

**Middle School
(Grades 6-8)**

**Academic Handbook
Information**

2010-2011

Middle School

Transitioning to the Middle School Years

The middle school years are unique and challenging, a time of guiding young students in developing a closer walk with the Lord. Whether in the classroom, hallways, or playing fields, our faculty and staff desire to impact lives positively for Christ as they help meet the needs of your developing adolescent. The Middle School years also offer the first opportunities for students to have limited options in course selection. The choices incrementally increase from year to year in grades 6-8 as students grow, gaining maturity and starting to develop particular areas of interest and skill. As we help these students grow and develop, we challenge them to integrate a Christ-centered worldview in all areas of life, whether learning in core subject areas, arts electives, athletics, or participating in the variety of Middle School extra-curricular opportunities LRCA offers. This time of transition affords us wonderful opportunities to teach and train our students in foundational ways what it means to do all things to the glory of the Lord as they begin to solidify their identity in Christ and explore their unique design.

Middle School Athletic and Extra-Curricular Placement

Grades 6-8 provide a transitional level between goals of participation and competitive excellence in the realm of athletics and other competitive extra-curricular activities. Student development is a key concept. We maintain and sharpen goals of excellence while acknowledging that these students are in rapid changes of maturity and ability. We want to develop their interests (exploring areas to find the Lord's direction and gifting for them) while also developing their skills in those activities.

We will honestly communicate with students about their current ability level – having tryouts to determine, for example, “A” and “B” team designations in sports or spirit squads, or Principal and Supporting Cast roles, or Instrumental Music Chair distinctions, etc. We also, though, will multiply participation opportunities (for example, having 7th and possibly 8th grade teams in addition to a “Junior High” team in a particular sport) to avoid “cuts.” If large numbers would detract from the quality of an activity for all students involved, we may still have limits on size, but our first choice will be to allow involvement for all students interested.

In a sport that has a limited number of available spots, there will be a period of time for all athletes to be observed with the Athletic Director's approval. The coaching staff of the particular sport will make notification of the try-out procedure. After coaches have reached agreement on a final roster, it will be posted for participants to view. Student athletes who do not make the final roster will meet with the coach to evaluate future possibilities of participation.

Parent Teacher Communication

We believe learning encompasses much more than what is taught in the classroom, and that a coordinated effort between the home and school is the key to success. Therefore, communication with parents is a vital part of the educational process at Little Rock Christian. Teachers are charged with the responsibility of keeping parents informed of student progress, and parents are responsible to give support to the teaching-learning process. Each faculty and staff member of LRCA has an e-mail address which is made known each year to parents. E-mail is one way to easily stay in touch with teachers, and may be the most convenient way to initiate a meeting or ask informational questions. We also encourage parents to take advantage of the Parent Teacher conferences each Fall. In addition, teachers update their electronic gradebooks and lesson plans weekly, so parents may check Parentweb to keep in touch with the details of

a particular subject. Parents and teachers are encouraged to be proactive if there is a concern and to each do their best to communicate clearly and as often as needed to help ensure the best learning experience for the student. Although the previously mentioned methods have been instituted as means with which to keep lines of communication open, communication between the home and school is not restricted to these methods. Constructive parent feedback is always welcome.

SAT Testing

The **Stanford Achievement Test Series**, usually referred to simply as the "**SAT 10**" is one of the leading standardized achievement tests by school districts in the United States for assessing children from kindergarten through high school; it is used to measure academic knowledge of elementary and secondary school students. The test is available in 13 levels that roughly correspond to the year in school. Each level of the test is broken into subtests or strands covering various subjects such as reading comprehension, mathematical problem solving, and science. We administer the SAT 10 in the spring to our students. In addition, for our seventh grade students, we administer the Otis-Lennon School Ability Test (OLSAT). The OLSAT is designed to measure abstract thinking and reasoning ability. We encourage our students to do their very best on the SAT test. Although SAT scores are only one indicator of a student's academic ability, it is a factor that is used in relation to things such as course placement, learner services, etc.

