

PRESTONWOOD CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

COURSE GUIDE

P C A N O R T H
M I D D L E S C H O O L





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Bible

Fifth Grade Bible

In Fifth Grade Bible, students are introduced to the unified story of Scripture, exploring God's redemptive plan from Creation through the early church. Students develop Biblical literacy and study skills while learning to interpret Scripture, understand key Biblical events and covenants, and recognize how Old Testament promises are fulfilled in Christ. Students begin practicing the Hermeneutical Bridge method to connect Biblical truth to life today, while also growing in spiritual disciplines, mission awareness, and Christian character. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to live faithfully, share their faith appropriately, and grow in hope as they understand God's ongoing work in the world and His plan for redemption.

Sixth Grade Bible

In Sixth Grade Bible, students build on the foundations established in Grade 5 by strengthening Biblical literacy and deepening their understanding of the Old Testament as part of God's unified redemptive story. Students continue developing their Biblical study skills and Scripture interpretation, analyzing key events and covenant themes, and apply a Biblical worldview to personal and cultural contexts. Students continue practicing the Hermeneutical Bridge method learned in their 5th grade Bible course, learning to connect Biblical truth to daily decisions, relationships, and beliefs. Throughout the course, students grow in spiritual formation, begin developing apologetic thinking, and learn to live out their faith through discipleship, service, and thoughtful engagement with the world.

Seventh Grade: Old Testament Survey

In the Seventh Grade Bible course, our desire is to guide students through the Old Testament by examining each book's background, author, theme, and message. In addition, students study key verses and the consistent theme of God's redemption of humankind throughout Scripture. Students will gain a deeper understanding of how the Old Testament points to God's plan for salvation while developing a greater appreciation for the relevance of the text in their faith and daily lives.

Eighth Grade: New Testament Survey

In the Eighth Grade Bible course, our desire is to present God's love for the world using John 3:16 as the overarching theme of the class. The course begins with a review of the Old Testament, which prepares the way for Christ's full manifestation in the New Testament. All 27 books of the New Testament are examined using various resources, which all present Scripture as God's infallible Word. The goal is to understand the privilege we have as Christians to reflect the love of Jesus by loving others as He loves us.



English and Literature

Fifth Grade ELAR

Fifth Grade English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) provides an integrated, sequential approach to developing students' skills in reading, writing, grammar, vocabulary, and literary analysis. Students strengthen grammatical foundations and master the writing process—prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing—while composing for a variety of audiences and purposes, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, compare/contrast, expository, and research writing. Through novel studies, folklore, and poetry, students develop reading comprehension and literary analysis skills, focusing on characterization, plot, conflict, figurative language, and theme. Students learn to evaluate texts through a Biblical worldview lens. Vocabulary growth is supported through Membean, and individualized comprehension practice is reinforced through the PCA Reads independent reading program. The course equips students to think critically, communicate clearly, and engage texts with discernment and confidence.

Sixth Grade ELAR

Sixth Grade English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) integrates grammar, writing, vocabulary, and literary analysis into a rigorous, transitional year of growth. Students expand grammatical knowledge through structured sentence analysis that strengthens precision in edited writing. They compose for multiple purposes—including journal responses, multi-paragraph expository essays, and written arguments to present and debate ideas—while continuing to master the writing process of prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, and publishing. Through novel studies and poetry from diverse cultures, students deepen close reading skills, monitor comprehension, and analyze themes using evidence drawn from character and conflict. Meaningful peer collaboration strengthens discussion and critical thinking. Vocabulary development is supported through Membean, and individualized comprehension practice is reinforced through the PCA Reads independent reading program. Literary study emphasizes thoughtful analysis and connecting meaning to a Biblical worldview, equipping students to read, write, and reason with increasing independence and discernment.

Seventh Grade ELAR

Seventh Grade English Language Arts and Reading (ELAR) strengthens reading, writing, speaking, and critical thinking skills through the lens of a biblical worldview. Students analyze a variety of texts, including *The Pearl*, *A Christmas Carol*, *The River*, and *Esperanza Rising*, examining how literature reflects and interacts with biblical truth. Through thematic units, students develop vocabulary, refine grammar and usage, engage in structured discussions, and apply the writing process across multiple composition styles. Related media and collaborative dialogue deepen comprehension and discernment. Each unit culminates in a major project demonstrating academic growth and a commitment to truth and integrity. Students are encouraged to incorporate Biblical text and examples into their compositions and presentations throughout the year. Vocabulary development continues with Membean.



