



WAKE
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

Course Descriptions Grades 6-8

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Course Descriptions

Grades 6-8

The Middle School at Wake Christian Academy is designed to help students make the transition from the elementary grades to high school. They are given more independence, but they are taught they must be accountable for their choices. Middle school students learn to change classes and manage halls and lockers. They are guided toward adult social skills.

The required courses are listed under each grade level. Electives are included at the end of this booklet. The major texts are listed in the course descriptions, but much supplemental material is also used.

6th Grade

(CP = College Preparatory; H = Honors)

BIBLE

In middle school, students face more decisions on their own. Soon they find that their new freedoms are followed by greater responsibility and higher expectations. This class encourages students to study the wisdom of God as recorded in Proverbs, allowing Him to shape their lives into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Text:

Wise Up (Positive Action for Christ)

Peace Maker (Ken Sande)

ENGLISH

The sixth grade English curriculum includes literature, written and oral communication, vocabulary development, and grammar. Students read short stories, poems, non-fiction selections, and at least two novels. Independent reading is encouraged through book reports and the Accelerated Reader Program. Critical thinking is encouraged as students learn to provide personal response, interpretation, and evaluation of a wide range of literary texts. The curriculum emphasizes narrative, descriptive, clarification,

and persuasive modes of writing.

Texts:

Language C: Writing and Grammar (A Beka)
Vocabulary A (Sadlier-Oxford)

Novel units include the following:

The Hatchet (Paulsen)

The Magician's Nephew (Lewis)

Number the Stars (Lowry)

From the Mixed-Up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (Koniesburg)

WRITERS' WORKSHOP (1/2 unit course)

Writer's Workshop is an extension of the sixth grade English curriculum that also integrates topics from other core subjects. Students use the four steps of the writing process for independent and collaborative writing assignments. Students are introduced to descriptive, clarification, and persuasive writing techniques. Time is allotted for pre-writing activities, multiple drafting, focus on effective writing strategies, and teacher-student interaction. Students are introduced to skills for research-based writing and documentation conventions for avoiding plagiarism. Grammar, usage, and mechanical skills are integrated with writing instruction. Class sizes are small to facilitate individualized instruction.

MATH 6 CP

The Math 6 curriculum emphasizes the basic math skills which will be needed for success in later courses. A hands-on approach is often used to bridge the gap from basic elementary math to middle school topics. Some of the included topics are place value, multiplication and division of fractions, decimals, 3 dimensional geometry, metric measurement, time, money and ratio.

Text: *Math Connects: Course 1* (Glencoe)

MATH 6 HONORS

The honors mathematics curriculum is designed to make the bridge from lower-level to higher-level pre-algebra skills. The topics covered are place value, estimating, decimals, scientific notation, exponents, percentages, money, measurement, fractions, geometric

shapes, integers, order of operations, and equations.

Text: *Math Connects: Course 2* (Glencoe)

SCIENCE/TECHNOLOGY

The sixth grade science curriculum is a study of the wonderful world God has given to us. Students learn about a variety of invertebrates and take part in several outdoor lab activities. They also study the plant kingdom and learn to identify common trees and plants. This is followed by an extensive study of the universe and space. A unit on matter helps students to understand better such concepts as matter, mass, and density. By the conclusion of the year, students have received instruction in life science, earth science, and physical science. Activities completed in the class help the students to develop critical thinking skills while learning basic scientific concepts. They are encouraged to expand their knowledge by doing projects and reports. Experiments, class discussion, group activities, demonstrations, and field trips help the students to grasp the scientific principles being taught.

The sixth grade computer class is totally integrated with the science curriculum and focusses on developing core computer skills while completing projects that teach creativity, critical-thinking and communication skills. Some of the topics covered include: keyboarding, Internet research and safety, effectively using Google Apps for Education, and the Microsoft Office suite.