Middle School Learner Services

Learner Services is a facet of our academic program in grades 6-8 intended to identify and assist students with specified learning differences. Recognizing that some students need an extra bit of assistance, our goal is to help each student reach full learning potential. Learner Services professionals provide skills and strategies necessary to best respond to selected students. Services include during or out of class sessions in small group or one on one. Our Learner Services portion of the school website outlines the referral process.

Fees for Middle School Learner Services

Service charges for MS Learner Services will appear on monthly billing statements at the rates listed below:

- Weekly meeting with member(s) of the Learner Services team outside of regular classroom; consultations with teachers, family as needed = \$65 per month.
- 2-3 weekly meetings with member(s) of the Learner Services team outside of regular classroom; consultations with teachers, family as needed = \$80 per month.
- 4-5 weekly meetings with member(s) of the Learner Services team outside of regular classroom; consultations with teachers, family as needed = \$100 per month.
- Study Skills assessment and weekly training; consultations with teachers, family as needed = \$50 per month.

Academic Probation

A student with two or more "Ds" (below 70%) at quarter, or semester's end will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will include a closer scrutiny of and accountability toward student achievement. Little Rock Christian desires to partner with families of students struggling academically. If a student is placed on academic probation, it is expected that parental involvement along with Learner Services and faculty resources will be jointly used to help the struggling student achieve to the best of his/her ability. The administration reserves the right to place students on individualized plans of action

(contract) if deemed necessary to help ensure progress. Progress will be monitored and if, at the conclusion of a semester, the student has not shown improvement, the administration will determine if dismissal will take place.

6th Grade Scheduling & Courses

As students transition from Elementary school (5th) and move into the first year of Middle School (6th), they will experience an upper school schedule for the first time. They will have 7 periods in a school day, comprised of various subject and various teachers in those subjects. Although their elective choices at this level are not as great as those at 7th and 8th grades, they do have an elective choice in the subject of music.

As you will see from the 6th Grade Course Selection Form students will have 5 core classes: Math, Science, English, History and Biblical Worldview. These core classes will each meet 5 hours per week.

In addition, they will have a rotation of Physical Education 2-3 periods per week, Art 2-3 periods per week and their choice of music elective each of which will meet 2-3 periods per week.

6th Grade Mathematics

Sixth grade math reviews computational skills with whole numbers, decimals, and fractions. Students study ratios, proportions, and percents. Simple statistics and probability is covered and students learn to interpret and draw different types of graphs. In geometry, students learn to measure angles and to identify basic geometrical shapes and to find their areas and perimeters. Students are introduced to pre-algebra as they study the order of operations, variables and expressions, and operations with positive and negative numbers. Students will learn to solve simple algebraic equations.

6th Grade Science

The Sixth Grade Science curriculum is a summary of the science taught in grades 1st – 5th. God's creation is taught throughout the course. Although Life, Earth, and Physical Science are taught, emphasis is placed on Physical Science. Hands-on experiments and demonstrations help students understand the concepts. We train students to know that God created us in His image and for His purpose as they explore the beauty and order of His creation.

6th Grade English

This course is designed to introduce students to middle school language arts. It incorporates the study of reading, writing, grammar, and word study. Students will be encouraged to explore many genres in their choice of age appropriate reading material and will cultivate a love for reading through literature circles. Shared novels include *The Magician's Nephew*, *The Horse and His Boy*, *The Lightning Thief*, *Treasure Island*, *The Secret Garden*, and *A Wrinkle in Time*. Students will become more fluent writers as they create narrative, persuasive, expository, and poetry pieces. Grammar skills are studied through mentor texts and within the student's own writing. Knowledge of reading and writing are emphasized as students are challenged to use their expressive skills to the glory of God.

6th Grade World History: The Early Ages

In 6th History, students are challenged to view all of history in light of how God orchestrates events and moves people to bring about His purposes. The course begins with the early civilization in Mesopotamia and continues through the fall of Rome. It includes a study of the development of the ancient peoples of Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, India, China and Rome. The course ends with a look at the rise of Christianity focusing on the first Christians and the spread of Christian ideas.