Eighth Grade ELAR

Eighth Grade English Language Arts challenges students to think critically and communicate effectively through a biblical worldview. Students study a range of texts, including *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *The Screwtape Letters*, evaluating themes, character development, and ideas in light of Scripture. Thematic units emphasize analytical reading, vocabulary development, grammar and usage, structured discussion, and purposeful writing across genres. Students also assess related media and practice thoughtful collaboration. Each unit concludes with a significant project reflecting academic mastery and a commitment to truth and integrity. Students are encouraged to incorporate Biblical text and examples into their compositions and presentations throughout the year. Vocabulary development continues with Membean.

History

Fifth Grade American History

The Fifth Grade History course surveys United States history from early European exploration in 1565 to the present, focusing on major eras such as colonization, the American Revolution, westward expansion, the Civil War and Reconstruction, and key developments of the 20th and 21st centuries. Students examine the foundations of representative government, the free enterprise system, the contributions of individuals and groups, and the influence of geography on historical events while developing critical-thinking, discussion, and writing skills through the analysis of primary and secondary sources. Instruction is grounded in a Biblical worldview that affirms God's sovereignty, human dignity, and responsible citizenship.

Sixth Grade World History

The Sixth Grade History course examines the development of ancient civilizations from the earliest societies through the late ancient period, focusing on major cultures of the ancient Near East, Africa, Asia, Europe, and the Americas. Students analyze how geography, belief systems, political structures, economic practices, and technological innovations shaped societies while comparing forms of government, law, and social organization across civilizations and developing historical thinking skills through the use of primary and secondary sources. Instruction is grounded in a Biblical worldview that recognizes God's sovereignty in human history, affirms the dignity of all people as image-bearers, and emphasizes stewardship, justice, and moral responsibility.

Seventh Grade World Geography

The Seventh Grade World Geography & Cultures course examines how geography influences historical development, government, economics, culture, religion, and human activity through a regional study of Europe and Eurasia, the Americas, Africa, Southwest Asia–North Africa, South Asia, East and Southeast Asia, and Australia and the Pacific. Students analyze the interaction between physical and human geography, the influence of individuals and groups, and patterns of settlement, movement, and technological and economic activity while developing critical-thinking skills through the analysis of multiple perspectives and sources. Instruction is grounded in a Biblical worldview that affirms human dignity, stewardship of God's creation, responsibility in a globally connected world, and prepares students for sharing the Gospel with the nations.



Eighth Grade U.S. History

The Eighth Grade History course examines United States history from the early colonial period through Reconstruction, focusing on key political, economic, religious, and social developments including colonization, the American Revolution, the creation of the Constitution, the early republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, the Civil War, and Reconstruction. Students analyze the influence of geography on settlement and economic development, the growth of the free enterprise system, and core American principles such as limited government, federalism, separation of powers, checks and balances, and individual rights while developing critical-thinking skills through the evaluation of primary and secondary sources. Instruction is grounded in a Biblical worldview that affirms justice, the blessings of liberty, human dignity, and responsible citizenship.

Mathematics

Fifth Grade Math

The primary focal areas in Fifth Grade Math are solving problems involving all four operations with positive rational numbers, determining and generating formulas and solutions to expressions, and extending measurement to area and volume. These focal areas are supported throughout the mathematical strands of number and operations, algebraic reasoning, geometry and measurement, and data analysis. In number and operations, students will apply place value and identify part-to-whole relationships and equivalence. In algebraic reasoning, students will represent and solve problems with expressions and equations, build foundations of functions through patterning, identify prime and composite numbers, and use the order of operations. In geometry and measurement, students will classify two-dimensional figures, connect geometric attributes to the measures of three-dimensional figures, use units of measure, and represent location using a coordinate plane. In data analysis, students will represent and interpret data.

Sixth Grade Math

The primary focal areas in Sixth Grade Math are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalizing procedures from measurement experiences, and using the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations.



