL ELECTIVES

BUILD YOUR OWN BUSINESS
(semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. What do Bill Gates, Elon Musk, and Mark Zuckerberg have in common? They would have all taken this course if they had the chance! In this course, student 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 to develop their own business concept. Guest speakers and real-world examples will highlight the traits of an OCS Portrait of a Graduate: innovative, integrous, and purpose-minded.

CIVIL DISCOURSE
(semester or year-long)

This course explores the unique art of oral communication. Students practice prepared and impromptu speaking. The attributes of an excellent oral presentation, primarily of ancient and modern philosophers, are studied to engage 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 course's community culture. After improving presentation skills, students learn to properly discuss and debate diverse topics using appropriate terminology and procedures.

CREATIVE WRITING AND PUBLISHING
(semester)

Every writer begins their career somewhere, and this course might just be that place. Sudents engage in a variety of writing exercises and projects, exploring different genres and styles. Through targeted mini-lessons, students refine their skills in character development, descriptive language, narrative structure, and more. Students receive constructive feedback from peers and the instructor, creating confidence in writing and revising abilities. The course fosters a love for writing, build confidence, discover students' unique voices, and creates a supportive community of young writers.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC SEMINAR
(semester)

Middle School Academic Seminar is a fee-based elective designed to enhance students' academic performance and study skills. In addition to content tutoring, it emphasizes weekly executive function training, which is woven into each session as needed based on student goals. The program also includes monitored independent study time and encourages students to advocate for themselves with teachers. Academic coaches provide crucial support as accountability partners, working closely with a maximum of two students at a time. Parents receive regular updates on goals and progress, with communication focused on key areas of growth and any concerns that may impact academic success. Other tutoring options are also available; contact the OC Learning Center for more information.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVE

PHYSICAL EDUCATION
(semester)

This is a required course if a student is not playing one season of an OCS sport or intramurals. Enrollment in a year-long OCS dance or theater elective also meets the annual physical education requirement. This course focuses on building confidence, sportsmanship, and character through play and sport. Students 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 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.

MODERN AND CLASSICAL

LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

The modern and classical language department strives to teach students to communicate and interact with cultural competency in multilingual communities in the United Sates as well as internationally. We seek to educate students who appreciate a global perspective, and who will thoughtfully consider the values and traditions of other cultures, appreciating how language embodies culture. The development of the practical skills of communicating in the target language can help extend the horizons of cultural empathy, and reflect God's heart through an appreciation that all people are His image bearers.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Communicate in the target language by continuously refining the practical skills of listening, speaking, reading, and writing.
- Demonstrate productive language acquisition in a multifaceted approach based on universal standards that foster academic. excellence
- Cultivate a broadened cultural understanding and empathy through the lens of history and traditions, both ancient and modern.
- Thoughtfully compare and celebrate cultural similarities and differences with those living in different parts of the world.
- Consider studying a language as a means of connecting with others who are all made in the image of God .

MODERN AND CLASSICAL

LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

Introductory language courses are one semester long and provide students with an overview of the language and culture, allowing them to gain exposure to a language before committing to study it for extended years. Level I courses are equivalent to the first high school level I language course, and by taking the level I course, students can work towards the high school three-year language requirement for graduation. This would open their high school studies for either other more specialized classes in other disciplines or more advanced language study at levels IV and V. Students planning to attend Oaks Christian High School are encouraged to begin their language study in middle school. Students who do not complete level I in middle school will be required to enroll in level I language study their freshman year.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH
(semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students. Introduction to Spanish introduces students to foundational language 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 only. Sixth grade students taking this course would only do so in order to take Spanish I in 7th grade in order to take Spanish II in 8th grade

SPANISH I

For 8th grade students only. Spanish I is designed for students entering the 8th grade and is the same material and pacing as the high school Spanish I class. The class is structured around listening comprehension, speaking, reading, and writing. Emphasis is placed on mastering vocabulary, pronunciation, basic grammatical structures, and communication in the target language. Students learn to relate events in the present and simple future tenses. Knowledge of art, culture, and geography of Spanish-speaking countries is studied. A beginner level novel is read in the spring semester to culminate the year. Preparation to continue to high school Spanish II or Spanish II Advanced is a goal of this course, although there is no guarantee that a student will be able to do so.

