

# 2023-2024 Middle School Course Catalog



Dear middle school students and parents,

The following course description guide will help selecting classes for the 2023-2024 school year. Please contact the Guidance office if you need any help in this process.

If you are entering 6<sup>th</sup> grade next year, here are a few things to keep in mind.

- All 6<sup>th</sup> graders will take Social Studies, Science, Bible, PE, Math, and English. Math and English do have honors sections available to students who score high enough on placement testing, standardized testing, previous academic courses and also have received teacher placements.
- The following are the elective choices available for 6<sup>th</sup> grade:
  - Students can select to take one of the following year-long electives: Beginning Band or Chorus.
  - Or, students can select the “Wheel” (Study Skills, STEM, Art, Drama) which allows students to take four different courses; one per quarter.

If you are entering 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade, here are a few things to keep in mind.

- All 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders will take Social Studies, Bible, Science, Math, and English. Math, Science, Social Studies, and English have an honors section available to students who score high enough on placement testing, standardized testing, previous academic grades and also receive teacher placements.
- 8<sup>th</sup> graders may begin fulfilling their high school foreign language credits by taking High School Spanish I. Please refer to the course description for prerequisite requirements. Students who opt for this path should be prepared to continue through at least three levels of Spanish when in high school. Math courses may also be taken for high school credit if the pre-requisite courses have been successfully completed, along with a teacher placement. Students will still take a math class every year they are in high school, so this option is for students who desire to continue in the higher levels of math.
- Career and Life Choices is a required elective in middle school. Students must select this semester elective either in 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade.

Please contact the Guidance office with any questions.

In His Service,

The Guidance Department

## **Middle School Courses**

All courses at The Master's Academy are considered college prep - students learn the content and skills that are required for progressing toward college. However, we offer two types of classes in our Middle School: college prep and honors classes depending on the grade level of the student (honors classes are not available in all subject areas).

1. College prep classes provide a rigorous curriculum that meets the needs of the majority of students.
2. Honors classes are designed for students who excel in the particular subject and require a faster-paced, more in-depth, and challenging course of study.

Before being enrolled in an honors level course a prerequisite class, minimum grade, and teacher placement are required. Parents often have questions about why a student is placed in a college prep class instead of honors or visa versa. Each teacher wants every child to achieve his or her personal best, and this is more likely to happen if the child is placed into classes appropriate to the child's needs, abilities, and interests. Our goal is that your child is appropriately challenged, but also happy, healthy, and that he/she has time for extracurriculars, church, and family.

The following lists are designed to help you better understand your child's placement.

**Both college prep and honors classes have the following attributes:**

- Follow a rigorous curriculum.
- Require students to work toward mastery of TMA Standards.
- Prepare students for the next grade level.
- Develop critical thinking skills.
- Use the same textbook.
- Utilize technology to help improve reading and writing skills.

**Honors classes differ from college prep in the following ways:**

- Require a prerequisite class, grade & placement score requirements, and teacher recommendation before taking.
- Greater depth and complexity of study.
- Advance beyond current grade level standards and work on skills in the next grade level standards.
- Students work independent of teacher assistance more often.
- Pacing is faster to accelerate to additional learning standards.
- Required course reading is more often done as homework outside of class rather than during class.
- Writing is more sophisticated (stronger vocabulary, more complex and varied sentence structure, greater depth of thought and analysis) and more extensively researched.
- Assigned readings may be at a higher level of difficulty.
- Homework typically requires students to think critically and synthesize the material that they learned in class that day. As a result, homework generally takes longer.
- Grammar techniques are more sophisticated and complex.
- Honors math and science require mastery of math skills and concepts from the prerequisite math course.

## General Expectations for Students ENTERING Honors Classes

<b>College Prep Student*:</b>	<b>Honors Student:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Works diligently and is self-motivated.</li> <li>● Learn best with thorough instruction and practice of new concepts.</li> <li>● Appreciates challenges, but also benefits from scaffolded assistance and practice with complex, critical-thinking and non-routine strategies.</li> <li>● Thrives with structured guidance when learning, applying, and extending new concepts.</li> <li>● Actively participates in the learning process.</li> <li>● Independently reads various genres.</li> </ul> <p>*If your child does not exhibit many of the qualities above, don't worry. The goal of College Prep is to get all students to these levels.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Manages time well (able to juggle school, family obligations, and extracurricular activities).</li> <li>● The subject is one of his/her gifts or passions.</li> <li>● Has an exceptional work ethic, is highly self-motivated, and works well independently.</li> <li>● Masters concepts quickly without the need for extended repetition; requires a faster-paced, rigorous curriculum.</li> <li>● Values the challenges of complex, critical-thinking opportunities; can achieve this with minimal assistance and often takes ideas to a higher level.</li> <li>● Seeks out and actively contributes to classroom discussions.</li> <li>● Reads at a higher level with complex texts in a variety of genres.</li> <li>● Understands the writing process and the need for multiple revisions.</li> <li>● Is inquiry-driven, which is demonstrated by thinking critically about world issues related to the assigned reading and writings (goes beyond surface meanings, makes connections and inferences)</li> </ul>

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## ENGLISH

### English 6

**Grade Level: 6**

English Language Arts 6 encompasses the study of literature, writing, vocabulary, and basic grammar. Students will read a variety of texts including short stories, nonfiction articles, poetry, essays, and novels. Reading comprehension and critical thinking skills are developed through reading analysis. These essential skills are further developed through class discussions and evidence-based written responses that demonstrate and deepen student understanding. Vocabulary and grammar lessons are embedded alongside the literature being learned and are practiced through skill exercises, context clues, and direct instruction. The writing process is celebrated as students learn how to develop their own voice, proofread, and revise their own writing. Students will write essays, personal narratives, speeches, poems, and will be guided through the process of writing a research paper. Students will learn to see redemptive themes in literature, specifically connecting to God's forgiveness, kindness, and the enduring triumph of good over evil.