6th Biblical Worldview

The purpose of Biblical Worldview is to partner with families and churches to train up students, challenging them to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, and a life that passionately follows Christ. Sixth grade Biblical Worldview builds upon the Elementary curriculum beginning with the Survey

of the Old Testament, the redemptive history that lays the foundation for the New Testament. Each section of the Old Testament, the Law, History, Poetry and the Prophets will be studied. The last quarter of the year is devoted to an in-depth study of the Gospel of John. God's nature and role will be emphasized throughout the year.

6th Physical Education

P.E. is a course which incorporates the body mind and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students will be encouraged to respect and reflect the God-given worth of human life, pursue excellence in lifelong fitness and lifetime activities, and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students will be engaged in a variety of lifetime activities (Ultimate Frisbee, Ultimate Football, Floor Hockey, Racket Sports, and Soccer.) Students will exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They will serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the importance of physical activity in overall health. Every 6th grade student will be enrolled in P.E 2-3 periods per week. 6th grade students will not be required to dress out but will participate in school uniform.

6th Art

The art curriculum at LRCA is designed to sharpen student's visual perception, encourage personal expression, and refine problem solving skills. In 6th grade art, students will learn to express themselves as they study the language and materials used in drawing and painting. In addition to self expression, students will learn the value of working with others in producing a work of art. Students will learn the art of illustration, understand the basics of the elements of art, and understand one point perspective. Students will use a variety of materials as they learn to draw realistically and with imagination. They will also use a still life to help develop the skill of drawing realistically. All 6th grade students will take 6th Art which will meet 2-3 periods per week throughout the school year.

6th Beginner Band

Sixth Grade Band offers a great introduction to any student with an interest in a musical instrument. All students are encouraged to participate with homogeneous lessons being offered in saxophone, flute, trumpet and trombone, clarinet and percussion. Percussion is by audition only. Students will perform in both the winter and spring concerts. No previous experience is necessary. Students in beginner Band will meet 2-3 periods per week.

Beginner Strings

Prerequisite: None

Beginning String Orchestra is open to 6th-12th grade. This is a beginner course where the students are offered to play violin, viola, cello or upright bass. This group is required to participate in the winter and spring concerts. They have optional competitions such as Solo and Ensemble. No previous musical experience is necessary. Students in Beginning String Orchestra will meet 2-3 periods per week.

LRCA Singers

This is a mixed chorus Fine Arts elective which meets 2-3 periods per week during the school year. We work on ensemble singing, first in 2 parts, but working up to learning 3 and 4 part harmony as the group develops. This class is open to any 6th grader. We will sing a variety of choral music, sacred and secular, and there are opportunities for solos and small group singing (not required). We learn how to use our voices properly with correct breathing and basic music theory required for singing at this level. Required performances include chapel (not every week, usually one per semester), December and May concerts, and other venues that may arise appropriate for our level of performance.

7th Grade Scheduling and Courses

Seventh grade students will experience a variety in course offerings greater than those in 6th grade. They will have 5 core classes: Math, Science, English, History and Biblical Worldview. These core classes will each meet 5 periods per week.

Seventh grade students who participate in Athletics will want to read the information about Athletics and Extra-Curricular participation in the Middle School years found at the beginning of the MS section of this handbook. Students enrolling in the Athletic period will have their choice of one elective. Seventh grade Athletic period meets 5 periods per week.

Students in 7th grade who do not participate in Athletic period will enroll in 7th-8th P.E. (meeting 2-3 periods per week) and have their choice of two other electives (each meeting 2-3 periods per week).

We encourage families to read the course descriptions carefully as students decide which electives to request for 7th grade.

7th Grade Mathematics

This course covers an overview of mathematics, including operations with fractions, decimals, and integers; coordinate plane; ratio and proportion; applying percents; data analysis and probability; and geometry with two and three dimensional figures. Finally, students will prepare for Pre-Algebra with introduction to patterns and algebraic reasoning, by way of solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

This advanced course prepares student to take Honors Algebra I in 8th grade. In addition to reviewing concepts covered in 7th grade math, topics include simplifying and factoring algebraic expressions using mathematical properties; solving and graphing linear, multi-step equations and inequalities; multiplying and dividing monomials; applying squares and square roots to triangles; and solving real-life word problems using equations.