INTRODUCTION TO FRENCH
(semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Introduction to French is a combined culture and language course. Throughout the semester, students learn about the many different French-speaking cultures of the world, as well as the various regions of France. Linguistically, the course focuses on equipping students with basic conversational skills as well as high frequency vocabulary. Songs, projects, and other media are used to engage students of various learning styles.

FRENCH I

For 8th grade students only. With a focus on real-life communication, this course develops reading, writing, speaking, listening, and cultural competencies. A variety of approaches are used to enhance language-learning of all types of learners, enabling auditory, visual, and kinesthetic learners to thrive. French is used in the classroom as much as possible, but there are opportunities to clarify grammar concepts and discuss cultural topics in English as needed. This course counts as the equivalent of one year of high school French. Preparation to continue to high school French II or French II Advanced is a goal of this course, although there is no guarantee that a student will be able to do so.

MODERN AND CLASSICAL

LANGUAGES ELECTIVES

INTRODUCTION TO MANDARIN CHINESE
(semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. This course is designed for students with little or no Mandarin Chinese language skills. It provides a beginning to their journey learning the language and exploring this very diverse and ancient culture. The course focuses on providing students with the opportunity to attain very basic Mandarin Chinese language skills and a basic concept of Chinese culture. Students are 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 I in 8th grade. (Course availability is subject to minimum course enrollment numbers being met.)

MANDARIN CHINESE I

For 8th grade students only. This course is designed primarily for students who have a little or no background in Mandarin Chinese. Students learn Hanyu pinyin (the Chinese phonetic system) as the primary Chinese writing system, which includes stroke order, radicals, basic simplified Chinese characters, and Chinese grammar. Students learn conversational topics related to daily life including common greetings, addressing family members, nationality, school activities, school supplies, numbers, dates, and food. Students also learn how to type in Chinese to reinforce their pinyin skills and provide intensive character recognition. The course also introduces the students to Chinese culture through arts, folk songs, Chinese calligraphy, and Chinese festivals. (Course availability is subject to minimum course enrollment numbers being met.)

PERFORMING ARTS

DEPARTMENT

PHILOSOPHY

In the beginning, God created. In the beginning, God created man in His own image. Therefore, since God created us, we can assume that He is a creative being. Our ability to create and appreciate art makes us uniquely human and sets us apart from the rest of creation. As we create, we bear the very stamp of the One who created us, and knowing this drives us, compels us, and even obligates us to create beauty which we call art. Art can take on many forms through vocal and instrumental music, dance, and the expression of theatre. The performing arts department embodies this philosophy of creativity through its various disciplines, and seeks to provoke thought as well as to inform, excite, and ignite music, dance, and theatre students with the passion of creativity through their distinct, God-given, and unique artistic abilities.

STUDENTS WILL:

- Communicate compelling stories through their art.
- Become disciplined masters of their art through dedicated study and practice of artistic mediums.
- Demonstrate accurate performance practice of the various genres, periods, and styles of artistic disciplines.
- Innovate courageously through the creation of original artistic works.
- Present as gracious and humble collaborators.
- Display the intersection of faith and art through service to the school and surrounding communities.

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

BEGINNING BAND

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. This course 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 are taught. Several performances are planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a band instrument is required. The following are the Beginning Band instruments in this course:

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

INTERMEDIATE BAND

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. Prerequisite: Beginning Band or placement audition with teacher recommendation. Designed for students who have been playing for one to two years, this course offers a fun and challenging atmosphere that equips them with the fundamental skills necessary to develop technical excellence. Music theory, music history, scale, and rhythmic studies are incorporated into daily lessons. Students refine the mechanics of proper sound production, acquire knowledge of more difficult music reading, rhythm and rhythm patterns, and further develop the social skills necessary to function successfully in a large group situation. Students participate in several performances throughout the school year. Students are assessed in both written and performance format. Rental or purchase of an instrument is required.

