



Jr. High Course Catalog 2026.27

OUR MISSION:

Bethlehem Christian Academy will seek to create a desire to know and serve God in the heart of our students by equipping them academically, physically, spiritually, and socially to fulfill God's purpose for their lives.

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Bethlehem Christian Academy

Jr. High School Course Offerings

Language Arts

Language Arts at Bethlehem Christian Academy equips students to become thoughtful readers, effective writers, clear speakers, and attentive listeners, all through the lens of a Biblical worldview. Our program emphasizes sequential growth in these areas, preparing students to think critically, communicate with clarity, and engage meaningfully with literature and ideas. Rooted in Colossians 3:17, students are encouraged to glorify God in every word they read, write, and speak, reflecting His truth and love in their communication. In alignment with the Portrait of a Graduate, Language Arts instruction helps students grow as committed Christ-followers who communicate truth with grace, creative problem-solvers who analyze and interpret ideas thoughtfully, and resilient world-changers who use the power of language to influence the world for Christ.

Language Arts 6

Sixth grade Language Arts is a time to nurture children's God-given love of language through reading, discussion, writing, and grammar. Time will be dedicated to novel studies based on *A Place to Hang the Moon*, *Talking to Alaska*, *The Watsons Go to Birmingham 1963*, *The Crossover*, and *The Secret Garden*. As we study these novels, we will use the Harkness model to equip students with the skills of active listening and thoughtful contributions, which reflect God's character of communication. Students will learn to further their communication skills through structured writing, which will include step-by-step practice with paragraphs and short compositions, along with guided grammar lessons.

Language Arts 7

Seventh grade Language Arts builds on foundational skills such as emphasizing discernment in reading, precision in writing, and confidence in speaking. We will dedicate portions of each semester to specific novel studies, including *A Long Walk to Water* and *Song for a Whale*. Writing instruction will be detailed and require organized paragraphs within essay topics, advanced sentence structure, vivid word choice, and refined grammar usage. 7th grade will specifically expand on Harkness discussions requiring students to ask meaningful questions, respond to others respectfully, consider differing perspectives, and deepen their understanding of how communication glorifies God in word and deed.

Language Arts 8

Eighth Grade Language Arts at Bethlehem Christian Academy equips students for high school by cultivating discerning readers, articulate writers, and thoughtful communicators. Students will regularly practice writing skills through analytical essays, research essays, and creative compositions. Reading selections, including *The Outsiders* and *Moon Over Manifest*, will expand vocabulary and critical thinking while fostering literary analysis, biblical integration, and thematic exploration through a biblical worldview.

Students will further develop communication skills through Harkness discussions and public speaking opportunities that encourage ownership of learning, leadership in conversation, and communication with truth and grace. The ultimate goal of the course is for students to use language as a tool for influence, reflection, and service to Christ.

Mathematics

Mathematics at Bethlehem Christian Academy helps students recognize God's perfect order, creativity, and design as revealed in His creation. Throughout their junior high years, students build a strong foundation across the five key domains of mathematics: The Number System, Expressions and Equations, Ratios and Proportions, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. By exploring these areas, students grow in problem solving, reasoning, and critical thinking while learning to approach challenges with perseverance, precision, and creativity. Rooted in a Biblical worldview, mathematics instruction equips students to see God as the Divine Creator of all order and structure, and to use their growing skills as faithful stewards of His world. In alignment with the Portrait of a Graduate, math instruction develops committed Christ-followers who see God's hand in creation, creative problem-solvers who approach challenges with perseverance, and resilient world-changers who apply mathematical reasoning to serve others and glorify God.

Placement and continuation in honors-level math and science courses at Bethlehem Christian Academy are guided by specific grade and prerequisite requirements to ensure students are positioned for success. All families and students should review our [Honors Math and Science Placement Policy](#) for details regarding eligibility, continuation, and exceptions.

Math 6

(Accelerated offered for eligible students)

Sixth grade math is designed to be a bridge from the elementary math classroom to the beginning steps of algebra. Positive number decimal and fraction operations will be covered in the Number System within the order of operations. Students will be introduced to integers and absolute value. In the Expressions and Equations units, students will learn about parts of algebraic expressions, writing and solving equations and inequalities with positive numbers. In Geometry, students will work with the area and perimeter of polygons and the surface area and volume of rectangular prisms. During the Statistics and Probability units, students will calculate the measures of central tendency, which include mean, median, mode and range.