7th Math Placement

Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's growth according to factors such as God given ability, maturity and readiness in reasoning and working with abstract ideas, motivation, and Mathematics skills and knowledge. We know that students mature at different rates, and that this is often the most important factor. When appropriately placed, students learn best. If placed in a class too difficult, he or she won't learn well and can become discouraged. If placed in a class too easy, he or she isn't being challenged and afforded the opportunity to maximize his/her gifts. Working with parents, we want to fit each student well.

Because of the sequential nature of math, we gather input from several sources in recommending which math class is best for a particular student. We consider the student's previous mathematics grade, overall academic maturation, SAT scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation and parent/student request. The learning experience is optimized when students are appropriately placed, and we do our best to ensure this. We encourage parents to speak with the math teacher if there are any questions or concerns about which is the appropriate course.

In 7th grade, students are normally placed in either 7th grade math or 7th grade Pre-Algebra. There is considerable duplication of coverage in the courses (the difference is more readiness of students to understand concepts and move quickly).

7th Grade Life Science

Seventh Grade Science is a study of all things living. The adventure begins with basic science concepts such as the Scientific Method and tools used in scientific discovery. Our journey continues as we explore cells, genetics, and eleven human body systems. Then comes animal life followed by plants. We reach a higher level of thinking as we look at the relationship between these living things and their environment. And finally, we give our God full credit and praise for the intelligent design of our universe and the way we are “fearfully and wonderfully made.”

7th English

Seventh Grade English is designed to encourage students to incorporate learned grammatical skills into their writing. Students explore and create their own narrative, persuasive, expository, and creative forms of writing. Reading engagement is built by exposing students to the genres of historical fiction, realistic fiction, nonfiction texts, short stories, and poetry. Students learn to engage in critical thinking through close reading, questioning strategies, and literary discussions revolving around our class novels. Works studied include *The Bronze Bow*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, *The Hiding Place*, and *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*.

7th Grade World History: Middle Ages-Enlightenment

As students gain greater knowledge of modern history, we continue to challenge them to view what they learn in light of God’s orchestration of events in bringing about His purposes. Seventh grade World History is the counter-part to 6th grade World History, and is presented chronologically. The course will survey the years from The Rise of Islam through the French Revolution with emphasis on Eastern Hemisphere civilizations and world geography. Class assignments will include reading, simulations, individual and group projects, class discussions, note-taking, creation of timelines, map identifications, and occasional writing assignments.

7th Biblical Worldview

The purpose of Biblical Worldview (Grades K4-12) is to partner with families and churches to train up students, challenging them to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, and a life that passionately follows Christ. Units of study for 7th Grade Biblical Worldview include New Testament books James, Ephesians, Philippians, and I Corinthians. As we study these books and other material, we focus on understanding and forming identity in Christ, building Christian character, relationships, and stewardship. We also learn about spiritual gifts and practicing the spiritual disciplines. Students are challenged to live Christianly as we move through these various units of study and learn what God’s Word says about these topics.

7th-8th Physical Education

P.E. is a course which incorporates the body mind and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students will be encouraged to respect and reflect the God-given worth of human life, pursue excellence in lifelong fitness and lifetime activities, and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students will be engaged in a variety of lifetime activities (Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Volleyball, Speedball, Badminton, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, and Fishing.) Students will also take part in the Presidential Fitness Program. Students will exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They will serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the important of physical activity in overall health. Students in 7th and 8th grade will be required to dress out for each class period in the locker room in the gym. This class will meet 2-3 periods per week.

7th Grade Athletic Period

Seventh grade Athletic Period will meet during 1st period during the school year. In season sports can expect to begin practice at the designated time before school in order to allow for sufficient transition time for the student to ready for 2nd period. Each coach will notify his/her players of specifics related to the sport. Girls playing Volleyball or Basketball and boys playing Football or Basketball need to sign up for 7th Grade Athletic Period on the 7th Grade Course Selection Form. If parents or students have questions regarding participating in 7th Grade sports we encourage you to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest. During off season, students will participate in off season cardio and strength training activities.