ADVANCED CONCERT BAND

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. Prerequisite: Intermediate Band or placement audition with teacher recommendation. This course is designed for students with one or more years of school band and/or private lessons on a band instrument. It includes the study and performance of advanced band literature with emphasis on tone, intonation, balance, blend, and musicality. Several performances are planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of an instrument is required.

BEGINNING ORCHESTRA STRINGS

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. This course 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 are planned throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required. The following are the Beginning Orchestra Strings instruments in this course:

- Bass
- Cello
- Viola
- Violin

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

INTERMEDIATE ORCHESTRA STRINGS

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. Prerequisite: Beginning Orchestra Strings or placement audition with teacher recommendation. This course is designed for students with one or more years of school strings and/or private lessons on a string instrument. It builds on the skills learned in Beginning Strings and encourages students to develop the fundamental skills necessary for technical excellence. Music theory, music history, scales, and rhythmic and technique studies are incorporated into daily lessons. Students refine the mechanics of proper sound production, acquire knowledge of more difficult music reading and rhythm patterns and further develop the social skills necessary to function successfully in a large group situation. Students are assessed in both written and performance formats. Students participate in at least one performance per semester. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required.

ADVANCED ORCHESTRA STRINGS

Meets the 6th grade one-year peforming arts requirement. Prerequisite: Intermediate Orchestra Strings or placement audition with teacher recommendation. This course is designed for students with one or more years of school strings and/or private lessons on a string instrument. It 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 participate in several performances throughout the year. Rental or purchase of a string instrument is required.

MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCAL ENSEMBLE
(semester or year-long)

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. This course is designed to help students find and develop a love for singing and performance in a fun and safe environment. Students grow in voice and develop ensemble singing. They study different styles of vocal music and develop needed vocal skills to sing in these styles. Students learn movement skills necessary to make performances more dynamic and expressive, while acquring acquire the foundational elements of music literacy. Students also participate in various performances throughout the year.

ADVANCED VOCAL ENSEMBLE
(semester or year-long)

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement. Prerequisite: Middle School Vocal Ensemble and/or placement audition and teacher recommendation. This vocal class is an intermediate to advanced level of mixed voice singing. Students learn various styles of vocal music and build on the foundational elements of music literacy including music theory and sight singing. Students learn to sing in two- and three-part harmony. Advanced Vocal Ensemble performs several times throughout the year.

NOTEWORTHY A CAPPELLA

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Middle School Vocal Ensemble, Advanced Vocal Ensemble, and/or placement audition and teacher recommendation. Students learn various vocal styles with a focus on a cappella singing and will build upon music theory and sight singing skills. Students learn to sing in three- and four-part harmony and work on contemporary a cappella and microphone technique. Noteworthy performs several times throughout the year.

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

BEGINNING GUITAR
(semester)

For 7th and 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 are 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 learn how to play single-note melodies as well as rhythmic harmonic accompaniment through chords.

INTERMEDIATE/ ADVANCED GUITAR
(semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. In this course, students build on the basic concepts learned in Beginning Guitar. More advanced chords are taught including bar chords, as well as alternative chord voicings in various fret positions. More advanced melodic playing and note reading is covered, and students will continue to explore a variety of musical genres and styles. Developing theory and performance practice are emphasized.

THEATER AND VOCAL PERFORMANCE

For 7th and 8th grade students only and meets annual physical education requirement. Prerequisite: Introduction to Musical Theater and/or placement audition. This course introduces students to vocal performance and dramatic presentations. Students learn to sing and act using time-tested techniques that grow their voice while developing acting skills, improvisation, characterization, musical theater, and ensemble singing. Students 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. In preparation for each production or performance, individual auditions are required for role determination. Students participate in the spring musical production.

INTRODUCTION TO MUSICAL THEATER

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts requirement and annual physical education requirement. Prerequisite: placement audition is required. This course introduces students to musical theater at a basic level and is open by audition. Students are exposed to acting techniques, dance, and vocal work. This class creates a space for students to hone their skills and prepare them for Theater and Vocal Performance the following year. This combination vocal and theater course may include participating in a Christmas concert, theater festivals, and the Middle School Arts Extravaganza. Students participate in the spring musical production.

