



MS Course Curriculum Guide

2026-27

MISSION STATEMENT

Charlotte Christian School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school, equipping and developing students to effectively integrate Biblical truth and learning into their daily lives and to impact the culture for Christ.

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Middle School Course Descriptions

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BIBLE

Grade 5

The Prophecy of Christ

Bible 5 is a study of the book of Genesis, starting with Creation and ending with the story of Joseph and the Israelites in Egypt. The initial prophecy of Christ, foretold in Genesis 3:15 (the protoevangelium-the first gospel) and expounded upon through the Abrahamic Covenant, is the central theme of this course. Genesis tells us who God is, who we are, how and why things are broken, and the plan that God has put in place to return His creation to the way it should be.

Grade 6

The Preparation for Christ

Bible 6 is a study of the Old Testament, beginning with Exodus and ending with the 400 Years of Silence. Bible 6 provides students with an overview of the Old Testament and seeks to answer the question, "Where does Jesus show up in the Old Testament?" Students will learn how the people, events, and covenants of the Old Testament prepare us for the first coming of Christ. Upon completion of this course, students will have the ability to understand how the Old Testament points us to Christ and why it matters in their daily lives.

Grade 7

The Plan of Christ

Bible 7 provides students with an overview of the New Testament. Students will learn and understand how the four Gospels fit together and complement each other, as well as early church history, through the book of Acts, followed by the practical daily living instructions of the New Testament letters. This course also includes the Essential Beliefs of Christianity and finishes with a basic understanding of the book of Revelation. Upon completion of this course, students will understand how the New Testament encourages Christians in their daily walk with Jesus and equips them to be the salt and light He has called them to be through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Grade 8

The Person of Christ

Bible 8 is designed to give the students an in-depth view of the life, teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ as uniquely presented through the Gospel of John. During this course, students will be exposed to each phase of Jesus' life on earth, His public ministry, trial, death, burial, and resurrection, as well as His pre-existence in the Trinity with God the Father and the Holy Spirit. By completing this course, students will have a thorough understanding of the Good News of the Gospels and will also be able to express that Good News to a lost and dying world.

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LANGUAGE ARTS

Grade 5

Grade 5 language arts introduces students to how reading, writing, listening, and language skills work together. In this course, students experience language as a connected whole rather than separate subjects. Through meaningful texts, purposeful writing, and explicit grammar instruction woven into real reading and writing contexts, students develop the communication skills they need to succeed in all their classes and beyond.

Grade 6

Grade 6 language arts deepens students' understanding of the integrated nature of language arts. Acknowledging that communication is a gift from God, sixth graders explore the various ways in which we communicate our thoughts, perspectives, ideas, and emotions via reading, writing, listening, speaking, and visual representations. Students are exposed to a wide variety of genres, using mentor texts to expand their own narrative, expository, and argumentative writing skills and find their unique voice. Thematic units include the power of words, characters in conflict, community and changes, challenges that create champions, and choices. Grammar and vocabulary are woven in contextually as students encounter words through the texts and units.

Grade 7

Grade 7 language arts takes a thematic approach as students study a variety of short stories, novels, nonfiction articles, poetry, and drama and continue to apply reading comprehension skills and knowledge of literary elements. With the foundation of a biblical worldview, students engage with themes through reading, writing, and discussion that include mindset, safety vs. freedom, power and utopia, dehumanization and empathy, truth and beauty, and fate and free will. Students will write in many different forms, such as personal narrative, literary analysis and synthesis, academic summary, poetry, and skits.

Grade 8

Grade 8 language arts emphasizes the study of various genres of literature to expand reading comprehension skills and enhance the understanding of literary elements for the purpose of complex text reasoning. Students cultivate a sense of the interdisciplinary nature of knowledge through biblical integration, reading classic and contemporary literature, and analyzing essential questions. Four units of study examine what it means to be American, what it takes to survive, why we try to imagine the future, and how words inspire change. Students in grade 8 continue developing creative, literary, expository, and persuasive writing skills that support, complement, and make meaning of the units of study.