### English Honors 6

**Grade Level: 6**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher placement, testing, and B+ or higher grade maintained throughout 5<sup>th</sup> grade English

English Language Arts 6 Honors encompasses the in depth study of literature, writing, vocabulary, and basic grammar. Students will read a variety of texts including short stories, nonfiction articles, poetry, essays, and novels. Reading comprehension and critical thinking skills are developed through reading analysis and students will be required to read certain selections independently. Reading skills are further developed and enhanced through class discussions and evidence-based written responses that demonstrate and deepen student understanding. Vocabulary and grammar lessons are embedded alongside the literature being learned and are practiced through skill exercises, context clues, and direct instruction. The writing process is celebrated as students learn how to develop their own voice, proofread, and revise their own writing. Students will write essays, personal narratives, speeches, poems, and will be guided through the process of writing a research paper. Students will learn to see redemptive themes in literature, specifically connecting to God's forgiveness, kindness, and the enduring triumph of good over evil. Students in English Language Arts 6 Honors are expected to be able to work and read independently, have a deep level of reading comprehension and reading enjoyment, engage in mature, academic conversations, as well as write proficiently and skillfully for their grade level.

### Comprehensive Reading

**Grade Level: 6 (one semester only)**

*Note: Students are placed in this class by the administration based on standardized data and those in the GOLD Department.*

The Comprehensive Reading class is a vital tool available to help accelerate learning for those who need additional resources to improve reading comprehension. Students learn the importance of analyzing and choosing relevant facts and practice methods which help improve information recall.

### English 7

**Grade Level: 7**

Students in English 7 will read, study, and develop an appreciation for a variety of literature genres. Short stories, poetry, nonfiction articles, and novels are used throughout the year to meet this goal. While reading, students will be encouraged to think critically about the text and identify various literary elements. Ultimately, students will learn to identify Biblical themes about the consequences of humanity's sin nature, God's redemptive power, and His desire for us to live in community. Vocabulary and grammar lessons are embedded into the literature



curriculum and are practiced through the use of context clues, whole-class instruction, and independent learning. Students will learn not only to comprehend what they are reading, but to think critically as well. Secondly, writing skills are refined as students learn to produce a wide variety of written expressions including essays, personal narratives, journal entries, and other short writing tasks. Students are expected to strengthen their research skills in the spring by producing a research paper on a global issue of their choice. They will learn to conduct research, validate the credibility of sources, and seek to understand God's design for His creation.

### **English Honors 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher placement, testing, and B+ or higher grade maintained throughout English 6

English Honors 7 is designed to challenge highly motivated and academically skilled students. Students will read, study, and develop an appreciation for a variety of literature genres. Short stories, poetry, nonfiction articles, and novels are used throughout the year to meet this goal. While reading, students will be encouraged to think critically about the text to identify and analyze various literary elements through independent study, collaboration, and discussion. Ultimately, students will learn to identify Biblical themes about the consequences of humanity's sin nature, God's redemptive power, and His desire for us to live in community. Vocabulary and grammar lessons are embedded into the literature curriculum and are practiced through the use of context clues, whole-class instruction, and independent learning. Secondly, writing skills are refined as students learn to produce a wide variety of written expressions including essays, personal narratives, journal entries, and other short writing tasks. Students are expected to strengthen their research skills in the spring by producing a research paper on a global issue of their choice. They will learn to conduct research, validate the credibility of sources, and seek to understand God's design for His creation.

### **English 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

The first goal of English 8 is to broaden student strategies for increasing reading comprehension and reinforcing literary skills. Short stories, plays, poetry, and novels are used throughout the year to meet the goal of critical thinking and analysis. Secondly, writing and grammar skills are refined as students learn to produce a wide variety of written expressions including expository, narrative, descriptive, persuasive and personal forms of writing. Vocabulary is expanded through the study of words found in the literature text, as well as from words with Latin and Greek roots. Biblical themes of standing up for what is right as well as "who does God say I am?" will be explored. Novel study includes mini projects that practice the skills taught in class. Critical reading and thinking skills are further developed through class discussions and written responses of these works. The students will complete a research paper using the internet. Students will learn to think critically and craft analytical essays.