Text: *Science 6* (Bob Jones Press)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle school physical education is designed to continue to build on the foundation that is established in the elementary course. Instruction is given in various exercises to continue to develop the neuromuscular, loco-motor, and physical fitness skills that will benefit the students throughout their lives. Many sports and sport-related activities are incorporated into this course. Specific sports are explained and demonstrated throughout the course. Students are graded on a combination of participation, basic skills, and written tests. The emphasis of the course is to familiarize the students with many sports and activities that will provide them with enjoyment and continued physical fitness during their lifetimes. Sportsmanship and teamwork are stressed to help the students develop the appropriate attitude towards sports and sport-related activities.

WORLD STUDIES

World Studies introduces the student to a variety of cultures in the world from the first century to present day. This course involves 1) cultural study, which includes governments, economic systems, religions, society, thought and education, and arts and crafts; 2) geography, including location, climate, topography, and the influence of geography on culture; and 3) history, providing the student with a story about each culture. The student will obtain an understanding of how different cultures developed and the interdependence involved in the development and advancement of cultures.

Text: *World Studies for Christian Schools* (Bob Jones Press)

7th Grade

(CP = College Preparatory; H = Honors)

BIBLE

This class will acquaint students with the Bible as a whole. Using their road map, they discover how the Bible's divisions relate, the context of each part, what each book is about, and how each fits into God's scheme. They hear the whole story in a short period with continuity. In this survey study students find passages that invite them to explore truth and discover God's word in action.

Texts:

Route 66 (Positive Action for Christ)

ENGLISH CP

Seventh grade English continues the study of grammar. Students review the parts of speech and sentence structure. Their creativity is encouraged by the first semester's writing assignments. Outlining and types of paragraphs are included in the second semester. Literature studies include topics such as courage, nature and man, generosity, our land, humility, and family. Students are required to do outside reading by assignment of book reports. An intensive study of vocabulary is also included.

Texts:

Grammar and Composition I (A Beka)

Novel units include the following:

Call it Courage (Sperry)

Tracker (Paulsen)

Johnny Tremain (Forbes)

The Bronze Bow (Speare)

Vocabulary Workshop B (Sadlier-Oxford)

ENGLISH HONORS

The seventh grade Honors English course deals with the technical aspects of grammar (such as verbals, phrases, and clauses) as well as all parts of speech and sentence structure. The students will enhance their writing as they study style, word choice, and specific types of essays. Selected classic literary works are read and discussed. An intensive study of vocabulary is also included. Enhanced assignments will be used along with challenging projects.

Texts:

U.S. History-Based Writing Lessons Vol. 1 (Institute for Excellence in Writing)

Daily Grammar Practice (Institute for Excellence in Writing)

Novel units include the following:

Johnny Tremain (Forbes)

Treasure Island (Stephenson)

The Witch of Blackbird's Pond (Speare)

The Bronze Bow (Speare)

PRE-ALGEBRA

Pre-algebra curriculum is designed to prepare a student for Algebra I. The topics covered are properties of addition and multiplication, basic equations and inequalities, number theory, and rational numbers, percents, statistics, radicals, polynomials, and geometry.

Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Glencoe)

MATH 7

The Math 7 curriculum is designed to prepare the student for higher-level pre-algebra skills. The topics covered are place value, estimating decimals, scientific notation, exponents, percentages, money, measurement, fractions, geometric shapes, order of operations, integers, and equations.

Text: *Math Connects Course 2 (Glencoe)*

SCIENCE

The focus of seventh grade science is the study of God's *living* creation. The five living kingdoms—*Monera, Protista, Fungi, Plant* and *Animal*—are included, as well as units on the Human Body and Creation. The course begins with an introduction to the scientific method and related practices in the recording of information. The first unit covers basic cellular structure and processes. Cellular study is continued in an in depth look at the plant kingdom. Photosynthesis and plant reproduction are emphasized. A brief unit on creation and evolution contrasts the false theories of evolution with the biblical support for creation. Information about the small kingdoms of monera, protista, and fungi forms another unit. A unit on the systems of the human body emphasizes the complexity of God's creation. The animal kingdom study is separated into a consideration of vertebrates and invertebrates. This seventh grade course provides a comprehensive study of living organisms and their direct creation by God.