MATH

Grade 5

Math 5

Math 5 students add to their solid math fact foundation and are prepared to take their mathematical thinking to the next level. Students will tackle complex tasks involving fractions, decimals, measurement, and geometry during the year, but above all, the goal is for students to finish the year as math problem-solvers, willing to take risks in their learning and communicate their ideas using various strategies. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 6

Math 6

Math 6 students are provided an age-appropriate introduction to key algebraic topics and establish a solid foundation in fundamental middle grades topics such as decimals, fractions, ratios, proportions, percentages, and tools of geometry. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Advanced Math 6

Advanced Math 6 students continue to strengthen proficiency in all operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. They will develop an understanding of rates, ratios, and percent applications. Students will solve equations, inequalities, and graphs in the coordinate plane. They study the characteristics of angles and side lengths in triangles. Students are introduced to the relationships between diameter, radius, circumference, and area. They will use formulas to find the circumference and area of circles. Students study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students use formulas to find the area, surface area, and volume of prisms, cylinders, and irregular figures. Students will determine the probability of simple and compound events. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 7

Math 7

Math 7 students continue to strengthen proficiency in all operations with decimals, fractions, and integers. They will develop an understanding of rates, ratios, and percent applications. Students will solve equations, inequalities, and graphs in the coordinate plane. They study the characteristics of angles and side lengths in triangles. Students are introduced to the relationships between diameter, radius, circumference, and area. They will use formulas to find the circumference and area of circles. Students use formulas to find the area, surface area, and volume of prisms, cylinders, and irregular figures. Students will determine the probability of simple and compound events. The curriculum provides a balance of computational skills, problem-solving applications, and conceptual understanding. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students are introduced to algebraic topics, including integers, operations with decimals and fractions, and solving equations and inequalities. They will work with square roots, cube roots, and exponents. Students develop an understanding of linear functions, graphing, and analyzing functions that model linear relationships. They will study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students are introduced to angle relationships created by parallel lines and a transversal. They will develop an understanding of the Pythagorean Theorem.

Students continue to reinforce and apply problem-solving strategies for a variety of problems. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Algebra I

Algebra I students review pre-algebra concepts and are introduced to the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions, and their graphs. Solving linear, quadratic, rational, radical, and exponential functions; graphing linear equations; solving inequalities; solving systems of linear equations; factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated into the course. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Grade 8

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra students are introduced to algebraic topics, including integers, operations with decimals and fractions, and solving equations and inequalities. They will work with square roots, cube roots, and exponents. Students develop an understanding of linear functions, graphing, and analyzing functions that model linear relationships. They will study congruent and similar figures and transformations. Students are introduced to angle relationships created by parallel lines and a transversal. They will develop an understanding of the Pythagorean Theorem. Students continue to reinforce and apply problem-solving strategies for a variety of problems. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Algebra I

Algebra I students review pre-algebra concepts and are introduced to the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions, and their graphs; solving linear, quadratic, rational, radical, and exponential functions; graphing linear equations; solving inequalities; solving systems of linear equations; factoring quadratic and polynomial expressions. Problem-solving strategies are incorporated into the course. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

Geometry

Geometry students are introduced to the deductive reasoning process in the classical Euclidean tradition. The course includes a study of lines, angles, triangles, circles, polygons, solid figures and how they are related. Concepts are analyzed from the perspective of coordinate geometry, proofs, congruence, similarity, area, volume, and transformations. Through this course, we demonstrate the character of God and His principles that order the universe.

SCIENCE

Grade 5

General Science

Grade 5 General Science engages students in integrated studies of life, physical, and earth science through inquiry-driven investigations guided by the scientific method and engineering design. Students learn to ask testable questions, plan and conduct fair tests, collect and analyze data, and communicate evidence-based conclusions while exploring core concepts such as matter and energy, ecosystems and adaptations, weather and Earth systems, and patterns in the sky. This course builds scientific thinking, data literacy, and collaboration to prepare learners for continued success in middle school science.