### **English Honors 8**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher placement, testing, and B+ or higher test average maintained throughout English 7

English 8 Honors is designed to challenge the highly motivated and academically skilled student. This course encompasses the study of literature, vocabulary, grammar, and writing. Basic reading comprehension and critical thinking skills are sharpened through short stories, poetry, essays, plays and novels. Students will explore the concept of Ethos, Pathos, Logos as a precursor to high school English. Biblical themes of standing up for what is right as well as "who does God say I am?" will be explored. Novel study includes mini projects that practice the skills taught in class. Critical reading and thinking skills are further developed through class discussions and written responses of these works. Honors students will be expected to work independent of teacher support, and will work on developing their own personal style in their writing through multiple modalities. Honors students

have the opportunity to elevate their current writing skills through peer revisions, teacher feedback and self editing. Students will complete a research paper using the internet. Vocabulary is expanded through the study of words found in the literature text, as well as from words with Latin and Greek roots.

## MATH

We believe that the character of God is revealed through the lens of mathematics and with this, it is our goal that as students explore the concepts of the finite world created by the infinite God they will discover (1) God's dependability, orderly design, and wisdom are seen in the study of mathematical patterns and consistent rules of measurement, calculations, and relationships. In addition, (2) Students will expand their understanding of the character of God through the study of mathematical relationships that are free from contradiction and demonstrate the existence of absolute truth.

### **General Math 6**

**Grade Level: 6**

This course is designed to prepare students for future success in algebra and geometry. Through a carefully planned sequence of topics, students practice and extend their knowledge of mathematics to promote confidence and mastery. Topics for study include number patterns, decimals, fractions, percentages, solving one-step algebraic equations, integers, statistics, probability, measurement, and geometry. Students will be expected to demonstrate competency in these computations without the aid of a calculator. Applications and problem solving are emphasized using hands-on labs and activities.

### **Math 6 Accelerated**

**Grade Level: 6**

**Prerequisite:** Minimum grade of a B+ in fifth grade math, a required minimum score on the placement test, and teacher placement.

This course is designed to prepare students for Pre-Algebra and increase proficiency in essential mathematics skills. Students will learn to problem solve while using strategies and critical thinking skills. Students will develop an understanding of ratios, rates, and percentages, and apply these skills in real-life scenarios. Students will also apply, conversion of units, and the principles of area and volume in the study of basic geometry. Students will be expected to demonstrate competency in these computations without the aid of a calculator. Topics for study also include operations with integers, decimals, fractions, statistics, percent applications, proportional reasoning, and basic algebraic equations and inequalities. Students will learn the entirety of General Math 6 and General Math 7 standards in one school year. Following this course students will progress into Pre-Algebra.

### **General Math 7**

**Grade Level: 7**

This course is designed to prepare students for future success in algebra and geometry through a carefully planned sequence of topics. Students practice and extend their knowledge of mathematics to develop confidence and mastery of the concepts. Topics for study include fractions, statistics, linear equations and functions, proportional reasoning, algebra, operations with integers, geometry, and measurement. Students will be expected to demonstrate competency in these computations without the aid of a calculator. Problem solving and critical thinking are emphasized in daily assignments and activities.

**Pre-Algebra****Grade Level: 7, 8**

**Prerequisite:** Seventh grade: minimum grade of a B+ in Math 6 Accelerated, a minimum required score on the placement test, and teacher placement. Eighth grade: Completion and passing average in General Math 7.

This course prepares students for algebra and geometry through a sequence of topics designed to extend their knowledge of mathematics. Topics for study include algebraic language, integer operations, rational numbers, simplifying algebraic expressions, solving linear equations and inequalities, graphing and interpreting linear functions, systems of linear functions, applying algebra to geometry, statistics, and probability. Application, problem solving, and critical thinking are emphasized throughout all required learning standards.

**Algebra I Honors Credit: 1.0 (High School Credit)\*****Grade Level: 7, 8**

**Prerequisite:** Minimum grade of a B+ in Pre-Algebra, a score of 85 or better on the Orleans-Hanna Algebra Readiness Test, and teacher placement.

This course is designed to provide the foundation for advanced mathematics courses and develop skills needed to solve mathematical problems. Topics include sets, variables, structures and properties of the real number system, first-degree equations and inequalities, relations, functions, graphs, systems of linear equations and inequalities, integral exponents, polynomials, rational algebraic expressions, irrational numbers, radical expressions, and quadratic equations. This honors (pre-AP) course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement and dual enrollment math courses in high school and therefore will require analysis of relationships and fluent use of proper math terminology in writing as they support and justify their claims. Students must receive a grade of a B+ or higher/or a teacher recommendation to move on to Geometry Honors. \*High school courses taken in middle school will be recorded on the high school transcript.

**Geometry Honors 1.0 (High School Credit)\*****Grade Level: 8**

**Prerequisite:** Minimum grade of at least a B+ average in Algebra 1 Honors and teacher placement

This course is designed to provide students with a deep understanding and exploration of geometric relationships. Students will develop deductive reasoning skills that can be applied to solve a variety of mathematical and real world problems. This course places a heavy emphasis on logic, reasoning and the development of geometric proofs. Topics also include the study of Euclidean geometry of lines, planes, angles, triangles, similarity, congruence, geometric inequalities, polygons, circles, area and volumes. This honors (pre-AP) course is designed to prepare students for Advanced Placement and dual enrollment math courses in high school. Students must receive a grade of a B+ or higher/or a teacher placement to move on to Algebra II Honors. \*High school courses taken in middle school will be recorded on the high school transcript.