Text: *Life Science (Bob Jones Press)*

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS 1A (1/2 unit course)

Introduction to Computers is a required course for all seventh graders. Its purpose is to make students competitive in the computer age. They acquire the ability to touch type with speed and accuracy. The course includes instruction in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, publisher, newsletters, multi-media presentations and the social and ethical implications of computing.

Text: *Learning with Computers II (South-Western)*

HISTORY

“Who, knowing the facts of history can doubt that the United States of America has been a thought in the mind of God from all eternity? Our sovereign God directs the affairs of men and nations to accomplish His will. God has directed and is still directing America’s history. This course is designed to give 7th grade history students an understanding and appreciation for God’s sovereignty in the affairs of the United States and the state of North Carolina. 7th grade United States history begins with the exploration of the new World and concludes with the Civil War.

Text: *The American Republic for Christian Schools* (Bob Jones Press)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1/2 unit course)

Middle school physical education is designed to continue to build on the foundation that is established in the elementary course. Instruction is given in various exercises to continue to develop the neuromuscular, loco-motor, and physical fitness skills that will benefit the students throughout their lives. Many sports and sport-related activities are incorporated into this course. Specific sports are explained and demonstrated throughout the course. Students are graded on a combination of participation, basic skills, and written tests. The emphasis of the course is to familiarize the students with many sports and activities that will provide them with enjoyment and continued physical fitness during their lifetimes. Sportsmanship and teamwork are stressed to help the students develop the appropriate attitude towards sports and sport-related activities.

8th Grade

(CP = College Preparatory; H = Honors)

BOYS BIBLE

This class will give students an in-depth view of the life and teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ as uniquely presented through the eyes of each of the Gospel writers. In this study of the Gospels students will be examine Jesus’ public ministry, trial, death, burial, and resurrection. Students will also understand how to use money properly and use scriptural principles to make intelligent financial decisions. Students will understand moral absolutes and be encouraged to choose chastity before marriage based on God’s Word. The goal is to teach biblical guidelines in these areas not take the place of parental influence.

Texts: *Money Matters for Teens* (Moody Press)

GIRLS BIBLE

This class will give students an in-depth view of the life and teachings, and ministry of Jesus Christ as uniquely presented through the eyes of each of the Gospel writers. In this study of the Gospels students will be examine Jesus' public ministry, trial, death, burial, and resurrection. Students will also understand how to use money properly and use scriptural principles to make intelligent financial decisions. Students will understand moral absolutes and be encouraged to choose chastity before marriage based on God's Word. The goal is to teach biblical guidelines in these areas not take the place of parental influence.

Texts:

Money Matters for Teens (Moody Press)

For His Glory (Positive Action for Christ)

ENGLISH CP

Eighth grade English deals with the more technical aspects of grammar, (such as verbals, phrases, and clauses) as well as a review of the basics. Writing is taught as the vehicle of communication which makes the study of grammar important. A library unit precedes the research paper. Literature topics deal with choices, friends, and viewpoints. Selected classic literary works are read and discussed. An intensive study of vocabulary is also included.

Texts:

Grammar and Composition II (A Beka)

Novels units include:

Silas Marner (Eliot)

The Giver (Lowry)

The Hound of the Baskervilles (Doyle)

Vocabulary Workshop C (Sadlier-Oxford)

The Hiding Place (Boom)

ENGLISH HONORS

The eighth grade Honors English course deals with the more technical aspects of grammar (such as verbals, phrases, and clauses) as well as all parts of speech and sentence structure. The students' writing will be "polished" as they study style, word choice, and specific types of essays. An intensive study of vocabulary is also included. Enhanced assignments will be used along with challenging projects.

Texts:

Daily Grammar Practice (Institute for Excellence in Writing)

Novel units include:

The Hiding Place (Boom)

Across Five Aprils (Hunt)

In Search of Honor (Hess)

The Giver (Lowry)

U.S. History Board Writing Lessons Vol. 2 (Institute for Excellence in Writing)

ALGEBRA I

The Algebra I curriculum will cover the following topics: Integers and real numbers and their properties; solving single variable equations and inequalities; relations and functions along with graphing; systems of two equations and inequalities; polynomials, their operations and factoring; simplifying radicals and their operations; quadratic equations and functions; and rational expressions and equations.