Grade 6

Physical Science

Physical Science introduces scientific inquiry, measurement, basic chemistry, waves, electricity, magnetism, force and motion. Physical Science lessons include designing experiments, practicing metric measurement, studying atoms, understanding the periodic table, building electrical circuits, and experimenting with force and motion. Students are engaged in the learning process through group work and the use of science notebooks, which encourage interactive instruction. Critical thinking and hands-on activities enhance content learning. Biblically-centered instruction recognizes God as the creator of all things

Grade 7

Life Science

Life Science is the overall study of living organisms from the cell to the human body. The study of microscopes and cells leads to units on plants, the classification of living things, protists, human biology, genetics, and animal ecosystems. In addition to identifying, observing, and collecting organisms, students perform dissections to study the structure and function of certain animals and organ systems. Critical thinking and hands-on activities enhance the content of learning. Biblically-centered instruction recognizes God as the Creator of all living things.

Grade 8

Earth Science

Earth Science investigates and provides students with an appreciation for the enormity and beauty of God's creation from the heavens to the Earth. This class focuses on the Earth's composition and its systems' functions. Major topics include the nature of science and inquiry, Earth's structure, Earth's oceans, weather and climate, and the solar system, stars, and galaxies. Students will explore in depth the sun, moon, and Earth's relationship, plate tectonics, and the creationist view of Earth's history. Emphasis is on scientific inquiry, engaging hands-on activities, scientific literacy, problem-solving, technology, and real-world application.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Grade 5

Foundations of American Civilizations

Social Studies in grade five is a vertically aligned curriculum bridging lower and middle school. Grade five social studies focus extends from early exploration to westward expansion in United States History. Students engage in active research and inquiry-based learning, with collaboration playing a central role in the curriculum.

Grade 6

Ancient Civilizations

Ancient Civilizations explores the people, events, ideas, innovations, civics, politics, and culture of major Western and Eastern civilizations. The curriculum will begin with creation and the people of the Fertile Crescent, continuing through Egypt, India, Africa, Greece, and Rome in the East and the Mayans, Incas, and Aztecs of the West. The course content will include a basic introduction to the Five Themes of Geography and how those themes affect the development of civilizations. Through the curriculum, students visit and explore ancient sites and museums with the aid of technology. Biblical integration emphasizes history as God's story. Instruction is enhanced as students participate in activities such as creating an exhibit of King Tut's Tomb and participating in Middle Ages Day.

Grade 7

Modern World Civilizations

Modern World Civilizations gives students the opportunity to build upon their knowledge, skills, and understanding of ancient civilizations covered in the sixth grade. Students will begin to study the Renaissance Era (1400s) through contemporary times to develop an understanding of the impact of growing global interactions. The focus will remain on the *Five Themes of Geography* to understand the development of modern societies and regions. Using a biblical lens, the course will guide students through patterns of change and continuity, placing an emphasis on conflict and cooperation, economic development, population shifts, political thought, cultural values, and the impact on the environment over time. Regions and modern societies all over the world will be studied, including Asia, Africa, Europe and the Americas.

Grade 8

American Civilizations

American Civilizations begins with the early Native Americans and continues through present-day current events. The focus is on God's sovereignty in events and circumstances of history. Units of study include North Carolina history, European Exploration, the Colonial Period, the Revolutionary War, the Constitution, Westward Expansion, The Civil War, the Industrial Revolution, Immigration, WWI, the Great Depression, WWII, and the Cold War Era. Utilizing technology, this course emphasizes reading comprehension, note-taking, and current events. The course culminates with a week-long educational trip to Washington, D.C., in May.

WORLD LANGUAGE

Grade 5 - Language Survey

Language Survey introduces students to the unique qualities of three language options: French, Latin, and Spanish. After exploring languages in grade 5, students are expected to commit to one language choice for grades 6-8. Successful completion of levels 1A and 1B will give students Level I credit and may allow them to begin at Level II as a freshman.

French

Grade 6 - Introduction to French

Students are introduced to the French language and the culture of the French-speaking world with a conversational approach. The learning objectives include the development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Culture studies are integrated throughout the course and focus on French culture in North America.

Grade 7 - French 1A

French 1A focuses on the development of listening to and speaking the language and begins the integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. Grammar structures are interwoven with cultural information focusing on the Francophonie outside of France and North America. As they understand contextual directions, commands, keywords, and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read.

Grade 8 - French 1B

French 1B builds on the lessons of French 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of French culture, products, practices, and perspectives and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers.