Advanced Sixth Grade Math

Students must meet 2 of the 3 prerequisites listed below:

- *Grade of 90% or higher in 5th grade math for Q1-Q3*
- *NWEA Mathematics MAP **Achievement** in the 70 percentile or higher on the middle of the year assessment*
- *Department Recommendation/Mathematics Department Assessment*

**End of year MAP Achievement will be reviewed to verify placement and additional assessment may be used at the school's discretion*

Advanced Sixth Grade Math is a course that is intended for the student who meets the prerequisites and desires to advance to Pre-Algebra for Seventh Grade. Students in this course will receive instruction at an accelerated pace to include key concepts found in both Sixth and Seventh Grade Math courses. Concepts taught include number patterns, ratios, rates, percentages, expressions, equations, integers, fractions, decimals, probability, measurement, geometry, and data analysis. Students will develop sound mathematical reasoning skills as they draw conclusions and make informed decisions. Most importantly, students will recognize the order and precision of mathematics as a reflection of God's infinite wisdom, gaining a deeper appreciation for His design in the world around them.

Seventh Grade Math

The primary focal areas in Seventh Grade Math are number and operations; proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; and measurement and data. Students use concepts, algorithms, and properties of rational numbers to explore mathematical relationships and to describe increasingly complex situations. Students use concepts of proportionality to explore, develop, and communicate mathematical relationships, including number, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Students use algebraic thinking to describe how a change in one quantity in a relationship results in a change in the other. Students connect verbal, numeric, graphic, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities. Students use geometric properties and relationships, as well as spatial reasoning, to model and analyze situations and solve problems. Students communicate information about geometric figures or situations by quantifying attributes, generalizing procedures from measurement experiences, and using the procedures to solve problems. Students use appropriate statistics, representations of data, and reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make recommendations. While the use of all types of technology is important, the emphasis on algebra readiness skills necessitates the implementation of graphing technology.

Advanced Seventh Grade Math

Incoming Seventh graders must meet 2 of the 3 prerequisites listed below:

- *Grade of 90% or higher in Advanced Sixth Grade Math for Q1-Q3*
- *NWEA Mathematics MAP **Achievement** in the 70 percentile or higher on the middle of the year assessment*
- *Department Recommendation/Mathematics Department Assessment*

**End of year MAP Achievement will be reviewed to verify placement*

Advanced Seventh Grade Math expands upon foundational algebraic concepts to deepen students' mathematical reasoning and problem-solving skills. Students simplify algebraic expressions and integer operations; translate algebraic phrases into equations and inequalities; solve multi-step and advanced equations; and graph linear equations and inequalities. The course also integrates key geometric concepts and emphasizes the use of statistics, data representations, and logical reasoning to draw conclusions, evaluate arguments, and make informed recommendations—with and without graphing technology. Critical thinking and strategic problem-solving are embedded throughout the year. This course replaces *Seventh Grade Honors Pre-Algebra* within the Honors Math pathway and is intentionally designed to prepare students for success in *Honors Algebra I* in Grade 8.



Eighth Grade Math

The Eighth Grade Mathematics course focuses on proportionality; expressions, equations, and relationships; foundational concepts of functions; and measurement and data. Students use properties of real numbers and algebraic reasoning to analyze and represent increasingly complex mathematical relationships, including how changes in one quantity affect another. Instruction emphasizes connecting verbal, numeric, graphical, and symbolic representations of relationships, including equations and inequalities, as students develop an understanding of functional relationships. Students apply geometric properties and spatial reasoning to model and solve problems, quantify attributes of figures, and generalize measurement procedures. The course also develops statistical reasoning as students analyze data, evaluate arguments, and draw conclusions, with appropriate use of technology—including graphing tools—to support algebra readiness.

Honors Algebra I

Eighth Grade

In Honors Algebra I, students will build on the knowledge and skills for mathematics from previous advanced mathematics courses, which provide a foundation in linear relationships, number and operations, and proportionality. Students will study linear, quadratic, and exponential functions and their related transformations, equations, and associated solutions. Students will connect functions and their associated solutions in both mathematical and real-world situations. Students will use technology to collect and explore data and analyze statistical relationships. In addition, students will study polynomials of degree one and two, radical expressions, sequences, and laws of exponents. Students will generate and solve linear systems with two equations and two variables and will create new functions through transformations. The use of technology, including graphing tools, is essential to Honors Algebra I, to bridge conceptual understanding and procedural fluency.

Science

Fifth Grade Science

In Fifth Grade Science, students explore the natural world through hands-on investigation and discovery while learning to see God's order, design, and patterns in creation. Students ask questions, conduct investigations, and solve problems as they study matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and living systems. Throughout the year, students recognize patterns and systems that reflect God's wisdom and faithfulness and consider their responsibility to care for the world He created. This course builds scientific understanding, critical thinking, and a sense of wonder as students grow in both knowledge and stewardship, preparing them for continued study in middle school science.



