



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
2019-20
8th GRADE

I. CORE CLASSES:

- Bible 8:** Eighth grade Bible class will dive into the revolutionary life of Jesus Christ. We focus on the life, example and message of Jesus Christ and examine how His life impacted our world. As we study Jesus, we will learn how to defend our faith through God Quest by Sean McDowell, hiding specific scripture in our heart through memorization. We will learn to view our life & world through the perspective of Jesus. We will continue to meet monthly in gender based breakout groups where we can have deeper discussions on application. We will dare to ask and answer Tough Questions according to the Bible.
- English 8:** English 8 includes the review and application of the eight parts of speech and the principles of grammar. The elements of literature, reading comprehension, and vocabulary enrichment will also be emphasized. Following the steps of the writing process, and using the 6 +1 trait model of effective writing, students will be required to write in a variety of modes. Oral expression and the process and development of a formal research report will also be a focal point.
- History 8:** United States History Beginnings-1877
Students survey the development of the United States spanning from colonial times through the Reconstruction period. Critical events, issues, and individuals are analyzed with a biblical worldview. In addition, the course emphasizes the growth of basic study skills, critical thinking and communication. Themes of geography, politics, economics, religion, and social culture are woven into each unit. Current events are discussed on a weekly basis.
- Science:** (Earth & Life Science alternates in 7th and 8th grade)
- Earth Science is a study of God's creation; it is about discoveries! In this course students will develop an understanding of the planet on which we live by broadening their view of the environment in which it is found. The elements that make up this study are space, the atmosphere, the lithosphere (the solid part of the earth) and the hydrosphere (the water that covers the earth's surface).
- In Life Science the students have the opportunity to look at life from the simplest single cell to the most complex organism. The major concepts covered during the year include cells, genetics, microbiology, plant biology, animals from simple to complex, and a study of how things exist together in their environment. Students will have the opportunity to learn with hands on experiments and observations, using the scientific method and inquiry in a practical way.
- Algebra I:** Algebra 1 is a college prep course (High School equivalent) with emphasis on algebraic problem solving and applications. Course content includes properties of real numbers, graphing and solving linear equations and functions, writing and solving systems of linear equations and inequalities, exponents and exponential functions, quadratic equations, polynomials and factoring, rational equations and functions, introduction to geometry.
- Geometry:** Geometry will develop reasoning and problem solving skills as student's study topics such as congruence and similarity, and apply properties of lines, triangles, quadrilaterals, and circles. It will also develop problem-solving skills in students using length, perimeter, area, circumference, surface area, and volume.

II. ELECTIVES:

(Please remember that electives happen each semester also based on the number of students who sign up for that particular electives class. If students don't sign up, that elective may not happen that semester)

Art Foundation:

In Art Foundation class students work with a variety of media for 2D projects such as painting, collage, printmaking and drawing, and 3D project designs for clay, glass and mixed media. In the variety of projects, foundational art concepts that are significant for building strong art are explored. We will look at the work of other artists to find connections to the work that we do. Students are challenged and guided to work through creative processes to skillfully design and strategize for their unique perspective to be shared in their art work. Students are given strategies to build skill for planning and to develop consistent work habits for both their independent work and for teamwork that makes space for an innovative and creative work environment.

1st SEMESTER

Choir:

Students in Choir will participate in learning and performing various genres of music throughout the year. They will be responsible for practicing and knowing their music for each rehearsal they come to. Students should have basic music theory knowledge (ability to read notes and follow the music), and be able to harmonize. The required performances throughout the first semester include: Pastor Appreciation Chapel, Legacy Breakfast, Christmas Concert, Community Christmas Caroling field trip, and several chapels.

1st SEMESTER

Drama

Workshop:

This is an introduction into the world of improv and short skits. Drama Workshop is designed to teach specific skills to grow each student in their dramatic abilities. You will sharpen your creative thinking skills, communication and teamwork. We will explore how to serve others through drama as we bring Bible stories to life in elementary classrooms and through hands on workshops. This is only offered first semester. The second semester: Drama Production will include the opportunity to participate in the spring production.