## SCIENCE

### **General Science**

**Grade Level: 6**

Sixth grade science develops the student's knowledge of God as the creator and sustainer of the universe. This course investigates various topics using texts, discussions, hands-on investigations, and projects. The year begins with the unit on "The Changing Earth" including natural disasters, beneficial forces, and natural resources with emphasis on God's perfect design and provisions for mankind. Students also learn about "God's Living Creation" including basic functions and structures of living things, classification, interrelationships and how God supplies the needs of every organism. In the third unit "Energy in Motion", students will learn that God's creation is not limited to what we can see. Forces such as gravity and magnetism, which cause things to behave a certain way, are also God's creation. This unit also helps us better understand the wonderful way that God holds our universe together by studying atoms, molecules, electricity, magnetism, motion and machines. In the study of the solar system and stars, we will learn about the precision God used to create the universe with nothing but His word. We will conclude the year learning about how God uses substances such as DNA and inherited traits to create unique offspring in plants, and animals, as well as the marvels of the human body.

### **Life Science**

**Grade Level: 7**

This curriculum focuses on introducing students to and diving deeper into the diversity of life that God created and help them move forward into college prep science during their 8th grade year. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures, and leads students toward a clearer understanding of how God created the smallest piece of life, His majesty in the diversity of heredity, and His power through His creation (plants, animals, microscopic organisms, and humans). As students refine and expand their understanding of these topics, they will apply their knowledge in investigations that require them to ask questions, solve problems and explore the world around them. By the end of this course, each student should be able to see how all of this world, and everything in it, proclaims His overwhelming glory and majesty.

### **Life Science Honors**

**Grade Level: 7**

**Prerequisite:** B+ or higher in 6th grade science course and teacher placement. Concurrent enrollment in Pre-Algebra is recommended.

Life Science Honors is developed for the student who is self-motivated, well organized, and has a desire to push themselves academically. While the content is the same as the college prep course, students will go at a faster pace, be required to retain a larger amount of knowledge and be an independent investigator throughout each chapter. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures, and leads students toward a clearer understanding of how God created the smallest piece of life, His majesty in the diversity of heredity, and His power in through His creation (plants, animals, microscopic organisms, and humans). Everyday the student will be challenged to see where God is in this topic, why He created it, and how all of this world shouts His glory. By the end of this course, a student should be able to easily transition to advanced science in 8th grade and be on a track for high level science during their high school career.

**Physical Science****Grade Level: 8**

Physical Science is a survey course which studies God's creation of the universe, and the physical laws and concepts that He put in place for the universe to function and sustain life. This class will explore the fundamental concepts of physics and chemistry. Students will learn about matter and its properties, the behavior of waves, energy, and forces. They will also investigate the structure of atoms and the periodic table of elements, chemical reactions, and the properties of different materials. The course will provide a strong foundation in the scientific method and the process of inquiry as students conduct experiments, make observations, and analyze data to understand how the natural world works. The course will emphasize problem-solving skills, critical thinking, and collaboration. By the end of this course, students will be equipped with a strong foundation in physical science and be able to use their knowledge to understand and solve real-world problems. They will be prepared for further studies in science and technology and have a solid foundation for future success.

**Physical Science Honors****Grade Level: 8**

Prerequisite: Minimum of a B+ in Life Science Honors and teacher placement. Concurrent enrollment in Algebra I Honors is recommended.

Honors Physical Science is a survey course which studies God's creation of the universe and all of the physical laws and concepts that He put in place for the universe to function and sustain life. While the content focus of this course is consistent with the college prep course, students will go at a faster pace, be required to retain a larger amount of knowledge, and be an independent investigator throughout each chapter. Emphasis is placed on laboratory work, scientific thinking, organization of experimental data, and the synthesis of organized information. The student should be proficient in the basic math skills required for both basic physics and chemistry in order to understand and apply the physical science concepts presented. The foundation laid in this class helps all students develop a growing understanding of science and prepares them for high school coursework.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **World History**

**Grade Level: 6**

This survey class explores the amazing way God has used normal people for His greater purpose. We dive into our world's amazing past to investigate the beginnings of civilizations around rivers and in valleys. We begin to compare how drastically different civilizations developed similarly in many parts of the World. Students' excitement toward history will be ignited by this course and they will be able to synthesize information through real-life simulations of historical people. There will be integration of Primary sources, and projects (i.e. Virtual Wax Museum, building a 3D model, creative writing). World History sets down the historical foundations of critical thinking that will be built upon as students grow and mature as young historians.

### **Civics**

**Grade Level: 7**

The focus of this course is to prepare students to understand and exercise their political responsibilities as thoughtful and informed citizens. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, the importance of the rule of law, the United States Constitution, Federal, State and local government structure, and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will actively investigate local, state and national issues, read and participate in discussions, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms. In addition, many aspects of geography will be covered to include economic, physical, and human geography. This course will utilize hands-on learning throughout the course to help students internalize the information. Projects will include a mock election, mock trial, writing local congress representatives, and a mock congress. The course concludes with a service learning project where students identify a need in their local community and a proposal to address the need. This project helps students live out being the hands and feet of Jesus in addition to being an active and involved citizen. Students in this course will practice the principles of honor and prayer for our leadership.