PERFORMING ARTS ELECTIVES

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 second choice).

IMPROVISATION COMEDY AND SCENE STUDY
(spring semester)

This one semester course is an introduction to acting and comedy and is a non-audition class. Students who are excited to try out their improv skills or gain new ones will love this class! Students learn improvisation games and techniques as well as explore the use of improvisation for scene creation and storytelling.

PRINCIPLES OF DANCE

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts and annual physical education requirement. This course is designed for students who plan to learn dance. There is no experience necessary. Students are taught basic technique, creativity, physical awareness, personal expression, endurance, rhythm, and basic choreography skills. Students develop their dance vocabulary and techniques in many styles of dance including but not limited to jazz, tap, ballet, contemporary, and hip hop. Students also develop their creative abilities and discipline through performance.

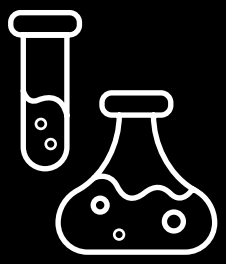
INTERMEDIATE DANCE

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts and annual physical education requirement. Prerequisite: Principles of Dance and/or placement audition. Students develop their technique, creativity, physical capabilities, personal expression, endurance, rhythm, and choreography. Students develop and expand their dance vocabulary and skills in many styles of dance. Students also develop their creative abilities through improvisation, choreography, and performance. Students' minds and bodies are challenged by working on their preexisting technique, focusing on refining movements and improving their skill set. Students grow in their flexibility, strength, ability to pick up choreography, placement, and coordination. Students continue to develop their creative abilities through more advanced improvisation and learning more difficult choreography. Students will develop and expand their preexisting dance vocabulary and skills; concentration will be placed on body alignment, technical accuracy, and quality of movement. They will learn multiple styles including, but not limited to advanced levels of ballet, jazz, contemporary, and hip hop.

ADVANCED DANCE

Meets the 6th grade one-year performing arts and annual physical education requirement. Prerequisite: Intermediate Dance and/or placement audition. This course is designed to develop and challenge the skills of advanced dancers. Emphasis is placed on technique through the advanced study of multiple styles of dance including, but not limited to jazz, ballet, contemporary, and hip hop. Performance skills are 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. It has a focus on well developed technique, picking up advanced choreography, and stylized movement. Students are challenged by having many performance opportunities in multiple performance spaces. Students continue to develop their creative abilities through more advanced improvisation, choreography, and performance which include advanced levels of ballet, jazz, contemporary, hip hop, and tap.

STEM ELECTIVES



- Built Not Bought
- Flight School
- Power, Puzzles, and Possibilities
- Introduction to Computer Science w/ JavaScript* (7th and 8th only) (fall offering)
- Introduction to Computer Science w/ Python* (7th and 8th only) (spring offering)
- Extreme Engineering* (7th and 8th only)
- Quest* (7th and 8th only)

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

STEM ELECTIVES

BUILT NOT BOUGHT
(semester)

This course is all about rolling up your sleeves and becoming a designer! In this hands-on course, students explore how things move, spin, crash, light up, and work together. They design, build, and test exciting projects such as rubber-band–powered cars, Ferris wheels, tabletop games, crash-test challenges, pinwheels, movable art, and simple electrical circuits. Along the way, students will experiment, measure, redesign, and problem-solve as they discover how individual parts combine to create a working system. Whether taken on its own or alongside other engineering electives, this course proves that the best ideas are the ones you build yourself. No previous experience or prerequisites are necessary to enroll in this class.

FLIGHT SCHOOL
(semester)

With a truly hands-on approach, students in this course learn the basics of aerospace engineering. Students discover the history of rocket development, from the earliest fire arrows in China to modern-day space shuttles. They use a variety of design and building projects such as catapults, kites, airplanes, kit rockets, and rockets made from scratch. The course 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.