7th Art

Seventh grade art is an elective course that meets 2-3 times per week during the school year. In this course, students will build on concepts studied and skills acquired in previous art instruction in relation to color, shape, form, space, texture, dimension, negative space, etc. In addition, students will spend time studying color theory and composition and learn the art of printmaking. Also, more experience into the study of 3-dimensional art will be a key component of this course. We challenge students to continue to examine God's creation as they explore the nature of what is true and beautiful in relation to the visual arts.

Junior High Concert and Marching Band

Junior High Concert and Marching Band is made up of students with at least one year of playing experience. This group participates in both the winter and spring concerts as well as having the opportunity to be involved in solo/ensemble groups. Marching band is optional at the Junior High level. Students in Junior High Concert and Marching Band will meet 2-3 periods per week.

Beginning String Orchestra

Beginning String Orchestra is open to 6th-12th grade. This is a beginner course where the students are offered to play violin, viola, cello or upright bass. This group is required to participate in the winter and spring concerts. They have optional competitions such as Solo and Ensemble. No previous musical experience is necessary. Students in Beginning String Orchestra will meet 2-3 periods per week.

String Orchestra

Prerequisite: At least one year playing experience

String Orchestra is open to students who have at least one year playing experience. Violin, viola, cello and upright bass are available in this group. They are required to participate in the winter and spring concerts. They have optional competitions such as Solo and Ensemble. They will learn to perform more advanced music. Students in String Orchestra will meet 2-3 periods per week.

7th & 8th Mixed Chorus

Seventh and Eighth Grade Mixed Chorus Class is a Fine Arts Elective which meets 2-3 periods a week. Instruction in good vocal techniques will be emphasized, along with basic skills in sight-reading and harmonization in two to four parts. Both boys and girls receive instruction to develop their changing voices as they mature, and a variety of vocal musical styles from sacred to Broadway/pop to gospel will be explored. Students may voluntarily audition for the Jr. High All-Region Choir. Try-outs are usually held in October. For students interested in participating in this outstanding learning opportunity, more information will be made available in the fall semester. 7th & 8th Mixed Chorus has three required performances in the school year. Attendance at these performances and their rehearsals is mandatory and graded.

Middle School Drama

Middle School Drama will offer the students an opportunity to learn about plays, musicals, acting, singing, dancing, designing, and reviewing shows. Where else can you watch a black-and-white pirate movie, then design pirate costumes? Where else can you work on monologues, then write and perform your own piece? Can you watch a musical then learn the choreography from it, anywhere else? No one else even dares to teach the cha-cha, the twist, and the pony dance. Geared with guys in mind, also, here's your chance to star! Students will get over being shy, be willing to give it their best try, laugh at themselves, and learn to interact and encourage each other. The students are required to attend the fall and spring productions. The course is geared towards building self-confidence and finding out how much fun doing theatre can be! This course will meet 2-3 times per week.

7th & 8th Service

The purpose of Service is for students to learn what Biblical service looks like through hands-on experience. Students will spend the first few weeks in the classroom learning about service, identifying individual strengths and interests, and understanding expectations that come with this unique course. Students will be placed where the need is greatest and where the teacher believes he/she is best suited. Student input will be considered in the placement process. Placement will be on campus and students will report to a selected LRCA staff member (teacher, librarian, office manager, playground teacher, facility manager, coach, administrator, etc.) on specific days 2-3 times per week.

7th & 8th Computer Applications

This course is designed to provide students with basic fundamental computer skills utilizing Microsoft Office Suite, which includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher. Students will learn how to use common features in these programs to apply to documents, spreadsheets and projects, while learning Internet searching skills and how to cite sources. Keyboarding skills will be enhanced. This course will meet 2-3 times per week.

8th Grade Scheduling and Courses

Eighth grade is an exciting time for Middle School students. As they mature physically, they also experience increasing cognitive maturation that allows for more challenging coursework. In keeping with this, we offer more elective choices to our 8th grade students, and in Math and Foreign Language, the opportunity to earn High School credit.

As you will see from the 8th Course Selection Form, each 8th grade student will be enrolled in five core classes: Math, Science, English, History, and Biblical Worldview. These core classes will each meet 5 hours per week.