Latin

Grade 6 - Introduction to Latin

Students are introduced to the ancient Romans' language, history, and culture. Reading, writing, and grammar will be the core part of the course, supplemented with hands-on projects.

Grade 7 - Latin 1A

Latin 1A focuses on the acquisition of fundamental grammar, syntax, and vocabulary so that students will be able to read and translate simple passages in an ancient language. Students will also build vocabulary and Latin roots, thus enhancing their knowledge of English and writing skills. Biblical integration, mythology, Roman culture, and history will also be a part of their study.

Grade 8 - Latin 1B

Latin 1B builds on the lessons of Latin 1A. This course introduces students to the language of ancient Rome with an emphasis on Roman culture, vocabulary, etymology, and basic Latin grammar. Students learn how to decline nouns and conjugate verbs, as well as translate simple Latin sentences.

Spanish

Grade 6 - Introduction to Spanish

Spanish 6 focuses on mastery of the basics of the language. The learning objectives include the development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Culture is integrated throughout the course to develop a better understanding of the Spanish-speaking world.

Grade 7 - Spanish 1A

Spanish 1A focuses on the development of listening to and speaking the language and begins the integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. As they understand contextual directions, commands, keywords and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read. Grammatical structures and culture are interwoven throughout the units.

Grade 8 - Spanish 1B

Spanish 1B builds on the lessons of Spanish 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of Spanish culture, products, practices, and perspectives and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers.

LIFE FITNESS

Emphasis is placed on improving personal fitness through cardiovascular exercise, flexibility, and strength training. Traditional team sports and games are meant to develop enjoyable options for lifetime physical fitness, while wellness instruction introduces goals for lifetime nutrition, exercise, and making healthy life choices.



Middle School Elective Course Descriptions

GRADE 5 ELECTIVES

Students in grade 5 will select between Choir, Band, or Orchestra for a yearlong Fine Arts elective. Additionally, students will rotate each semester through a variety of Fine Arts, Innovation, and Personal Skills courses, including Visual Arts, Global Knights, Knights Skills, and Language Survey. These courses will empower students to discover and develop their God-given talents, cultivate new passions, and build well-rounded skills that will enrich their academic journey and equip them for faithful service and future success.

Global Knights

Students will dive into a multicultural journey that celebrates the beauty and diversity of God's creation. Exploring the lives, traditions, and contributions of Hispanic American, African American, Asian American, and Native American communities, as well as other heritages represented in our country, students will build cultural understanding and compassion. Anchored in the truth that we are all made in God's image (Genesis 1:26–27), this course aims to help students recognize how every culture plays a vital role in God's story (Revelation 7:9).

Knights Skills

In this course, students will develop in four critical skill areas: interpersonal skills, self-management, leadership, and technology skills. Through interactive activities, group projects, and hands-on learning, students will discover how to communicate respectfully, manage their time and emotions, lead with confidence, and navigate technology.

Language Survey

Language Survey introduces students to the unique qualities of three language options: French, Latin, and Spanish. In this course, students will learn the basics of these languages, including greetings, numbers, everyday phrases, and proper pronunciation. Students will practice speaking, listening, and simple writing activities in a fun, supportive environment.

Visual Art

Visual Art builds on skills and concepts learned in the lower school art studio by developing a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of design, building technical skills in a variety of mediums, and gaining confidence in their understanding of the artistic process. Students also learn about art history and appreciation while exploring drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, collage, and sculpture.

GRADE 6-8 ELECTIVES

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

Grade 6

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

[Yearlong, audition-only](#)

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in Alkire and at outside events, including the North Carolina Theatre Conference play festival. Attendance at outside rehearsals and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. This class is open to students in grades 6-8 who earn placement through an audition process each May. Please note that world language choices might be limited for grade 6 students who enroll in this elective. Look for audition information in the FOCUS after spring break.

ART 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Grade 6 art builds on skills and concepts learned in grade 5 Visual Art by developing a deeper understanding of the elements and principles of design, building technical skills in a variety of mediums, and developing their understanding of the artistic process. Students also learn about art history and appreciation while exploring drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, collage, and sculpture.