Sixth Grade Science

In Sixth Grade Science, students deepen their understanding of the natural world through careful observation, investigation, and evidence-based reasoning while learning to recognize God's order, design, and patterns in creation. This course emphasizes scientific and engineering practices as students ask questions, conduct investigations, analyze systems, and design solutions. Students explore matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space, and organisms and environments, identifying patterns, relationships, and cycles that reveal consistency and purpose in God's world. As students distinguish between scientific explanations and ethical or social considerations, they are encouraged to think critically, act responsibly, and grow as wise stewards of creation, building a strong foundation for future middle and high school science learning.

Seventh Grade Science

In Seventh Grade Science, students continue developing scientific understanding through inquiry, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning while recognizing God's order and design in the natural world. This course emphasizes scientific and engineering practices as students investigate matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space systems, and living organisms as interconnected systems. Students explore structure and function, patterns, change, and stability, applying models and data to explain natural phenomena. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to think critically, discern responsibly, and consider their role as wise stewards of God's creation as they prepare for more advanced scientific study in middle school and beyond.

Eighth Grade Science

In Eighth Grade Science, students reinforce scientific understanding by synthesizing and applying scientific knowledge through investigation, analysis, and evidence-based reasoning while recognizing God's order and purpose in the natural world. This course emphasizes scientific and engineering practices as students study matter and energy, force and motion, Earth and space systems, and living organisms as complex, interacting systems. Students use models, data, and patterns to explain change and stability within natural systems, while distinguishing between scientific explanations and ethical or social considerations. Throughout the course, students are challenged to think critically, evaluate evidence responsibly, and act as thoughtful stewards of God's creation as they prepare for high school science.

Fine Arts

Fifth Grade Art

Nine Week Course

**Part of the Fifth Grade Enrichment Rotations*

Fifth Grade Art is an introductory level course for the Middle School student. Students are introduced to the elements and principles of art and their application for successful drawing and design. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing, painting, mixed media, and sculpture. The curriculum integrates Biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests may be available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.



Sixth Grade Art

Sixth Grade Enrichment

Sixth Grade Art is designed to build upon and increase the student's knowledge of the art elements and principles of design. The curriculum is integrated with Biblical principles into aesthetic appreciation. Students are provided the opportunity to experience a variety of mediums and techniques that may include drawing, mixed media, and sculpture. Students have opportunities to show their work to fellow students and families. Art contests may be available for participation upon the recommendation of the art teacher.

Middle School Art

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Art course is a one-semester introductory level course for the Middle School student. There is an emphasis on the elements and principles of design and basic 2-D composition. The curriculum integrates art history and Biblical principles. Students explore a variety of media, and attention is given to the development of drawing skills and art criticism. Homework may be required.

Eighth Grade Art

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Prerequisites: *Middle School Art, Departmental Recommendation*

Eighth grade art is a one semester course where students begin to see how the creative process relates to all disciplines. Studio assignments connect to art history and are reinforced with Biblical principles. This course builds on 2D and 3D design skills from previous art courses, strengthening analytical thinking skills. Ongoing formative and summative assessments are based on project goals, and evidence of student growth is shown through art portfolios. Homework may be required.

Honors Eighth Grade Art I

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Fulfills High School Prerequisite for Art I

Prerequisites: *Middle School Art, Departmental recommendation*

Honors Eighth Grade Art is an introductory level, two-dimensional and three-dimensional design course with an introduction to three-dimensional design for the Middle School student. The curriculum focus is on creativity. Emphasis is placed on developing compositions using the elements/ principles of design and critiquing major projects. Color theory is studied as well. Ceramics, sculpture, drawing, printmaking, and painting using a variety of media is explored. Homework is required, and a semester exam is given at the end of each semester. Participation in art contests is encouraged and available. Biblical integration is included throughout the curriculum.



Fifth Grade Music

Fifth Grade Enrichment Class

The Fifth Grade Music course is designed to build upon music concepts learned in the fourth grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they continue to develop their vocal skills (i.e. singing alone and with others), while increasing pitch and rhythmic accuracy, and quality of tone. Additionally, students gain a Biblical perspective on various works and composers. Students also learn music theory concepts of increasing difficulty through rhythm exercises and written work. All Fifth Grade music students are involved in performances including the Christmas and Spring Concert throughout the year. The goal of the PCA North music program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the life-long understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.