Eighth grade students who participate in Athletics will want to read the information about Athletics and Extra-Curricular participation in the Middle School years found at the beginning of the MS section of this handbook as well as the course description.

Students in 8th grade who do not participate in sports will enroll in 7th-8th P.E. (meeting 2-3 periods per week) and have their choice of other electives.

We encourage families to read the course descriptions carefully as students decide which electives to request for 8th grade, keeping in mind that factors such as test scores, teacher recommendation, and academic maturity are taken into consideration for students requesting advanced coursework in Math and Foreign Language.

8th Pre-Algebra

Pre-algebra is a course designed for middle school students. The objective of this course is to better prepare the student for the study of Algebra. Pre-Algebra includes several broad subjects such as the review of natural and whole number arithmetic, factorization, properties, exponents, variables and basic equations. Pre-algebra also includes some basic concepts from geometry that further understanding of algebra, such as area, volume, and perimeter.

Honors Algebra I (1 HS credit)

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

This course is designed to introduce the symbolism and concepts of Algebra and applications to problem-solving. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, an introduction to functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, and simplifying rational and radical expressions.

8th Math Placement

Our goal is to place each student in the best class for the student's growth according to factors such as God given ability, maturity and readiness in reasoning and working with abstract ideas, motivation, and Mathematics skills and knowledge. We know that students mature at different rates, and that this is often the most important factor. When appropriately placed, students learn best. If placed in a class too difficult, he or she won't learn well and can become discouraged. If placed in a class too easy, he or she isn't being challenged and afforded the opportunity to maximize his/her gifts. Working with parents, we want to fit each student well.

Because of the sequential nature of math, we gather input from several sources in recommending which math class is best for a particular student. We consider the student's previous mathematics grade, overall academic maturation, SAT scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, teacher recommendation and

parent/student request. The learning experience is optimized when students are appropriately placed, and we do our best to ensure this. We encourage parents to speak with the math teacher if there are any questions or concerns about which is the appropriate course.

In 8th grade, students are normally placed in either 8th grade Pre-Algebra or Honors Algebra I. Students who increase in maturity and math development in later years and wish to advance may do so by doubling in Geometry and Honors Algebra II in the HS years (9th or 10th grade). This would lead to being eligible for Pre-AP Pre-Calculus and AP Calculus courses. We encourage parents to read through the sequencing portion of HS Math section of the Academic Handbook for more information about where choice of 8th math course can lead for future years.

8th Grade Science

Science in the 8th grade uses an inquiry-based approach to learn the concepts and processes of the Earth, with a strong emphasis placed on the ways and means of doing science. There are four broad areas. These include Geology- the processes, properties, and composition of the solid Earth; Meteorology- the water cycle and weather systems; Oceanography- the composition and properties of the Earth's oceans, and how they affect the Earth; Astronomy- all physical objects beyond Earth. Eighth grade science invites students to explore and appreciate God's creation, while developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become good stewards of the planet He has entrusted to our care.

8th Grade English

This course is designed to advance each student's reading and writing skills. Current young adult novels including *The Outsiders* and *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* as well as classical literature such as *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Romeo and Juliet* will be used to study literary terms and build comprehension strategies. Students will be encouraged to explore many genres in their choice of reading material. Students will become more fluent writers as they create descriptive pieces, persuasive writing, poetry, narrative stories, and nonfiction pieces. Students will be challenged to communicate their faith through their writing and interpret the stories they read using their Christian worldview. Grammar skills are studied through mentor texts and within the student's own writing.

8th American History

In 8th grade American History students learn about the making of the United States, starting from the migration across Beringia from Asia to America and ending with the United States emergence as a world power at the start of the 20th century. Students exercise critical thinking skills and learn to think like historians as they analyze and interpret primary sources like old diaries, letters, paintings, and memoirs. Students are challenged to search for God's purpose in historical events so they may know Him better and learn important lessons from the past.