BAND 6

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 6 band is open to any student who has successfully completed Beginning Brass or Woodwinds. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students learn to apply their individual skills in a full ensemble setting. Color instruments such as saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone, tuba, and percussion will be added over the course of this class as students show readiness. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts and special events throughout the year. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CHOIR 6

[Yearlong](#)

Choir 6 is designed to instill a love of singing in an ensemble. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of Choir 7. Instruction will focus on the fundamental singing techniques, music reading skills, and singing in parts. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CREATIVE MEDIA 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Creative Media 6 is an introduction to the place where fine arts and technology meet. Students explore audio and video production, digital photography, digital art, and graphic design using their school-provided iPad. Through project-based learning using the Apple suite of creative apps, Procreate, and Adobe Express, students will develop the technical and design skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world and bring their projects to life in other classes.

ORCHESTRA 6

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 6 orchestra is open to any student who has successfully completed Beginning High or Low Strings. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students learn to apply their individual skills in a full ensemble setting. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts and special events throughout the year. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course. Students enrolled in this class must provide their own instrument, case, and accessories.

THEATRE 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Theatre 6 is the place where students swap desks for the spotlight! This hands-on class is all about discovering your inner performer by mastering the three main acting tools: voice, body, and imagination. Students will explore theatre history, the world of stage design, and learn rehearsal room best practices. From analyzing scripts to collaborating with scene partners, students in Theatre 6 gain the confidence and technique to prepare them for musicals and theatre electives in future years.

Grade 7

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

[Yearlong, audition-only](#)

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in Alkire and at outside events, including the North Carolina Theatre Conference play festival. Attendance at outside rehearsals and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. This class is open to students in grades 6-8 who earn placement through an audition process each May. Look for audition information in the FOCUS after spring break.

ART 7

[Yearlong](#)

Art 7 is open to students who have successfully completed Art 6. Students in Art 7 will further develop their knowledge and technical skills in art using a variety of art materials and methods. Emphasis is on developing original solutions to visual challenges. Students will gain a greater understanding of composition and aesthetic quality through drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will study the role that culture and art history play in producing art and will utilize this knowledge in their own art projects.

BAND 7

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 7 band is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 6. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of Band 8. Color instruments such as saxophone, bass clarinet, baritone, tuba, and percussion will be added over the course of this class as students show readiness. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CHOIR 7/8

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 7 and 8 choir is open to all students who like to sing. Emphasis is on developing vocal performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school

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choir. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CREATIVE MEDIA 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Creative Media is the place where fine arts and technology meet. Students dive deeper into audio and video production, digital photography, digital art, and graphic design using their school-provided iPad. Through project-based learning using the Apple suite of creative apps, Procreate, and Canva, students will develop the technical and design skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world.

DIGITAL MUSIC 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Using Apple's Garageband music production app, students in this course work in a virtual recording studio where they can imagine, rehearse, and bring to life their own original beats and song recordings in different musical styles. Students work through the recording, editing, and mixing process using loops and virtual instruments. This course is an important building block for further study in the digital arts in upper school.

EXPLORATORY ART 7/8

[Semester \(may be taken once in 7th grade and once in 8th grade\)](#)

Exploratory Art is a survey in Visual Arts for students who are not interested in or ready for a yearlong art elective. Students will work with art elements and design principles, be introduced to technical skills in a variety of mediums, and develop their understanding of the artistic process. Students also learn about art history and appreciation while exploring design, drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, collage, and sculpture.

GUITAR 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic guitar skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Guitar students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own acoustic guitar, case, tuner, and picks.

MIDKNIGHT NEWS 7/8

[Yearlong, application-only](#)

MidKnight News is the student-led news program in middle school that builds on concepts and skills taught in Intro to Broadcasting 6. Students apply the fundamentals of broadcast production to create full-length episodes that air once a month and mini-news episodes that air weekly. This fast-paced class needs students of all interests in the areas of production, including actors, directors, editors, camera crews, and writers. An application is required prior to enrollment.