Beginning Band

Sixth Grade Enrichment Class

Beginning Band is designed with Sixth Grade in mind. No musical knowledge is necessary, only a willingness to practice at home and work hard in class. Students are taught the basics of music theory, characteristic tone production, note names, instrument fingerings, and rhythmic skills. These basic fundamentals are needed to advance to the Intermediate Band. Instruments in the Beginning Band can be rented and/or purchased at a local music store, and include the following: Flute, Oboe, Bassoon, Clarinet, Alto Saxophone, Trumpet, French Horn, Trombone, Euphonium, Tuba and Percussion. Note: Most students obtain instruments through a rental program. Students will participate in the Christmas and Spring Concerts and a music festival performance in the Spring Semester. The goal of the PCA North band program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the life-long understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.

Intermediate Band

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: Beginning Band or one year of prior instrumental training. Instructor approval required for students that do not meet the prerequisite.

The Intermediate Band is a developmental ensemble that is made up of seventh and eighth-grade students. Emphasis is placed on the reinforcement of music fundamentals including music theory, characteristic tone production, scales, and advanced rhythmic studies. All Seventh and Eighth grade students perform for Christmas and Spring concerts, concert and sight-reading festivals and invitational contests.

Middle School Choir

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester or Two Semester Course

The Middle School Choir is an elective course for Seventh and Eighth Grade students designed to build upon music concepts learned in Sixth Grade. Students sing a varied repertoire as they develop their vocal skills. Students learn more advanced music theory concepts through rhythm exercises, theory lessons, written assignments, and tests. All Seventh and Eighth Grade Choir students are involved in at least one major performance per semester, including the Christmas Concert and the Spring Concerts. The goal of the PCA North choir program is to glorify God by training and developing our students' God-given talent in music while instilling a Biblical worldview for the life-long understanding and enjoyment of music, whether they are performers or consumers of music.



Middle School Theatre I

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Middle School Theatre I is an elective course for Seventh and Eighth Grade students. In Theatre I, students are introduced to theatre as a gift from their Creator that can be used to bring glory to His name. The students learn the basics of theatrical performance and theatre history. Character development, stage direction, and movement are developed through individual and group performances. Students learn the rules of improvisation and create dramatic works through group improvisation and collaborative playwriting.

Middle School Theatre II

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Fulfills High School Prerequisite for Theatre Arts I

Prerequisites: *MS Theatre I*

The Middle School Theatre II elective course is for seventh- and eighth-grade students who wish to continue in theatre. In this class, the students continue to learn more about the production process through the production of a one-act play. Students study, rehearse, design, and perform a one-act play for the community. The one-act play will be filmed like a movie and sent to the parents at the end of the semester.

World Languages

Fifth Grade Spanish

Nine Week Course

**Part of the Fifth Grade Enrichment Rotations*

The Fifth Grade Spanish course is a nine-week exploratory experience that introduces students to language acquisition through exposure to high-frequency vocabulary and basic sentence structures. Students apply newly learned language to describe real-life scenes, building confidence in early communication skills. In addition, students develop Spanish reading comprehension by recognizing cognates and explore cultural practices and holiday celebrations in Spanish-speaking communities. The course also integrates Scripture memorization, equipping students to share Christ across cultural and language barriers.

Sixth Grade Spanish

Sixth Grade Enrichment

The Sixth Grade Spanish course builds upon introductory language acquisition as students expand vocabulary, refine sentence structures, and communicate meaning with increasing accuracy. Students interpret short Spanish texts using cognates and context, apply language to real-life scenarios, and explore cultural traditions of Spanish-speaking communities. Scripture integration encourages students to reflect on using language as a tool for cross-cultural communication and gospel engagement.



World Languages Spanish

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Middle School World Languages Spanish is an exploratory course that introduces students to the Spanish language and culture. This course uses interactive lessons that involve activities, games, projects, and technology platforms to help students build language learning skills. One of the main goals of this course is to support students' success in their language courses in the future.