Pre-Algebra (7)

(Accelerated offered for eligible students)

In seventh grade math integers will be introduced and practiced throughout the year, so that students are proficient in using integers in each domain.

In The Number System, students will become proficient with integer operations with fractions and decimals. In Expressions and Equations, students will write and solve multi-step equations and inequalities with integers. Students will also solve and recognize proportional relationships between quantities, including problems involving percent. The study of Geometry will include

circles and the coordinate plane. In Statistics and Probability, students will use data to compare populations and will find the probabilities of events.

The Pre-Algebra 7th grade course is designed to prepare students to move from concrete mathematical understanding to abstract thinking to prepare students to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade. Students will practice persevering with mathematical thinking and questioning throughout the units of study.

8th Grade Algebra 1 (8)

(For high school credit; Honors offered for eligible students)

Algebra 1 covers the fundamental concepts of algebra and is a time for students to reinforce and further develop skills to build a foundation for success in advanced mathematics. Algebraic skills are applied in a wide variety of problem-solving situations.

Exponents, square and cube roots will be covered in the Number System. Solving and graphing linear equations/inequalities as well as solving systems of equations will be a focus in the Expressions and Equations units. Students will also solve polynomial equations and will factor equations using FOIL and the box method. Students will also be introduced to the Quadratic formula. Within the domain of Statistics and Probability, students will understand domain and range, independent and dependent variables, scatterplots, slope and intercepts, and lines of best fit.

Algebra 1 is an exceptionally foundational math course and the first one that is high school credit-bearing in our current BCA HS math scope-and-sequence. Beginning with the 25.26 school year, we will add an additional 9th grade offering of Algebra 1. With this expanded course offering, we can give students a “second chance” to master the vital Algebra 1 skills that lay the foundation for all future high school math courses. Families and students should review our [8th Grade Algebra I Placement and Progression Policy](#) for details on grade requirements for moving on to Geometry or repeating Algebra I in 9th grade.

Science

The study of Science at Bethlehem Christian Academy invites students to explore the world as God’s creation, as revealed in Genesis 1:1, “*In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*” Through courses in General Science and Physical Science, students investigate the living and physical world, observing God’s order, creativity, power, and provision. Students develop critical thinking, problem-solving skills, and scientific literacy through hands-on experiments, research projects, and the scientific method. The curriculum emphasizes a biblical worldview, highlighting that evolutionary processes cannot fully explain the complexity and design of God’s creation. Our students graduate with a foundation in scientific knowledge, the ability to intelligently evaluate research, and a lifelong appreciation for God’s intricately designed universe.

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General Science 6

This course is an introductory course to a general study of the investigation of earth, life, and physical sciences in a biblical worldview. The course is taught in a Creationist worldview directly correlated with the belief system of the school and God's Word. (Genesis 1:1, Hebrews 11:3, Colossians 1:16). The topics of study include the scientific method, mixtures & solutions, concentrations, saturations, our solar system, cells and DNA, meteorology, oceanography, ecosystems, and marine life. Students will learn through lectures, notetaking, hands-on lab investigations and experiments, and research projects. Students will also learn how to safely and successfully execute a lab and will be introduced to writing a basic lab report.

General Science 7

7th Grade General Science offers an opportunity for students to explore the Earth's history via archeology, paleontology, and geology, and the five-kingdom classification system. Students will also explore the major human body systems to help them see how their Creator designed them. Integrated within these topics is a biblical view of God's creation and perfect design. The students will learn about the various sciences through lecture, note-taking, and hands-on lab investigations/demonstrations and experiments. Students will also refine their understanding of the scientific method and learn to write more detailed lab reports.