### **US History**

**Grade Level: 8**

United States History is a survey course of our nation's history from the exploration of our country to today. Throughout the course, we will study the political, economic, social and religious trends that have emerged in the development of the United States. We will cover such topics as Colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution, Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, Industrialism, both World Wars and the latter half of the 20th Century. Students will be able to synthesize information through hands-on projects, analysis of primary sources, and class discussions. As we integrate United States history into our knowledge base, we will tie in how God has shown His sovereignty, grace and master plan throughout America's short existence. A highlight of the course includes a 4-day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit our nation's capital.

### **US History Honors**

**Grade Level: 8**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher placement and a B+ or better in the previous Social Studies course. Concurrently taking Honors English is highly recommended.

United States History is a survey course of our nation's history from the exploration of our country to today. Throughout the course, we will study the political, economic, social and religious trends that have emerged in the development of the United States. We will cover such topics as Colonization, the American Revolution, the Constitution, Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, Industrialism, both World Wars and the latter half of the 20th Century. Students will be able to synthesize information through hands-on projects, analysis of primary sources,

and class discussions. In preparation for Honors Ancient Civilizations or AP Human Geography (Grade 9), we will review and practice short answer question writing, research papers and document analysis. As we integrate United States history into our knowledge base, we will tie in how God has shown His sovereignty, grace and master plan throughout America's short existence. A highlight of the course includes a 4- day trip to Washington, D.C. to visit our nation's capital.



## BIBLE

### **Exploring the Old Testament**

**Grade Level: 6**

*Exploring the Old Testament* lays the groundwork for our middle school students' understanding of how our Triune God redeems and restores this broken world. This course also serves as an overview of the Old Testament storyline. *Exploring the Old Testament* is designed to help students see the expanding clarity of the revelation of Christ throughout God's story of redemption. Students begin by studying the Creation of the Universe, progress to the establishment of the Kingdom of Israel, then to the time of exile and finally the return of the Israelites to the promised land. *Exploring the Old Testament* will grow a student's ability to read Scripture in a worshipful and Christ-centered way as they directly engage with the Biblical text daily.

### **The Word Made Flesh**

**Grade Level: 7**

This course will take students on a journey through the Gospel of John, helping them develop not only a deeper knowledge of Christ, but provide an opportunity for them to deepen their relationship with Him. *The Word Made Flesh* examines the ministry and work of God's Son within Israel's historical and geographical context, and how he revealed God's love, forgiveness, and power to change. As students see the person of Christ more clearly they are called to lean wholly on Jesus and have their lives changed from the inside out. This course has the same goal in mind as John's account of the Gospel - that students may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing they may have life in his name. (John 20:31)

### **Life in the Gospel**

**Grade Level: 8**

This course addresses student's deepest need—God's grace in their lives through faith in Christ. Through a study of three major New Testament books; Acts, Romans, and Revelation, students will learn the history, theology, and hope of the 1st century Church and that it is also their own. Students will discover the context for the New Testament writings and the early challenges to the gospel through the book of Acts. They are motivated to clarify their belief by the profoundly wonderful implications and applications of the gospel in Romans. Finally, the students are encouraged to hold firm to the faith through the persistent call to persevere in Revelation. Throughout *Life in the Gospel* students will mine the Scriptures for the theological and practical applications of the message of Jesus that affects every aspect of all of their lives.

## WORLD LANGUAGE

### **Middle School Spanish**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester course is designed to provide students with an overview of the basics of the Castilian language, as well as essential language tools for developing proficiency in describing one's family and community, with the theme of: "The World Around Me." This course focuses on the development of basic and relevant vocabulary, simple grammatical structures and an integrated approach to Hispanic cultures. Students will be given opportunities to practice all four language skills (listening, reading, writing and speaking), through a number of relevant, fun and interactive activities. Students will also learn about unreached groups in Spanish-speaking countries and pray for them.

### **Spanish I Honors Credit: 1.0 (High School Credit)\***

**Grade Level: 8**

**Prerequisite:** Teacher placement based on MS Spanish grade of an A and/or concurrently enrolled in Algebra I Honors.

This introductory course is designed to provide students with the basic language tools for developing proficiency in the target language. Basic and relevant vocabulary, various grammatical structures, tenses and an integrated approach to Hispanic cultures will be explored. Students will also have an opportunity to develop literacy in all four language skills: listening, reading, writing and speaking. This is a beginner proficiency level course that expands into the irregular preterite tense and requires increasing proficiency. This class is designed for students who plan to continue world language studies into the AP levels in high school. \*High school courses taken in middle school will be recorded on the high school transcript.

## 6th GRADE ELECTIVES

### **Physical Education**

**Grade Level: 6**

The purpose of this year-long course is to present and inspire students to pursue a variety of physical activities and a healthier lifestyle. Through various sports and games, students will work together or individually to apply concepts of fairness and social responsibility through competitive, creative and challenging situations. They will be expected to go above and beyond sportsmanship, and to glorify Christ in their leadership, communication, and interaction with others.