Spanish I*

Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course HS Credit: 1.0

Prerequisites:

- *Departmental Recommendation*
- *World Languages Spanish with grades of 90 or above for both quarters*
- *English grades of 90 or above for Q1-Q3 of 7th Grade English*

**Students must meet 2 of the three prerequisites. Meeting the prerequisites does not guarantee enrollment in this course. Enrollment will be prioritized according to academic performance in prerequisites.*

The Spanish I course develops the four language skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. Students learn the present tense of both regular and irregular verbs, while students are introduced to the preterit tense of regular verbs. Vocabulary is also emphasized to give the student a basis for communicating. In addition to the actual study of the language, a secondary goal is to further enrich the student's knowledge of the culture, history and geography of the Spanish-speaking world. Students receive credit toward their Upper School diploma and PCA graduation requirements.

STEM

Cybersecurity and Game Design in Virtual and Augmented Reality

Nine Week Course

**Part of the Fifth Grade Enrichment Rotations*

Augmented reality? In the classroom? Yes! In this one semester course taken by Fifth Grade students during their enrichment rotation, students are prepared with the crucial skills needed to be responsible digital citizens in a quickly expanding digital future. Students will learn the fundamentals of cybersecurity, and how to protect their sensitive information on the web. Topics covered will include digital citizenship, cryptography (cyber codes), gaming labs that teach students to spot cyber scams, the basics of coding, recognizing, and defending against cyber-attacks, and learning what exactly hackers are. Students will get first-hand experience with game design and virtual world creation, further reinforcing the principles of coding, and will share their digital creations in both virtual and augmented reality. Students will learn the basics of computer programming and become familiar with the engineering design process. All learning in this course will be founded in a Biblical worldview as students learn that God has given us the knowledge to develop technology and how we, as Christ-followers, are to use this gift accordingly.



Exploring Robotics

Sixth Grade Enrichment

Come change the world with your creative inventions! In this one semester course taken by Sixth Grade students students will engage in hands-on robotic labs and build collaborative problem-solving skills focused on real-world challenges. Students will design, build, and program their robots. They will use and stretch their imaginations in new ways and will be able to connect their learning to life. From easy-entry projects to limitless creative design possibilities, robotics allows students to learn the essential STEM and 21st-century skills needed to become the innovative minds of tomorrow, all while having fun! Students will use the engineering design process, an engineering notebook, and robotics programming software to invent and innovate their designs. In this course, students will work together to build an effective robot and systematically test and refine programs, using the design process to develop a solution to complete missions, all while developing skills related to collaboration, teamwork, and life skills for their future careers.

Advanced Robotics

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

The Middle School Programming/Robotics course is designed to inspire students to be technology and engineering leaders so they become creators of Technology and not just consumers of it. Students develop critical thinking, problem solving, collaborative, and communication skills as they are challenged to solve complex tasks through the use of computers, programming, and robotics.

Engineering and Aerospace

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Get ready to take off! Come explore the vastness of God's magnificent universe! Investigate, examine, and use creative thinking and problem-solving skills to learn how scientists and engineers make traveling around the globe and beyond possible. The exciting world of aerospace comes alive through the flight and space unit. Students become engineers as they design, prototype, and test models to learn about the science of flight and what it takes to travel and live in space. They solve real-world aviation and space challenges and plan a mission to Mars. Students will take a virtual trip to the Moon and explore the lunar surface in virtual reality (VR). Students will explore the "day of data" with Microsoft Hacking STEM and NASA to investigate how data powers space exploration. Students will also get to bring space to the classroom as they will be part of Blue Origin's Club for the Future project and get to design and send postcards to space and back!



Forensics: Medical Detectives

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Get your magnifying glass and notebook ready as we become medical investigators on a mission! In this course, students play the role of real-life medical detectives as they collect and analyze medical data to diagnose diseases. They solve medical mysteries through hands-on projects and labs, measure and interpret vital signs, dissect a sheep brain, investigate disease outbreaks, and explore how a breakdown within the human body can lead to dysfunction. Throughout the unit, students discover how healthcare professionals act as medical detectives to identify, treat, and prevent illness in their patients. Students apply their knowledge of the human body systems, analyze patient symptoms, perform lab analyses of patient samples, and use other clues to come up with diagnoses. The course uses an activity-, project-, and problem-based (APB) instructional design approach, which centers on hands-on, real-world activities, projects, and problems that help students understand how the knowledge and skills they develop in the classroom can be applied in everyday life. The APB approach scaffolds student learning through structured activities and projects that empower students to become independent in the classroom and help them build skill sets to apply to real-world problems.