8th Biblical Worldview

The purpose of Biblical Worldview (Grades K4-12) is to partner with families and churches to train up students, challenging them to a deeper understanding of the Christian faith, and a life that passionately follows Christ. In 8th BWV we will look at how the church was established and how we acquired the 66 books that comprise our Bible with a focus on the latter part of the book of John and the book of Acts. In addition, we will do an in-depth exploration of the commitment and cost of discipleship looking at the lives of men and women who have given up their lives to be a disciple of Christ. Our study of church doctrine will include an examination of the Nicene Creed, the Westminster Shorter Catechism, and the LRCA doctrinal statement. In our pursuit of Wisdom we will go through the books of Psalms and Proverbs and also cover topics such as abstinence, anger, and morals. Students will be challenged to examine God's work in their own lives and learn more about what it means to have a personal

relationship with God, focusing on devotion, worship, and prayer. Finally, as we study Scripture, we will learn about a wide array of tools and tips in how to grasp the true meaning of the text as we study.

7th-8th Physical Education & Health

P.E. is a course which incorporates the body mind and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students will be encouraged to respect and reflect the God-given worth of human life, pursue excellence in lifelong fitness and lifetime activities, and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students will be engaged in a variety of lifetime activities (Ultimate Frisbee, Basketball, Volleyball, Speedball, Badminton, Field Hockey, Lacrosse, and Fishing.) Students will also take part in the Presidential Fitness Program. Students will exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They will serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership. The goal of this course is to provide physical activity in an engaging way while learning about the important of physical activity in overall health. Students in 7th and 8th grade will be required to dress out for each class period in the locker room in the gym. This class will meet 2-3 periods per week.

8th Athletic Period (Junior High)

Eighth Grade Athletic Period will meet during 7th period and practice will continue briefly after school as needed. Each coach will notify his/her players of specifics related to the sport. Girls playing Volleyball or Basketball and boys playing Football or Basketball need to sign up for 8th Grade Athletic period on the Course Selection Form. If parents or students have questions regarding participating in 8th Grade sports we encourage you to speak with the coaches of the particular sport of interest. During off season, students will participate in off season cardio and strength training activities.

French I – 2 Semesters (1 HS credit)

Prerequisites: Administrative approval based on review of student's academic maturity

Students acquire the ability to understand spoken and written French, and to begin to communicate their thoughts orally and in writing. A diverse vocabulary and sense of the French language's overall grammatical structure is obtained through the use of bi-weekly stories intended to engage the specific interests of each class of students. During the first semester the students practice *absorbing* the French language, and during the second semester the students focus more on *producing* the French language, both orally and in writing. Within the context of each story, students will be introduced to regular and irregular verbs in the present and past tenses, subject pronouns, possessive pronouns, prepositions, and vocabulary that includes units of time, colors, family members, food, locations, and emotions. Occasional projects are assigned to deepen the students' insight into the various French-speaking cultures.

Spanish I – 2 Semesters (1 HS credit)

Prerequisites: Administrative approval based on review of student's academic maturity

Spanish I is a beginning high school course in Spanish language and culture. It introduces students to the language and develops their proficiency in speaking, listening, reading and writing in Spanish. In addition, the students' knowledge of Hispanic cultures will be enhanced through the use of music, videos, readings, etc. At the end of Level I, students should be able to engage in simple conversations within the limitations of their knowledge of vocabulary and sentence structure. Students are expected to read, write and speak about themselves and their immediate world, including their interests, school life, family, and friends. As part of the cultural component of the course, students will engage in discussing topics such as family life, traditions, and food. Daily participation, tests, quizzes, projects, and class work are all components of the students' grade.

8th Art

Eighth grade art is an elective course that meets 2-3 times per week during the school year. As students delve more deeply into the world of visual arts, they are given opportunity to express themselves and their ideas and capture the beauty of God's creation. A review of materials, media, the elements of art, and art history are components of this course. Students will continue to build on the skills and information they have learned in past art instruction, as well as have the opportunity to create 3 dimensional art. Incorporate the use of textiles in their art, learn different printmaking techniques, and create a work of art in one point perspective. In 8th Art, students are encouraged to develop individual style and begin to identify the unique ability which they have been gifted as they explore various forms of visual arts.

Junior High Concert and Marching Band

Junior High Concert and Marching Band is made up of students with at least one year of playing experience. This group participates in both the winter and spring concerts as well as having the opportunity to be involved in solo/ensemble groups. Marching band is optional at the Junior High level. Students in Junior High Concert and Marching Band will meet 2-3 periods per week.