ORCHESTRA 7

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 7 orchestra is open to any student who has successfully completed Orchestra 6. Emphasis is on developing performance technique and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of Orchestra 8. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

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STAGECRAFT 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This semester-long project-based course explores basic aspects of backstage roles and theatrical design. Students learn the fundamentals of theatre production including set design, scenic painting, sound, stage management, costuming, and makeup. Students apply what they learn to real design elements of Charlotte Christian School mainstage musicals.

UKULELE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic ukulele skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Ukulele students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own ukulele and case.

Grade 8

ACT 2, Grades 6-8

[Yearlong, audition-only](#)

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in Alkire and at outside events, including the North Carolina Theatre Conference play festival. Attendance at outside rehearsals and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. This class is open to students in grades 6-8 who earn placement through an audition process each May. Look for audition information in the FOCUS after spring break.

ART 8

[Yearlong](#)

Art 8 is open to students who have successfully completed Art 7 or Exploratory Art 7/8 with teacher recommendation. Art 8 students further develop their visual problem-solving skills with an emphasis on increasing technical skills and creative solutions in preparation for Art 1 in upper school. Students work at a fast pace to produce advanced artwork in drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, sculpture, and mixed media with the goal of achieving higher aesthetic and creative quality. Students also study the art of artists and cultures throughout history and apply these to the use of current art materials and techniques.

BAND 8

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 8 band is open to any student who has successfully completed Band 7. Emphasis is on developing performance technique, musicianship and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school band. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

CHOIR 7/8

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 7 and 8 choir is open to all students who like to sing. Emphasis is on developing vocal performance technique, musicianship, and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school choir. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

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CREATIVE MEDIA 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Creative Media is the place where fine arts and technology meet. Students dig deeper in audio and video production, digital photography, digital art, and graphic design using their school-provided iPad. Through project-based learning using Procreate, Camera, iMovie, and Canva apps, students will develop the technical and design skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world.

DIGITAL MUSIC 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Using Apple's Garageband music production app, students in this course work in a virtual recording studio where they can imagine, rehearse, and bring their own original beats to life in a variety of musical styles. Students work through the recording, editing, and mixing process using loops and virtual instruments. This course is an important building block for further study in the digital arts in upper school.

EXPLORATORY ART 7/8

[Semester \(may be taken once in 7th grade and once in 8th grade\)](#)

Exploratory Art is a survey in Visual Arts for students who are not interested in or ready for a yearlong art elective. Students will work with art elements and design principles, be introduced to technical skills in a variety of mediums, and develop their understanding of the artistic process. Students also learn about art history and appreciation while exploring design, drawing, painting, printmaking, fiber arts, collage, and sculpture.

GUITAR 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic guitar skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Guitar students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own acoustic guitar, case, tuner, and picks.

MIDKNIGHT NEWS 7/8

[Yearlong, application-only](#)

MidKnight News is the student-led news program in middle school that builds on concepts and skills taught in Intro to Broadcasting 6. Students apply the fundamentals of broadcast production to create full-length episodes that air once a month and mini-news episodes that air weekly. This fast-paced class needs students of all interests in the areas of production, including actors, directors, editors, camera crews, and writers. An application is required prior to enrollment.

ORCHESTRA 8

[Yearlong](#)

Grade 8 orchestra is open to any student who has successfully completed Orchestra 7. Emphasis is on developing performance technique and music literacy skills as students prepare for the challenge and rigor of upper school orchestra. Students in this class perform grade-appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events throughout the year, including the Carowinds Festival of Music. Please note that concert attendance is required for all students enrolled in this course.

STAGECRAFT 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This semester-long project-based course will explore basic aspects of backstage roles and theatrical design. Students will learn how to interpret and execute a designer/director's vision, produce original designs for set, scenic painting, sound, stage management, costuming, and makeup, as well the opportunity to contribute to the backstage and technical needs of CCS productions.

UKULELE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course for beginners is designed for students who want to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic ukulele skills, including single-note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Ukulele students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students enrolled in this course must provide their own ukulele and case.

INNOVATION ELECTIVES

Grade 6

CODING 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This is an introductory course for aspiring programmers and tech wizards. It helps to build computational thinking, develop problem-solving skills, improve critical thinking, and expose students to real-life situations. Students will learn about various languages, building upon the block programming learned in 5th grade to create captivating games, interactive animations, and powerful applications. This class is a prerequisite for the Coding 7/8 course.