Interdepartmental Electives

Multimedia Journalism

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

In Multimedia Journalism, students will develop an in-depth understanding of digital media in today's world. In the class, students learn the basics of printing and publishing newspapers and videos. During the year, students learn the importance of journalists in promoting and exploring issues both domestically and internationally. The instructional goal is to provide fundamental theories and lab experience to produce multimedia news stories that combine different media formats: text, hypertext, audio, video, and photo. Students will engage with concepts and skills necessary for developing news stories and reporting, gathering, and producing news in changing media environments.

Multimedia Journalism II

Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Prerequisites: Students enrolled in this course must have completed Multimedia in 7th grade and have a teacher recommendation.

In Multimedia Journalism II, students will continue building upon the skills they gained in Multimedia Journalism I. In the class, students lead projects with peers in Multimedia Journalism I, to help them learn the basics of video editing, cinematography, and journalism, while fine-tuning and improving the skills covered in class. Students will learn the importance of journalists in promoting and exploring issues both domestically and internationally. The instructional goal is to provide fundamental theories and lab experience to produce multimedia news stories that combine different media formats: audio mixing, video special effects, and photography. Students will engage with concepts and skills necessary for developing news stories and reporting, gathering, and producing news in changing media environments in addition to distinguishing between real and fake news.



Future Problem-Solving Program

Seventh and Eighth Grade Elective

One Semester Course

Future Problem Solving is an international program where students compete in teams of three or four at the state level after researching topics that have implications for the future (three in-house competitions and the State Bowl during one weekend of April). State Bowl winners compete at the international meet held each June. The program develops creative thinking, research, decision-making, and critical/analytical thinking skills. This element increases awareness of, and interest in, the future, improving communication skills, and utilizing problem-solving strategies. Students are graded on their individual performance, not what they do collectively as a team. Additional opportunities for students through FPS include Scenario Writing and Scenario Performance. In Scenario Writing, students use their creative writing skills to write a narrative story set in the future. In Scenario Performance, students write a shorter version of a scenario and perform it.

Academic Playbook: Strategies for Learning and Communication

Fifth Grade

This course equips students with essential study and communication skills, including note-taking, organization, and public speaking. Through interactive activities, students will learn to listen actively, express themselves clearly, and work effectively with others. With a Biblical focus, students will explore how words can encourage and uplift, learning to communicate with wisdom, kindness, and truth. As students develop strong study habits, they have the opportunity to grow in diligence and perseverance, honoring God in their learning.

Thrive: Health Studies and Communications

Fifth and Sixth Grade

This course helps students build healthy habits while developing strong communication skills. Topics include personal responsibility for health, emotional well-being, and building positive relationships. Students will practice respectful communication, active listening, and conflict resolution that will enhance skills utilized in co-curricular academic and sport competitions. Through a Biblical lens, students will understand that caring for their bodies and minds honors God. This course will help students build skills as they pursue future coursework in Mock Trial, Speech and Debate, presentations, interviews and PCA Capstone.

Learning Lab

Fifth - Eighth Grade Elective

Two Semester Course

Prerequisite: *The student must be enrolled in Specialized Learning. Students must:*

- *Have a documented learning disability with a full individual evaluation*
- *Exhibit an academic need as demonstrated through achievement testing or classroom grades*
- *Demonstrate a need for accommodations*
- *Current testing within three years on file*

Once reviewed by the Director of Specialized Learning, services will be determined based on a continued need. The purpose of Learning Lab is to assist students in monitoring their academic progress, provide test-taking in the lab, develop self-advocacy skills, and support classroom accommodations. When students attend Learning Lab as an elective, they complete assignments and makeup work in monitored sessions, have extended time to complete tests, and use this time to consult with instructors regarding progress on upcoming assignments, tests, or projects. More information can be found on the Specialized Learning Resource tile on MyPCA.



Physical Education

Fifth and Sixth Grade PE

The purpose of physical education is to guide children to be physically active for a lifetime. It is our goal to enable students through physical education to perform basic skills in individual and team sports and fitness activities. Opportunity is provided to accomplish this goal through activities appropriately designed for the student's developmental level. Believing that God wants us to respect authority and maintain self-control in all areas of our life, physical education provides the perfect setting for learning self-discipline through competition while learning to respect the rules of the game and the officials.

Seventh and Eighth Grade PE/Athletic Period

Middle School Physical Education/Conditioning promotes physical fitness, develops motor skills, and instills knowledge and understanding of rules, concepts, and strategies. Students learn to compete as team members or as individuals through a wide variety of competitive activities.