POWER, PUZZLES, AND POSSIBILITIES
(semester)

This is the course where brains meet design and building! Students become magicians, aka engineers, by measuring, designing, and testing all kinds of creative projects. Think cardboard candy dispensers, gravity-defying tensegrity towers, light-up gadgets, CAD creations, and a woodworking project you'll want to show off. Things might wobble, spin, or even crash—but that's all part of the fun! Students tinker, tweak, and problem-solve their way to projects that actually work, learning that careful planning + creativity = pure engineering magic. Take it solo or team it up with other engineering electives and get ready to make some seriously cool stuff. No previous experience or prerequisites are necessary to enroll in this class.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH JAVASCRIPT
(fall semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Students must take at least one of the following beginning level engineering courses: Built Not Bought; Flight School; Power, Puzzles, and Possibilities. Students are 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 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 are 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 school Bring Your Own Device policy. (Course availability is subject to minimum course enrollment numbers being met and teacher availability.)

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTER SCIENCE WITH PYTHON
(spring semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Students must take at least one of the following beginning level engineering courses: Built Not Bought; Flight School; Power, Puzzles, and Possibilities. Students 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 focuses on primarily on math and solving problems through programming and data analysis. Topics covered include functions, loops, conditional statements, data analysis, machine learning, and 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 minimum course enrollment numbers being met and teacher availability.)

STEM ELECTIVES

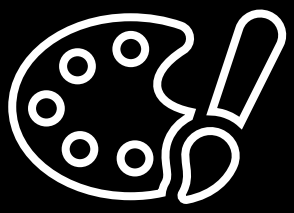
EXTREME ENGINEERING
(semester)

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Students must take at least one of the following beginning level engineering courses: Built Not Bought; Flight School; Power, Puzzles, and Possibilities. This course 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 draw upon science concepts, tool skills, and collaboration with peers. As they solve problems, they 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.

QUEST: MISSION ENGINEERING

For 7th and 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Students must take at least one of the following beginning level engineering courses: Built Not Bought; Flight School; Power, Puzzles, and Possibilities. Placement in this class is subject to teacher approval, minimum of 3.0 GPA, and requires an application. This course helps students 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 interactive, hands-on, authentic learning experiences, students 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 design and build their own remote operated vehicle that will be used to complete a series of real-life challenges in the school swimming pool.

VISUAL ARTS
DEPARTMENT



PHILOSOPHY

Art utters that which cannot be conveyed in words. Different from writing or speaking, art is a unique way of communicating, and the proper training in art develops a healthy lifelong aesthetic. Art is important because it helps develop the "whole student" (body, mind, soul, and spirit). No man-made activity comes so close to mirroring the creative nature of God. At the same time, art helps us understand the beauty of creation and the Creator. The visual arts program seeks to make students aware of the aesthetics in past and present society; enjoy and appreciate art through experience; introduce students to different ways of perceiving and interpreting ideas; and to unfold the aesthetic potential of students through composing art. In addition to the intrinsic value of creating, the department hopes to prepare art students to be positive world influencers because artists are both the culture makers and culture reflectors of each age. The curriculum focuses on developing students' understanding and use of art elements in a variety of media, as well as their visual literacy. Students learn to understand and appreciate the historical context, the cultural bases, and the current manifestations of visual art. In turn, students develop the ability to appropriately understand art, make aesthetic judgments, and create art.

STUDENTS WILL:

Cultivate growth through
- Creativity
- Composition
- Craftsmanship
- Communication
- Context

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

FUNDAMENTALS OF FILM
(semester)

This introductory cinema course covers the basics of storytelling, filmmaking, technology, and techniques. Students participate in workshops, analyze excellent scenes, and create original short film projects, such as documentaries, commercials and narrative short films. Working in teams, they craft videos using Canon R50 cameras and edit on iMacs with Adobe Premiere Pro, developing their filmmaking and teamwork skills.

EXPLORATION OF FILM
(semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Film. This advanced cinema course delves deeper into the narrative storytelling involved in creating short films. Students examine exemplary comedic, dramatic, and suspenseful scenes from television and film. In teams, they brainstorm ideas, write, pitch, act, direct, film, and edit original short films that feature character arcs and stories with a moral/spiritual theme. They shoot using Canon R50 cameras and edit on iMacs with Adobe Premiere Pro, enhancing their filmmaking and teamwork skills.