CREATIVE MEDIA 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Creative Media is the place where fine arts and technology meet. Students explore audio and video production, digital photography, digital art, and graphic design using their school-provided iPad. Through project-based learning using Procreate, Camera, iMovie, and Canva apps, students will develop the technical and design skills that are needed to navigate today's digital world.

DESIGN LAB 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Design Lab 6 is a hands-on course where students learn to turn their ideas into reality. This course focuses on the fundamentals of the design process, tool safety, and team-based problem-solving. Through creative challenges, students will build the foundational skills and confidence needed to tackle the more complex engineering and community projects in Design Lab 7 and 8.

ROBOKNIGHTS 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This class is an introduction to the VEX VRC program. It is where students will be introduced to the engineering and programming process through the VEX robotics curriculum. We will explore basic robotics concepts through hands-on building and challenges.

Grade 7

3D SOLID MODELING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who are fascinated by the world of 3D and eager to bring their ideas to life. This exciting course will equip your student with the skills and tools to transform real objects into digital models, design your creations, and see them come to life through 3D printing and laser cutting. Students will use our 3D scanner to capture real objects to 3D print and laser cut. They will learn to design 3D models from scratch, iterate on existing designs, and personalize them with your unique touch using industry-standard software by Autocad and Lightburn.

CODING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for aspiring programmers and tech wizards. This class is the gateway to the thrilling world of coding. We will learn about three diverse coding languages - Swift, Python, and Scratch to unlock the potential for creating captivating games, interactive animations, and powerful applications. Students will master the fundamentals of variables, loops, and conditional statements using Scratch. Students will increase their knowledge of these foundations with Python and learn the language behind Apple's iOS apps using Swift to create their own games and apps.

DESIGN LAB 7

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Design Lab 7 course is for any student who has completed Design Lab 6. This course is a place for students to explore the world of innovation. This hands-on course teaches principles of the design process through applied projects such as building gadgets, 3D printing, laser printing, and structural design. This course prepares students for Design Lab 8 and upper school innovation electives.

INNOVATION 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students explore how engineering shapes the world around them. Using a project-based approach, students will define complex problems, develop multiple solutions, and test their designs to make them better. The course emphasizes teamwork and technical problem-solving, giving students the tools to turn a rough idea into a working prototype.

MIDKNIGHT NEWS 7/8

[Yearlong, application-only](#)

MidKnight News is the student-led news program in middle school that builds on concepts and skills taught in Intro to Broadcasting 6. Students apply the fundamentals of broadcast production to create full-length episodes that air once a month and mini-news episodes that air weekly. This fast-paced class needs students of all interests in the areas of production, including actors, directors, editors, camera crews, and writers. An application is required prior to enrollment.

ROBOKNIGHTS 7/8

[Yearlong](#)

RoboKnights is the middle school robotics competition team. The VEX robotics curriculum will introduce students to the engineering and programming process. RoboKnights is a hands-on course in which students build a working robot in order to compete during the spring semester in nationally recognized VEX robotics competitions.

Grade 8

3D SOLID MODELING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is for students who are fascinated by the world of 3D and eager to bring their ideas to life. This exciting course will equip your student with the skills and tools to transform real objects into digital models, design your creations, and see them come to life through 3D printing and laser cutting. Students will use our 3D scanner to capture real objects to 3D print and laser cut. They will learn to design 3D models from scratch, iterate on existing designs, and personalize them with your unique touch using industry-standard software by Autodesk and Lightburn.

CODING 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

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DESIGN LAB 8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Design Lab 8 is the capstone course for any student who has completed one of the following courses: Design Lab 6, Design Lab 7, Innovation 7/8, or 3D Solid Modeling. This course offers a deeper dive into the world of innovation, moving beyond basics to master the foundational principles of the design process. Through sophisticated, hands-on projects, students will refine their technical expertise in building complex gadgets, 3D printing, laser fabrication, and advanced structural design to create professional-grade prototypes. This course prepares students for upper school innovation electives.