### **Chorus**

**Grade Level: 6**

Chorus is a year-long course and all students are accepted as beginners into this vocal performance group. Students will be exposed to a variety of music styles and will learn to harmonize, read music and sing together as a group and individuals. The group also enjoys local community events and has the opportunity to perform at a local retirement home in the winter and the spring. There is a mandatory performance at the end of each semester. Additional rehearsals may be required and/or mandatory as we approach the opening of the concerts and performances.

### **Beginning Band**

**Grade Level: 6**

Beginning band is a year-long, introductory level band for students with little to no previous musical knowledge or experience. Students are provided with learning and performance opportunities, focusing on basic skills of a wind or percussion instruments. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests and private lessons. Students in Beginning Band will perform in at least two concerts a year. Students are responsible for renting or purchasing an instrument for the duration of the year. Additional costs may apply for extracurricular events.

### **Study Skills (Wheel)**

**Grade Level: 6**

This 9-week course is designed to help 6th grade students develop effective study habits to help them excel academically. The course will cover goal setting, time management, note-taking strategies, active reading, test-taking skills, memory techniques, and organization. By the end of the course, students will have the knowledge and skills necessary to excel academically in middle school and achieve their academic potential.

### **Discovering Art (Wheel)**

**Grade Level: 6**

This 9-week course will allow students the opportunity to experiment with several media including graphite, paint, pastels, clay and sculpture. Students will learn the fundamentals of shading and proportion in relation to the human figure. They will also be introduced to perspective and techniques for creating depth and realism in 2-D art. We will also be introducing the Elements of Art and learning about several master artists through hands-on activities.

**Experience Drama (Wheel)****Grade Level: 6**

This 9-week drama course has been designed to produce enthusiastic, well-rounded drama students. This interactive course will not only give students ample opportunity to perform in class, but will also introduce them to the fundamentals of acting, theatrical terminology, stage directions and movement, improvisation, theater history, characterization and the art of scene study.

**Computers & STEM Exploration (Wheel)****Grade Level: 6**

During this 9-week course, students will learn Google applications (drive, docs, sheets, draw, sites, slides & forms), the fundamentals of computers and the internet, typing proficiency, digital story creation, digital citizenship and an introduction to computer programming using block coding. The objective is to equip students with more proficient technology skills needed throughout middle and high school. These skills will help students to begin exploration in the diverse fields of STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics).

## 7TH & 8TH GRADE ELECTIVES

### **Chorus**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

All students are accepted as beginners into this vocal performance group. Students will be exposed to a variety of music styles and will learn to harmonize, read music and sing together as a group and individuals. In the spring we will participate in the ACSI Choral Festival competition with entries available as a group and soloists. The group also enjoys local community events and has the opportunity to perform at a local retirement home in the winter and the spring. There is a mandatory performance at the end of each semester. This is an academic course as well as an extra-curricular course. Additional rehearsals may be required and/or mandatory as we approach the opening of the concerts and performances.

### **Beginning Band**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

Beginning band is a year-long, introductory level band for students with little to no previous musical knowledge or experience. Students are provided with learning and performance opportunities, focusing on basic skills of a wind or percussion instruments. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests and private lessons. Students in Beginning Band will perform in at least two concerts a year. Students are responsible for renting or purchasing an instrument for the duration of the year. Additional costs may apply for extracurricular events.

### **Concert Band**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

**Prerequisite:** Beginning Band or an audition.

Concert Band is a year-long course open to developing, novice students with some previous instrumental experience. Students will have an opportunity to perform pep band music and concert band performances. A wide variety of music for winds and percussion will be studied and performed throughout the year. In addition to at least two concerts per year, students will have individual opportunities to participate in optional events like Solo and Ensemble Contests. Out-of-school rehearsals, performances, and activities are part of the course grade. These activities are an integral element that support and extend learning in the classroom. Private lessons are strongly encouraged but not required. Practicing at home is expected and will vary with the individual. Attending all full band performances is a course requirement. Course fees and rental expenses are required for this class.

### **Introduction to Praise Band**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

Introduction to Praise Band is a year-long course where students will discover a heart of worship and what it takes to lead a chapel service, from a spiritual and musical perspective. Learn to sing, or play keyboards, drums, guitar, bass or percussion. Students will learn to harmonize, play rhythms, understand chords and analyze and perform praise and worship music. Some musical experience is recommended but not required. Course requirements include occasionally performing for Middle School chapel services, as well as concerts, and fundraisers. Course fees, instrumental purchases and practicing at home are required.

**Symphonic Band****Grade Level: 7, 8****Prerequisite:** Audition by invitation only.

Symphonic Band is TMA's premier music course - a year-long course designed for advanced instrumentalists. Brass, Winds, Percussionists, and other musicians are welcome to join. Classroom activities are designed to develop elements of musicianship including collaboration, tone production, technical skills, intonation, music reading skills, listening skills, analyzing music theory, studying historically significant styles of literature, and integration of other applicable disciplines such as sight-reading and correct responses to a conductor's musical insight to the literature being studied and to be performed. Students study a varied advanced repertoire of developmentally appropriate concert band literature, chamber music, solo pieces, jazz, and technical studies, and develop the ability and artistry to convey a composer's intent in the performance of music. There is periodic classroom assessment to monitor student progress. Some students may be asked to participate in pep band and other small ensembles. In addition to at least three required performances per year, students will have individual opportunities and may be asked to participate in events like Solo and Ensemble Contest. Out-of-school rehearsals, performances, and activities are part of the course grade. These activities are an integral element that support and extend learning in the classroom. Private lessons are strongly encouraged and practicing at home is expected. Course fees and instrumental rentals/purchases are required.