FUNDAMENTALS OF PHOTOGRAPHY
(semester)

This is an exploratory course introduces students to the world of photography. Students acquire a basic understanding of the technology and techniques used behind photography as a visual expression medium. They explore how photography can achieve desired effects on an audience. Upon course completion, students demonstrate a variety of photography and editing skills and express their unique voice through their work. Cameras are provided for students.

EXPLORATION OF PHOTOGRAPHY
(semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequsite: Fundamentals of Photography. This is an advanced course for students who want to further explore the world of photography. Students build on their basic understanding of the technology and techniques used behind photography as a visual expression medium. They continue to explore how photography can achieve desired effects on an audience. Upon completion, students have a cohesive body of work and a printed portfolio, including detailed descriptions of their process, inspiration, and unique voice as it relates to photography. Cameras are provided for students.

YEARBOOK

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequsite: Fundamentals of Photography. Due to the demands of this course, an application with teacher recommendations is required, and administration gives final approval of student course request. Students experience all the different stages of designing a publication. They learn the elements of graphic design, how to submit pages, work with deadlines, take engaging photos, edit photos according to ethical standards of journalism, and create a final piece for publication. This is a student generated yearbook, so the final product reflects the teamwork of the entire class.

FUNDAMENTALS OF CERAMICS
(semester)

In this course, students explore a variety of hand building techniques to design sculptures out of clay. Some of the projects will include a pinch pot, coil pot, mug, and a box. Students learn key techniques such as shaping, joining, carving, and glazing while exploring their own creative ideas. Assignments will be geared toward both aesthetically pleasing projects and functional pottery. By the end of the course, students understand the full ceramic process—from wet clay to kiln-fired artwork—and have beautiful handmade creations.

FUNDAMENTALS OF 3D ART
(semester)

In this course, students explore a variety of materials, methods, and techniques to create 3D art. Some of the projects include wood, wire, assemblage, and cardboard. Students learn essential skills such as sculpting, building armatures, and constructing forms while exploring creativity and problem-solving. The class encourages hands-on experimentation and helps students gain confidence in transforming ideas into tangible artworks.

VISUAL ARTS ELECTIVES

EXPLORATION OF CERAMICS
(semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of 3D Art & Ceramics. This course continues to build on the skills from Fundamentals of 3D Art and Ceramics. Students explore a variety of methods of construction and glazing techniques which reflect a greater level of craftsmanship and ability. In addition, students are 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 AND PAINTING
(semester)

In this course, students explore various mediums including pencil, watercolor, acrylic, collage, pastel, and ink. Key concepts covered include contour drawing, shading, radial symmetry, grid drawing, and color theory. This class builds technical skills while encouraging students to express their unique creative voices. By the end of the course, students have a solid foundation in artistic techniques and the confidence to continue their exploration of the visual arts.

EXPLORATION OF DRAWING AND PAINTING
(semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Drawing and Painting. This course is designed for students looking to deepen their artistic skills and explore their unique styles. Building on techniques from the Fundamentals of Drawing and Painting, students master advanced painting methods using various media. In a collaborative environment, they explore traditional and contemporary art, focusing on color theory, compositional harmony, and conceptual design. Through hands-on projects, critiques, and creative problem-solving, students refine their artistic voice and navigate the creative process with confidence.

INTRODUCTION TO DIGITAL DRAWING AND PAINTING
(spring semester)

For 7th & 8th grade students only. Prerequisite: Fundamentals of Drawing & Painting and Exploration of Drawing and Painting (or placement based on teacher approval of artistic work). Students synthesize the principles of art and design with the latest techniques of digital art using Adobe Fresco. 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. Students explore the young history of digital art and the latest implementations of this process, both culturally and industry-wide. Student work captures 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 create their own two-dimensional and three-dimensional projects using a wide range of materials and artistic techniques. Students gain an appreciation for various cultures and learn the connection between culture and art.