Physical Science (8)

(For high school credit; Honors offered for eligible students)*

The course focuses on the physical aspects of our everyday life, planet Earth, and our universe. Physical Science provides a detailed introduction to the physical environment and the basic laws that make it work, both on the microscopic and macroscopic levels. Students will gain a solid understanding of measurement systems & conversions, atoms & molecules, physics of motion, forces such as energy, Newton's laws and the physics of light and sound. This course includes many engaging hands-on experiments. Thought processes, lab experiments, and problem-solving techniques will be stressed above textbook memorization. Integrated in all aspects of the course work will be how God has fashioned all the Physical Laws of the Universe, and how He applies them to everything that happens in all aspects of our lives. It will be emphasized that He is the One who created all attributes and properties of "how things work." Our mission in this class is to do our best to understand the physical science laws that He set up and how those laws apply to the real world. Students will see the complexities, care and meticulous nature of the Creator.

*Honors Option: The accelerated version of the course includes all topics noted above, PLUS molecular compounds, chemical equations, air, atmosphere, water, simple machines and mechanical advantage. These additional topics require significant skill in math and problem-solving.

Social Studies

Social Studies at Bethlehem Christian Academy is taught through the lens of a Biblical worldview, affirming that God is sovereign and active in the story of mankind. Psalm 78:1–7 reminds us of the importance of remembering and recording God's works for future generations, a truth that guides our study of history. As students explore civilizations, cultures,

governments, and societies, they are encouraged to see how past events shape the present and how God's truth provides clarity for understanding the world. Alongside content knowledge, students develop essential skills such as note taking, inferencing, contextualization, document analysis, and comparison. In alignment with the Portrait of a Graduate, social studies instruction shapes committed Christ-followers who recognize God's hand in history, creative problem-solvers who analyze past and present issues with discernment, and resilient world-changers who apply lessons from history to lead with wisdom and integrity today.

Ancient Civilizations/OT Bible History (6)

In 6th grade, students study *The Mystery of History*, a chronological journey of God's hand in shaping the world—from Creation to the Ascension of Christ. This course highlights the diversity of cultures as reflections of God's image bearers while examining geography, world religions, and the rise and fall of nations. As an introduction to historical thinking, students begin developing foundational social studies skills such as note taking, contextualization, and document analysis. They learn to ask critical questions about the past, recognize cause-and-effect relationships, and connect geography to culture and events. With a strong emphasis on a Christian worldview, students discover how history reveals both God's sovereignty and humanity's ongoing need for Him.

Medieval History (7)

Seventh grade continues *The Mystery of History* with a study of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Age of Exploration. Students trace the development of the Church from Pentecost through the Roman Empire, examine the relationship between church and state, and explore feudalism, dynastic rule, and global cultural shifts. The course also highlights the religious, economic, political, and cultural changes that shaped the Renaissance and the rise of exploration. Building on their introduction to historical thinking, students strengthen skills such as contextualization, note taking, and document analysis. They also practice writing, source evaluation, and collaborative problem solving through essays, primary source study, role play, and simulations. By connecting past events to modern issues within a Christian worldview, students gain both knowledge and discernment to understand history as part of God's unfolding story.

Georgia Studies (8)

Eighth grade students study the geography, government, and history of Georgia within the broader context of United States history. They explore how people adapt to and change their environment, examine cause-and-effect relationships in history, and consider the responsibilities of citizens in a democratic society. Students further develop social studies skills by practicing chronology, map analysis, note taking, document interpretation, and essay writing. Through hands-on learning—such as analyzing artifacts and examining primary sources—they strengthen their ability to think critically and make connections between past and present. Guided by a Christian worldview, students learn how Georgia's story fits into God's greater plan and how history informs their role as citizens and Christ-followers.

Bible

Bible courses at Bethlehem Christian Academy are rooted in the belief that God is the ultimate source of truth and has revealed Himself through His Word. Scripture reminds us in Romans

12:2 to “be transformed by the renewing of your mind,” and in Psalm 119:9–11 to hide God’s Word in our hearts so that we may walk in purity and obedience. In alignment with BCA’s Portrait of a Graduate, Bible instruction equips students to grow as committed Christ-followers who know and love God’s Word, creative problem-solvers who apply biblical truth to life’s questions and challenges, and resilient world-changers who live out their faith with courage and conviction. Through the study of biblical themes, key figures, and essential doctrines, students develop a Christ-centered worldview that strengthens their personal faith and prepares them to impact the world for the glory of God.