**Drumline****Grade Level: 7, 8**

In this year-long course, students with little or no percussion experience in an instrumental ensemble develop basic musicianship and ensemble performance skills through the study of basic, high-quality music in diverse styles. Student musicians focus on building foundational music techniques, music literacy, listening skills, and aesthetic awareness. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. This course may also require students to obtain a musical instrument (e.g., borrow, rent, purchase) from an outside source. Additional fees may apply.

**Drama****Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester-long interactive course focuses on the fundamentals of acting, with an emphasis on the development of the actors' skills set. With a focus on building confidence & self-awareness while introducing new skills in the art of scene study, script analysis, improvisation, characterization and character development. Students will study theater history & production and its relevance to theater today.

**Exploring Art****Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester-long course is designed to build upon the elements and principles of art while using design techniques and imagination. Students will have the opportunity to explore a wide variety of media to include graphite, paint, pastel, plaster and clay while learning about several master artists and materials in greater depth.

**Introduction to Musical Theater****Grade Level: 7, 8**

During this semester-long course, students focus on acting, vocal performance, dance, non-dance movement, and staging, which transfer readily to performances in musicals and other venues. Students survey the evolution of music in theater from ancient Greece to modern Broadway through a humanities approach and representative literature. Music theater students explore the unique staging and technical demands of musicals in contrast to non-musical plays. Public performances may serve as a culmination of specific instructional goals. Students may

be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom.

### **Introduction to Dance**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester-long course is designed to give students the opportunity to learn the beginning skills of dance in ballet, jazz and modern dance styles, enhancing self-confidence and creative ability. Students will learn how to interpret and execute choreography in all different styles of dance. Students will explore the creative process, through their own choreography and compositions translating ideas, thoughts, and feelings into the performing art form of dance. Students will cover dance through the ages in different cultures and time periods with cultural and historical context.

### **Introduction to Videography**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

During this semester-long course, students explore the fundamental concepts, terminology, techniques, and applications of digital imaging to create original work. The instructional focus will be on film. Students produce digital animated images through the single or combined use of computers, digital cameras, digital video cameras, scanners, photo editing software, drawing and painting software, graphic tablets, printers, new media, and emerging technologies. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers to measure artistic growth. This course incorporates hands-on activities, the use of technology, and consumption of art materials. This is a semester-long course.

### **Physical Education**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

The purpose of this semester-long course is to present and inspire students to pursue a variety of physical activities and a healthier lifestyle. Through various sports and games, students will work together or individually to apply concepts of fairness and social responsibility through competitive, creative and challenging situations. They will be expected to go above and beyond sportsmanship, and to glorify Christ in their leadership, communication, and interaction with others.

### **Career and Life Choices**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

This is a required middle school elective. This semester-long class will examine a multitude of life choices teens must face in our current culture related to identity, careers, the future, and everyday face-to-face and digital interactions. Students will engage in discovery through discussion, guest speakers, professional engagement, and a variety of exploration activities. They will grow in self-awareness through spiritual gifts and personality inventories and examine how their results are linked to communication skills, relational interactions, and career selection. Students will create a brand statement, a personal commercial, a resume, and a budget, study financial responsibility, learn about digital citizenship and cybersafety, and differentiate between a job, career, and a calling. As they embrace their identity in Christ and understand that with the great power they have through Christ comes great responsibility, students will realize their roles as ministers and leaders in our culture who have hope and help to offer to so many who are consumed by this world.

**Computer Applications I****Grade Level: 7, 8**

During this semester-long course, students will learn digital citizenship, JavaScript programming basics through drawing and animation projects, story creation and video editing using iMovie, and computer/internet concepts as needed for use in other classes and everyday life. Students will also learn and increase their competency in Google applications through a Teen Entrepreneur business simulation project. Students will increase their graphic and creative design skills using web-based desktop publishing applications to develop promotional marketing material and brochures for their businesses.

**Computer Applications II****Grade Level: 7, 8**

Prerequisite: Computer Applications I

This semester-long course will help students learn more advanced computer/internet skills and concepts beyond Computer Applications I. They will gain valuable photo editing and video editing skills, 3D modeling, 3D printing and computer coding skills using various computer-aided design (CAD) programs and the LulzBot 3D printer. Additionally, students will learn digital citizenship, advanced features of Google applications, animation and game creation, web page development and physical computing using Circuit Playgrounds. The objective of this course is to empower students to become creators using technology; students learn to become better thinkers and communicators by working together in coding and design projects.

**Introduction to Robotics****Grade Level: 7, 8**

During this semester-long course, students are introduced to engineering principles as they design and assemble robots to perform basic navigation and specific tasks. Fundamental robotics skills are learned in the context of studying and modifying a simple robot. These projects tie together a wide range of disciplines, including computer science, physics, engineering, math and art. Students learn to work together as a team, learning group dynamics and problem solving.