Text: *Algebra I* (Glencoe)

PRE-ALGEBRA COURSE DESCRIPTION

Pre-algebra curriculum is designed to prepare a student for Algebra I. The topics covered are properties of addition and multiplication, basic equations and inequalities, number theory, and rational numbers, percents, statistics, radicals, polynomials, and geometry.

Text: *Pre-Algebra* (Glencoe)

SCIENCE

Eighth grade science incorporates the various aspects of a study of the earth. Space, weather, and geology comprise the basic outline of the course. The first unit deals with the earth's relationship to space. A brief introduction to early scientists and their ideas about space begins the unit. The sun, moon, and planets are the focus. Modern space exploration, including the moon landing, concludes the unit. The various aspects of weather, such as the atmosphere, weather conditions, storms, and weather prediction, form the next area of study. The last major division of the course deals with understanding the earth with its layers, rocks, minerals, earthquakes, and volcanoes. The water aspect of the earth, such as ocean topography, islands, and glaciers concludes the unit. This science course for eighth grade incorporates the many facets related to a thorough study of the earth.

Text: *Earth Science* (Bob Jones Press)

HISTORY

"Who, knowing the facts of history can doubt that the United States of America has been a thought in the mind of God from all eternity? Our sovereign God directs the affairs of men and nations to accomplish His will. God has directed and is still directing America's history. This course is designed to give 8th grade history students an understanding and appreciation for God's sovereignty in the affairs of the United States and the state of North Carolina. 8th grade United States history begins with the reconstruction of the United States after the Civil War and concludes with America in the 21st Century.

Text: *The American Republic for Christian Schools* (Bob Jones Press)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (1/2 unit course)

Middle school physical education is designed to continue to build on the foundation that is established in the elementary course. Instruction is given in various exercises to continue to develop the neuromuscular, loco-motor, and physical fitness skills that will benefit the students throughout their lives. Many sports and sport-related activities are incorporated into this course. Specific sports are explained and demonstrated throughout the course. Students are graded on a combination of participation, basic skills, and written tests. The emphasis of the course is to familiarize the students with

many sports and activities that will provide them with enjoyment and continued physical fitness during their lifetimes. Sportsmanship and teamwork are stressed to help the students develop the appropriate attitude towards sports and sport-related activities.

INTRODUCTION TO COMPUTERS 1B (1/2 unit course)

Introduction to Computers is a required course for all eighth graders. Its purpose is to make students competitive in the computer age. They acquire the ability to touch type with speed and accuracy. The course includes instruction in word processing, spreadsheets, databases, publisher, newsletters, multi-media presentations and the social and ethical implications of computing.

Text:

Marquee Series Microsoft Office 2010 (EMC Publishing)

Software: *Microsoft Office 2010 (Word, Excel, Access, Publisher, PowerPoint)*

ELECTIVES

ACADEMICS

Yearbook

Yearbook is limited to students in the eighth grade. In this class students will understand the various roles a yearbook serves. They will be asked to sell ads and learn how to plan sections and agendas for the yearbook. Students will be able to recognize and write yearbook copy and understand the roles of the various yearbook staff members.

Home Economics

Home Economics is for seventh and eighth grade students. This class seeks to introduce students to basic homemaking skills and activities. Students will learn about interior design, hand and machine sewing, foods and nutrition, and cooking. Throughout the year, students will have opportunities to apply knowledge gained in class to complete projects and assignments to be used for ministry outreach, including donations of sewing projects to local charities. The

goal of this course is to equip students with knowledge of applicable life skills and to encourage them to use those skills for Christ and others.

Broadcast Journalism

This class combines Journalism with public speaking and film design. In this this course, students will brainstorm, develop, write, film, and edit a short program based on Middle School news. Students will learn skills in, public speaking, news writing, and film recording the completed news program will be shown as part of Middle School announcements

Forensics

This class uses a scientific approach to the investigation of crimes and the psychology of criminal behavior. Students will learn terminology and investigative procedures related to crime scene, questioning, interviewing, criminal behavior characteristics, truth detection, and scientific procedures used to solve crimes. Using scientific methods, students will collect and analyze evidence through case studies and simulated crime scenes such as fingerprints, DNA, blood, fibers, hair, impressions, toxicology, ballistics, handwriting, and bones. Students will work in teams to solve crimes using scientific knowledge and reasoning.