Life of Christ (6)

In sixth grade, The Life of Christ curriculum is designed to help middle school students not just learn about Jesus but truly get to know Him personally. Throughout the school year, students explore the story of Jesus’ life—from His birth and ministry to His miracles, death, and resurrection—by looking closely at what the four Gospels say about Him. Each lesson is centered around the question, “*Who is Jesus?*” and includes maps, timelines, and activities that make the Bible come alive for this age group. The lessons meet students where they are—moving them from simply knowing Bible facts to understanding who Jesus is and what that means for their lives.

Missio Dei: Joining God on an Adventure of a Lifetime (7)

This course guides students through the unfolding story of God’s mission in the world. Using Missio Dei: Joining God on the Adventure of a Lifetime, students learn how the Bible tells one unified story of a God who creates, redeems, and invites His people to join Him. Throughout the year, we trace key themes in Scripture, meet important Biblical figures, and consider how God’s mission continues today. The goal is to understand the mission of God while helping students recognize their part in it.

True Hero: New Testament/Jesus (8)

Students will investigate the life, works, and claims of the man who was tried and convicted of claiming to be the King of the Jews. Students will be exploring the life and ministry of Jesus Christ by reading the Gospel of Matthew. The goal is to study and get to know who Jesus Christ is, so that students can better understand who they are and what this means if they choose to be a Christ follower.

The students will also be engaged in reading various Scripture that support the truth of their identity being found in Christ Jesus. We will look at the worldview in comparison to the Biblical view on identity. Students will be challenged to live out Romans 2:10 “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”

Physical Education & Health

At Bethlehem Christian Academy, Physical Education provides students with opportunities to develop strength, coordination, and lifelong fitness habits while understanding that their bodies are created in the image of God. As students engage in individual and team activities, they not

only learn rules, skills, and strategies but also cultivate perseverance, respect, and servant-leadership in a Christ-centered environment.

By incorporating a biblical perspective on health, wellness, and stewardship of the body, students learn to glorify God through discipline, teamwork, and healthy choices. These experiences equip them to grow as confident and resilient individuals who pursue excellence, serve others with humility, and live with purpose—qualities reflected in our Portrait of a Graduate.

Physical Education (6 & 7)

The Physical Education program encourages students to honor God with their bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19–20) by developing fitness, skills, and character through a variety of activities. Students will participate in lead-up games, team sports, and personal fitness training, all within a Christ-centered and encouraging environment. Instruction will cover rules, skills, and strategies of different sports while reinforcing the value of lifelong physical activity and healthy stewardship of the body God has given us. More than athletic performance, this program emphasizes leadership, teamwork, perseverance, and positive competition. Students are reminded that just as the body of Christ works together in unity, teamwork in sports reflects the importance of working with others toward a common goal. Through physical activity, students will build confidence, discipline, and resilience that will equip them for both lifelong fitness and faithful service to the Lord.

Physical Education/Health (8)

(For high school credit)

This course approaches health from both a biblical and scientific perspective, recognizing that God created the human body in His image (Genesis 1:27) and calls us to honor Him by how we care for it. Students will study all aspects of total health—spiritual, physical, mental, emotional, and social—learning that healthy living is part of loving the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mark 12:30).

In Health, students will explore how God designed the body and the importance of stewardship over His creation. They will study nutrition, personal fitness, mental and emotional health, relationships, and lifestyle choices, while also assessing their own habits and setting personal goals for growth.

In Physical Education, students will participate in fitness activities that promote teamwork, perseverance, and confidence. They will practice skills for lifetime fitness, understand principles of peak performance, and learn how using their strength and abilities can glorify God in everyday life.

Eighth grade students who successfully complete this course will earn one high school credit in Health & Physical Education.

Enrichments (6)

6th Grade Enrichments is a block in the daily schedule designed to allow students to explore and enjoy various content in different elective areas and build skills in these areas before 7th–12th grades where they will choose elective courses based on their God-given talents and

interests. Enrichment classes rotate daily and include classes such as: Visual Arts, General Music, Design Studio, SEL, and Media Skills.

Visual Arts

In Visual Arts, students will delve deeper into the process of making art. They will be exposed to various artists, that will not only inspire their art but make them more interested in making artwork that is meaningful to them. This will also be achieved by allowing students more freedom in what they create during a project. They will learn how to make artistic decisions, creative problem solve, and various techniques used in creating artwork. In addition to a growing love for art, Visual Arts aims for students to feel closer to their Creator by creating meaningful works.