INNOVATION 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students explore how engineering shapes the world around them. Using a project-based approach, students will define complex problems, develop multiple solutions, and test their designs to make them better. The course emphasizes teamwork and technical problem-solving, giving students the tools to turn a rough idea into a working prototype.

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PERSONAL SKILLS ELECTIVES

Grade 6

PUBLIC SPEAKING 6

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Public Speaking fosters the ability to communicate confidently and effectively to a group. Students will present a variety of in-class presentations that explore informative speech, persuasive speech, improvisational speech, expressive reading, famous speeches from history, and the skills of debate. Students will also learn best practices for incorporating technology as a tool when speaking in front of a group.

STUDY SKILLS 6

[Yearlong \(automatically scheduled in grade 6\)](#)

Study skills for grade 6 will alternate days with the World Language choice unless the student wants to participate in additional elective classes. *Any grade 6 student who would like to opt out of study skills to take an additional elective may do so if it works within their schedule.

Grade 7

GAME CHANGERS 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Explore the powerful intersection of sports and faith. Discover how athletes can be influential voices for Christ, using their platform to impact culture. We'll examine the history of sports, consider "Sports As Worship," and learn how to leverage your unique gifts to serve others and advance the Gospel through the world of athletics.

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students will take a deep dive into the complexities and nuances of a culture surrounding various people groups, gaining a deeper understanding of the Imago Dei (Gen. 1:26-27). As they journey through scripture to understand the intrinsic value and honor God has placed on all people, students will have the opportunity to engage in service learning, explore new cultural traditions and foods, and celebrate the beauty of diversity.

SPEECH AND DEBATE 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

This course is a place where students develop self-confidence as they learn to construct and perform a variety of speeches in public communication settings. Students will consider topics and issues through a biblical lens as they prepare for in-class debates, public forums, and seminars. By learning proper techniques for research, structure, style, and delivery techniques, students develop the ability to think critically and listen effectively in a meaningful way.

STUDY HALL 7/8

[Semester \(maximum one per semester\)](#)

This class is for students who are self-motivated and have demonstrated the ability to work independently on their homework in a quiet environment. Students will be expected to work on schoolwork or read independently for the entire class period.

THE 24/7 PROJECT 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Discover how faith extends far beyond Sunday mornings. Grounded in Colossians 3:23, "Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord, not unto men", this course challenges students to integrate their beliefs into every moment of the day. Transform ordinary routines into extraordinary opportunities to connect with God and impact the world. By examining the life of Jesus, students will learn to view their unique gifts and talents as powerful tools for service, proving that faith and daily life are truly inseparable.

Grade 8

GAME CHANGERS 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

Explore the powerful intersection of sports and faith. Discover how athletes can be influential voices for Christ, using their platform to impact culture. We'll examine the history of sports, consider "Sports As Worship," and learn how to leverage your unique gifts to serve others and advance the Gospel through the world of athletics.

KINGDOM COUNCIL 8

[Yearlong](#)

Kingdom Council is made up of eighth grade students who love their school and are committed to giving of their time, energy, experience, and abilities in service to making Charlotte Christian a better place. Through their interactions and involvement with others, they work to build community and lead by example.

Student leaders participate in events hosted by the admissions department, such as Kickoff and Back to School Night, and events pertaining to new students, including New to Middle School Orientation. They also plan, promote, and execute MS activities that foster inclusive and energetic school spirit, such as Carolina Point and Kingdom competitions. Through monthly meetings with the principal, they will serve as the voice of their peers for matters related to spiritual and student life. Student leaders should have a clear heart for, and commitment to, personal Christian growth and the growth of their fellow classmates.

Selection Process

Our student leaders are selected by faculty and administration based on student application and teacher recommendation. A final component will be nominations by the student body based on our CCS core values.

MULTICULTURAL STUDIES 7/8

[Semester \(may only be taken once\)](#)

In this course, students will take a deep dive into the complexities and nuances of a culture surrounding various people groups, gaining a deeper understanding of the Imago Dei (Gen. 1:26-27). As they journey through scripture to understand the intrinsic value and honor God has placed on all people, students will have the opportunity to engage in service learning, explore new cultural traditions and foods, and celebrate the beauty of diversity.

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