2nd SEMESTER

Choir/Musical Theater

Drama

Production:

Tryouts will be held prior to the beginning of the second semester. In an effort to honor God with an excellent production and limit after school practices, those students with solo songs will also be expected to sign-up for Choir. Everyone in drama will likely have crowd or narrator parts in the play. Additional tasks include Publicity, Set Design and Construction, Costume Design and Stage Crew and Sound. A Stage Manager is the perfect role for someone who is organized and does not desire an on-stage role. All roles are essential to the production and everyone in Drama will also be expected to be present for all Dress rehearsals held after regular school hours. Every effort will be made to limit after school performances. Drama may rehearse until 3:00pm as the production date draws near, so parents will be encouraged to arrive toward the end of dismissal window when necessary.

Goals: We will work together to tell a wonderful story for the appreciation of our audience. We will honor God by telling, in music, and in the telling the story of this year's production. Students will grow in their confidence in public speaking and performance. Students will enjoy the experience of roleplaying, of overcoming fears, and of encouraging interactions. Students will learn about the multi-faceted business of producing a play on a large scale and play a critical role in its success.

THIS CLASS IS ONLY OFFERED 2ND SEMESTER. It is a 90 minute class, that is during 6th and 7th period.

French:

This class will provide the student with the tools necessary to excel in high school French I. Students will begin with basic vocabulary such as the calendar, numbers, money, grammar, rules of nouns, adjectives and regular verbs. Woven into classroom instruction will be elements of French culture, games and songs. Croissants avec Nutella, from age and escargot may be on the menu. Boules will be played

.First Semester Only

Fun With

Engineering:

Some of the things we will be doing in this class are **deconstruction** and reconstruction of small appliances while discovering how they work. We will investigate and experiment with robotics, gears, and simple motors. If you like Junkyard Wars and Myth Busters...this hands on teambuilding class is for you! This class may only be taken once a year.

Health:

The purpose of health is to present the Bible as the foundation for a healthy lifestyle. The class will integrate the physical, mental social and spiritual dimensions of life.
One semester of health is required between 6th and 8th grade.

**Intro to
Computer
Science:**

In this course students will receive an introduction to the principles of computer science. They will learn and use the Python programming language to learn the fundamentals of programming. Beyond learning about programming, they will delve into learning about manipulating data, algorithms and the creative problem solving accessible through computer science.

Math

Tutorial:

(For 7th and 8th grade students only)

Math Tutorial is provided to enable students to get one-on-one help as they complete daily math assignments. The class will not assign additional math work; rather, students will receive further instruction and assistance with concepts that have been presented in the existing math class. A Learning Target Journal and occasional Khan math mission assignments are the two additional pieces that will require "in class" work. The goal is to provide an additional resource for students who need extra time to complete assignments or who need extra explanation to understand. Admission into this class will be finalized by Mr. Buchanan and not simply awarded because a student turned his/her electives form in first.

Coed PE:

Physical education is taught from a Christian worldview. In other words, the teaching of scripture provides the framework for proper thinking regarding the human body, its creation, development, and designed purpose.

Goal of physical education – My goal is to “Mold or develop each student’s body for the purpose of being a tool for God’s purposes”.

Emphasized areas of physical development are:

1. Balance
2. Flexibility
3. Rhythm
4. Strength
5. Endurance
6. Hand-eye coordination
7. Foot-eye coordination
8. Agility

A typical forty-five-minute class period will consist of:

1. The Agility Game or some type of fun movement activity.
2. Short class gathering, where I introduce or review the Christian worldview of physical education, and necessary cognitive material.
3. Various PE problems that challenge students, and promotes the established area of development as listed above.
4. Typically, a large group game that again promotes the established area of development, plus secondary areas of development.
5. I strive to make the entire forty-five minutes a valuable time of body development, and fun.

PE is required at least once a year unless the student is involved in out of school athletics.

Middle School

Leadership: Leadership class will work on special events and service opportunities around the school. This class will focus on the core truths in scriptures of "Do unto others" and "Whatever you have done to the least of my brothers, you have done unto me." Understanding that the true definition of leadership is rooted in service. We will study Jesus' servant leadership and find fun and creative ways to serve our school and community. Learning experiences include leadership training, school events, random acts of kindness around school, and serving our Lighthouse family in tangible ways.

Middle School

Band:

Middle School Band is the advanced instrumental group that performs in the Christmas and Spring concerts, the ACSI Musicales, other school assemblies, pep rallies and chapels, and marches in the Maritime Gig. Students will learn more advanced music theory, articulation and rhythmic patterns, and will be exposed to the new concepts of blend, balance, and intonation (playing in tune). They will learn to play jazz rhythms and pep band tunes for pep rallies. They will also learn basic band leadership skills, including tuning the band and basic directing. This course is designed for students with at least one-year experience, however, students without any prior experience will still be able to participate.