General Music

In 6th Grade General Music, students will dive deeper into the art of creating music through singing and playing instruments. Students will learn to read music by engaging in activities that include rhythm reading, learning new instruments, solfege, and sight-singing. Students will also be encouraged to express their musical creativity through activities involving composition and performance. The goal of 6th Grade General Music is to develop a deeper understanding and appreciation for music as an audience member, a performer, and as a form of worship.

Design Studio

The Design Studio promotes meaningful collaborative learning that provides students the opportunity to develop communication skills, problem solving skills, and critical thinking skills. Our focus will be to intersect technology, art, science, engineering, and robotics. Students will be encouraged to generate unique and creative ideas to demonstrate learning and knowledge. They will also continue to expand their general computer knowledge and skills using the Office 365 suite, Schoology, and other web-based programs.

Social & Emotional Learning (SEL)

We define social and emotional learning (SEL) as an integral part of education and human development. God created us in His image with emotions and designed us to live in healthy, loving community with each other. SEL class will focus on the process through which people acquire and apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes to develop healthy, Godly identities, manage emotions and achieve personal and collective goals, feel and show empathy for others with Christ as our example, establish and maintain supportive relationships, and make responsible and caring decisions. We will use the five competencies of SEL as a guide for topics in class: self-awareness, self-management, social awareness, relationship skills, and responsible decision making. These five competencies will be taught and practiced from a biblical perspective with scripture serving as the ultimate guide along with sound, research-based curriculum to deliver practical learning for students to grow into spiritually and emotionally healthy adults.

Media Skills

Students will continue to develop a love of reading and learning in Media Skills class. They will be encouraged to read for pleasure and will have the opportunity to check out library books each session. Students will share what they are reading in fun and interesting ways in Media

Skills. They will also learn to research topics of interest as well as school-related topics using Britannica School and other credible sources. Finding, using, and evaluating information will be a focus of this class. Media Skills will also promote a passion for reading that develops a strong learner in all subject areas.

JH Electives (7-8)

Junior High Electives allow students to explore and enjoy various content in an elective area each semester based on preference and available capacity. It is our goal to give each student at least one semester of their top elective choice each year of Junior High. Elective offerings include: Art, Foundations of Photography, Chorus, STEM Exploration, and Life Skills. Students are surveyed in May for elective preferences.

Art

In junior high art, students express themselves creatively through various mediums and techniques. While developing and planning design strategies for each assignment, students produce original compositions. This foundational course will equip students with desired skills for future art courses. The goal is for each student to walk away from this course with an undeniable realization that God's artistry is EVERYWHERE!

Foundations of Photography: Seeing Through the Lens of Faith

This semester-long photography course invites middle school students to explore the art of photography using a class provided camera as their primary tool. Students will learn key concepts such as composition, lighting, focus, and visual storytelling, all while practicing how to “see” creatively and intentionally. Emphasis will be placed on capturing moments that reflect truth, beauty, and the wonder of God’s creation.

Rooted in a Christian worldview, this course encourages students to use their talents to glorify God and consider how photography can reflect His character and the world He made. Each project is designed to be accessible and meaningful, encouraging students to think deeply about their subject matter.

Chorus

Junior High Chorus is for students interested in developing their God-given musical talents by learning the basics of choral singing and performing in an ensemble. This course is an enrichment opportunity. There will be an emphasis on music theory, sight singing, and vocal technique. A variety of choral music in various genres and languages will be studied and performed. Some performances outside the school day are required.

STEM Exploration

This course engages students in hands-on, interdisciplinary learning through the integration of science, technology, and engineering. Students will explore innovative solutions to real-world challenges while developing critical thinking, creativity, and collaboration skills. Through a variety of tools and technologies, students will design, build, and test ideas in both individual and group settings. The course will also include opportunities to strengthen digital literacy and foundational computer skills.

Life Skills

This elective is designed to increase student knowledge of practical "life-skills" and age-appropriate wisdom while learning to pursue love, peace, and happiness amid a messed-up world of stress, anxiety, and compromise. You will hear about the significance of self-awareness and learn those practical life things that everyone tells you that you need to know in such unique and fun way! Classes will include some amazing guest speakers from inside BCA and the outside community.