Beginning String Orchestra

Beginning String Orchestra is open to 6th-12th grade. This is a beginner course where the students are offered to play violin, viola, cello or upright bass. This group is required to participate in the winter and spring concerts. They have optional competitions such as Solo and Ensemble. No previous musical experience is necessary. Students in Beginning String Orchestra will meet 2-3 periods per week.

String Orchestra

Prerequisite: At least one year playing experience

String Orchestra is open to students who have at least one year playing experience. Violin, viola, cello and upright bass are available in this group. They are required to participate in the winter and spring concerts. They have optional competitions such as Solo and Ensemble. They will learn to perform more advanced music. Students in String Orchestra will meet 2-3 periods per week.

7th & 8th Mixed Chorus

Seventh and Eighth Grade Mixed Chorus Class is a Fine Arts Elective which meets 2-3 periods a week. Instruction in good vocal techniques will be emphasized, along with basic skills in sight-reading and harmonization in two to four parts. Both boys and girls receive instruction to develop their changing voices as they mature, and a variety of vocal musical styles from sacred to Broadway/pop to gospel will be explored. Students may voluntarily audition for the Jr. High All-Region Choir. Try-outs are usually held in October. For students interested in participating in this outstanding learning opportunity, more information will be made available in the fall semester. 7th & 8th Mixed Chorus has three required performances in the school year. Attendance at these performances and their rehearsals is mandatory and graded.

Middle School Drama

Middle School Drama will offer the students an opportunity to learn about plays, musicals, acting, singing, dancing, designing, and reviewing shows. Where else can you watch a black-and-white pirate movie, then design pirate costumes? Where else can you work on monologues, then write and perform your own piece? Can you watch a musical then learn the choreography from it, anywhere else? No one else even dares to teach the cha-cha, the twist, and the pony dance. Geared with guys in mind, also, here's your chance to star! Students will get over being shy, be willing to give it their best try, laugh at themselves, and learn to interact and encourage each other. The students are required to attend the fall and spring productions. The course is geared towards building self-confidence and finding out how much fun doing theatre can be!

7th & 8th Service

The purpose of Service is for students to learn what Biblical service looks like through hands-on experience. Students will spend the first few weeks in the classroom learning about service, identifying individual strengths and interests, and understanding expectations that come with this unique course. Students will be placed where the need is greatest and where the teacher believes he/she is best suited. Student input will be considered in the placement process. Placement will be on campus and students will report to a selected LRCA staff member (teacher, librarian, office manager, playground teacher, facility manager, coach, administrator, etc.) on specific days 2-3 times per week.

8th Leadership

Leadership is designed to help students learn and practice Biblical leadership. Students will study leading through serving, the importance of character and modeling, the power of positive leadership in both formal and informal leadership roles, and practical tools such as vision and delegation. Students will learn the value of clear and effective communication skills and grow in the area of public speaking and presenting. This class will have guest speakers, study Scripture and current materials, and transition from ideas to application, which is accomplished through the practice of leading by serving. Students will create two service projects of their choice that they will plan, lead, and then reflect on learning and present to class. This class will meet 2-3 times per week.

8th Grade Logic

Formal Logic is designed to hone the critical thinking skills of the student by introducing them to the process and practice of deductive reasoning. This type of reasoning deals with logical arguments, which the student will learn to identify and construct on their own. By covering such topics as statements and their relationships, defining terms, syllogisms and validity, arguments in normal English, and informal fallacies, students will be able to analyze an argument to see that the main point is sufficiently supported, or that errors, misdirections, or fallacies lie within. This will give students confidence in constructing their own arguments and proofs. This class will meet 2-3 times per week.

7th & 8th Computer Applications

This course is designed to provide students with basic fundamental computer skills utilizing Microsoft Office Suite, which includes Word, PowerPoint, Excel and Publisher. Students will learn how to use common features in these programs to apply to documents, spreadsheets and projects, while learning Internet searching skills and how to cite sources. Keyboarding skills will be enhanced. This course will meet 2-3 times per week.