****This is a full year commitment class. Parents please contact Mr. Roddy to make changes.**

Percussion & Drumline

This class is for students who want to be a part of a rhythmic team that plays percussion instruments and performs both as an individual ensemble and with the MS Band. Percussion instruments include; snare drum, bass drum, timpani, tom-toms, crash and suspended cymbals, triangle, tambourine, and drum-set and more; and mallet instruments include the bells and xylophone. Students will be expected to learn how to play both drums and mallet instruments. We will play a variety of music, including concert band music to perform with the MS Band and attend the ACSI Musicale in March and the Spring Concert; drumline cadences and Pep Band music for Pep Rallies and chapels; jazz, and other percussion music. *Students are required to have a "Basic Percussion Kit" that includes a stick bag with a small drum practice pad, 2 pairs of drumsticks and one pair of bell mallets. You may order a percussion kit from Mrs. Sharrett for \$50.*

Each student will be charged a \$50 'Percussion Use Fee' to help defray the cost of repairing and replacing LCS percussion instruments.

Print

Media:

This course familiarizes students with the editing capabilities of Adobe Photoshop software. Students will learn how to use the Photoshop interface and access its expansive set of features to create their own designs.

Spanish I:

The Spanish I course is designed to help middle school students prepare for high school level Spanish by laying the foundation necessary to acquire the basic skills of Spanish grammar and conversation. Instruction focuses on basic vocabulary, such as greetings, telling time, common nouns, adjectives and regularly used verbs. They will develop listening, speaking, reading, and writing language skills which are increasingly important to the global community and our communities here in the U.S. Students will also be exposed to the geography and cultural components of the Spanish-speaking world, such as music, literature, food, celebrations. Students who have never had exposure to the Spanish language will benefit greatly too!

One semester of a foreign language is required to be taken between 6th and 8th grade.

Spanish II:

The Spanish II course is designed to continue building on what was learned in Spanish I. By the end of Spanish II students will have learned the vocabulary and verb conjugations necessary to help them comfortably navigate their first year of high school Spanish grammar. Also covered in this course is exposure to the social customs and cultural differences of the Spanish-speaking world. I have had several former students who with application and diligence in all four semesters of Spanish at LCS, upon entering high school, tested out of Spanish 1 or have been placed in an honors class. **Pre-requisite: Spanish I**

One semester of a foreign language is required to be taken between 6th and 8th grade.

Speech & Debate :

Students will learn the techniques for building and delivering a successful speech. They will utilize their speaking skills to participate effectively in debate. In addition, students will sharpen their ability to analyze and critique speeches and debates delivered by others. The class will involve discussion of current controversial issues and assist students in developing and supporting personal opinion.

Speech & Debate 1st semester only

Study Hall:

This class offers students time to finish work independently with teacher supervision. The 6th period option is not a tutoring class. The 7th period option will be more for students in Pre-Algebra needing extra help with Math. Students are **required** to bring a reading book to class EVERYDAY in case they do not have homework or studying to do.

Videography:

The primary goal of this course is to serve as a foundation for exploration in digital video, artwork and storytelling. Students will write, direct, act, shoot, and edit short videos, with beginning and intermediate instruction. Students will also partner with the administration to create videos for school events.

World

Languages:

This course will give students the opportunity to explore through Mango Languages, an online program, various world languages. Students will choose one target language and continue the study of that language for the semester. Each language has Cultural Notes, which give students information about the customs and culture of the countries where their language is spoken. Grammar Notes, point out grammatical rules and differences in the different countries where their language is spoken. Languages made available through Mango Languages are: Spanish, French, Italian, Brazilian (Portuguese), Latin, German, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Arabic, and Russian. While students are learning in the classroom, families are encouraged to take advantage of this opportunity by connecting with the student's profile and adding up to four family members who wish to learn a language.

"One language sets you in a corridor for life. Two languages open every door along the way."—Frank Smith, linguist.

One semester of a foreign language is required to be taken between 6th and 8th grade.

3D Printing:

In this elective, students will have the exciting opportunity to learn about 3D printing. Students will begin learning about the design process and how to develop solutions by creating models with 3D printing objects.