Engineering 1

This course is project-based designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. The student will explore robotics, communication and engineering. Students will learn how to construct a glider, build, and test a scale model of a structure. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which a technological knowledge of the design process and material processes contribute to effective solutions to problems. Brainstorming, modeling, visualizing, constructing, testing, and refining designs provides first hand opportunities to understand the uses and impact of innovation. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they gain from Engineering create a strong foundation for further S.T.E.M. learning.

Text: S.T.E.M Engineering Education (Whitebox Learning)

Engineering 2

This course is project-based designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. The student will explore robotics, communication and engineering. Students will learn how to construct a prosthetic arm and build and test a scale model of a dragster. In group and individual activities, students experience ways in which a technological knowledge of the design process and material processes contribute to effective solutions to problems. Brainstorming, modeling, visualizing, constructing, testing, and refining designs provides first hand opportunities to understand the uses and impact of innovation. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they gain from Engineering create a strong foundation for further S.T.E.M. learning. Engineering 1 is not a pre-requisite.

Text: *S.T.E.M Engineering Education (Whitebox Learning)*

FINE ARTS

Chorus

This choral group is open to any student in grades six through eight. Basic music-reading skills will be reinforced, with emphasis on building the ability to sing three and some four-part music. The student will become acquainted with and be able to recognize different styles of music, such as a cappella, spirituals, hymns, and classical. Proper vocal health and usage will be demonstrated. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts as well as the State Fine Arts Festival and school chapels.

Text: *One Minute Theory (KJOS Music Company)*

Handbells

This instrumental group is open to students in grades six through eight. Experience in bell-ringing is helpful; however, it is not required to participate. The students will learn basic, as well as more advanced, bell techniques in the class. Music reading skills will be reinforced. Proper body posture and performance skills will be demonstrated. They will participate in Christmas and spring concerts, as well as the State Fine Arts Festival and school chapels.

Strings

The pre-requisite for this class is prior violin experience. They will perform for various venues on the WCA campus throughout the year.

Orchestra

This class is for students who have completed Strings.I. Students will continue learning technique and theory, as well as working on string orchestra arrangements. Students perform in various settings, chapel, concerts, and Super Saturday. Students will attend a professional symphony rehearsal.

Band Experience (Band XP)

This group is open to sixth grade band students, although interested 7th or 8th graders may be a part. In this class, students will be introduced to the dynamics of being a part of band at the Middle School level (or the Experience of Band). Students will learn how and what to practice, how to maintain a Practice Log, proper warm-up techniques, scale and technical studies, and concert preparation. This band will play music at a grade 1-2 level on the NC Bandmasters Contest list. In the spring, students will have opportunities to perform at the NCCSA Fine Arts Festival and selected off-campus sites.

Concert Band

This group is open to band students in 7th and 8th grades. Students are expected to maintain a regular practice routine and to complete a practice log each week. Students will have opportunities to perform at the NCCSA Fine Arts Festival and selected off-campus sites.

Art I

This class is open to sixth through eighth grade students. This class will introduce students to basic skills and knowledge necessary to communicate in each art form. By learning the elements and principles of art, working with various media, and evaluating master artist works, students will develop an

awareness and appreciation for art both within the classroom and in their everyday life experiences. The student will learn how to use different mediums such as charcoal, colored pencils, oil pastels, and soft pastels. The students will also use watercolor, acrylic, and tempera paints. These elements and principles will help enhance the student's natural framework of talent.

Art II

This class is open to seventh and eighth grade students. Art I is not a prerequisite. This class is designed to develop concepts necessary for understanding and producing art, to demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of art in the past and present; and to develop an awareness of art as an avocation and profession.

Drama

This course is designed to introduce students to public speaking and performance. Students will be required to memorize and recite publicly, as well as perform skits in chapel. The goal of this course is for students to acquire poise and self-confidence while developing an appreciation for drama and good literature.