**Creative Writing****Grade Level: 7, 8**

Middle school students are encouraged to write for pleasure and for possible publication. They learn rules and terminology associated with various genres, and they are given opportunities to write in these genres, which include description, poetry, dialogue, monologue, memoir, short story, and drama. Students engage in self and peer editing in addition to teacher grading to enhance writing skills for application in all subjects. At the end of the semester students will compile their favorite writings into a portfolio.

**Photography****Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester-long course allows students to explore the aesthetic foundations of art using beginning photography techniques through color, digital photography. Digital cameras and Adobe Photoshop will aid in learning the processes and techniques for image capture and editing. Content covers the basic mechanics of a camera, including manual operation, compositional foundations, editing an image for display, and evaluating a successful edit. Craftsmanship and quality are reflected in the use of editing tools, attention to compositional conventions, and expression of personal ideas and feelings. Student photographers use an art criticism process to evaluate, explain, and measure artistic growth in personal or group works. This course incorporates hands-on activities and requires a weekly commitment to getting photos of both school events and photos of one's personal choice using a D-SLR camera. Students will make significant contributions to the yearbook through the application of their photography skills through sports photography and event photography. Students can use their



own D-SLR camera of 18+ mp, but with permission and training, they will be able to share in the use of yearbook cameras if they do not.

### **Global Perspectives**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

This semester-long course focuses on identifying and developing a worldview, critical thinking skills, setting and implementing S.M.A.R.T. goals, learning about the cultures of various ethnic groups across the globe, and much more. A component of service-learning and civic responsibility have also been added to the course. Students experience how culture impacts the development of a worldview, attitudes and language by exploring the language and culture of many countries across the globe and learning about their neighbors. Effective service-learning project planning will be taught and applied through structured service projects that meet real school, community and/or global needs. Learning outcomes include critical thinking skills, self-reflection, an appreciation for the various cultures, ethnicities, and races created by God and opportunities to practice Biblical love and leadership. Students will actively participate in meaningful service-learning experiences of at least 10 hours in duration.

### **Yearbook Journalism**

**Grade Level: 7, 8**

Do you want permission to take photos on your phone in class? Are you interested in drone photography? Join the 2024 Yearbook Team for a class reboot, and get your press pass, ultra-soft tee, and coffee to go. Colleges are impressed with yearbook involvement, and you can further pump up your resume by taking on a leadership position if you so choose. This is a year-long course that encompasses journalism, art, and technology and, thus, is considered a Fine Arts activity and counts toward the one-credit Fine Arts course or one-half credit Computer course required for graduation. It is an introduction to publication: journalistic media, desktop publishing/graphic design, advertising sales and design, layout, photography, and writing for publication. Students will create a verbal and visual theme for the year's book, typically take 25 photos a week, put them on pages, name students, and add a headline in order to document school history and assemble the TMA Upper School Yearbook with a deliberate goal of glorifying God and serving TMA families with the final product. There are opportunities for leadership and/or editorial positions in photography, interviewing, copywriting, design, sales, and organization/management. Use of phone cameras, drone technology, digital SLR and mirrorless cameras, and professional computer design software are part of this curriculum. After-school photography is not required. Students experience the satisfaction of holding their work in their hands at the end of the year when TMA Yearbooks are distributed. This course is highly recommended for those interested in technology, photography, graphic design, any type of journalism, writing, or publication, and those desiring to develop or apply leadership and organizational skills.



## 2023-2024 Middle School Curriculum Plan

### 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 7<sup>th</sup> Grade

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade

#### Language Arts:

English 6  
English Honors 6

English 7  
English 7 Honors

English 8  
English 8 Honors

#### Credits Completed:

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#### Mathematics:

General Math 6  
Math 6 Accelerated\*

General Math 7  
Pre-Algebra\*  
Algebra I Honors\*~

Pre-Algebra  
Algebra I Honors\*~  
Geometry Honors\*~

#### Credits Completed:

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#### Science:

General Science

Life Science  
Life Science Honors

Physical Science  
Physical Science Honors

#### Credits Completed:

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#### Social Studies:

World History

Civics

US History  
US History Honors

#### Credits Completed:

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#### Bible:

Bible 6  
(Exploring the Old Testament)

Bible 7  
(The Word Made Flesh)

Bible 8  
(Life in the Gospel)

#### Credits Completed:

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**Foreign Language:**

Middle School Spanish

Middle School Spanish  
Spanish I Honors\*~

**Credits Completed:**

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**Physical Education:**

Physical Education  
(Required)

Physical Education

Physical Education

**Credits Completed:**

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**Fine Arts Electives:**

Chorus^  
Beginning Band^  
Wheel Course#

Art  
Chorus^  
Beginning Band^  
Beginning Praise Band\*\*  
Concert Band\*\*  
Intro to Dance  
Musical Theater  
Videography  
Drama  
Drumline^

Art  
Chorus^  
Beginning Band^  
Beginning Praise Band\*\*  
Concert Band\*\*  
Intro to Dance  
Musical Theater  
Videography  
Drama  
Drumline^

**Credits Completed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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**Electives:**

Wheel Course #  
-Discover Art  
- Exploring Drama  
- Computers and STEM Exploration  
- Study Skills

Computer Applications I  
Computer Applications II  
Creative Writing  
Photography  
Intro to Robotics  
Yearbook^  
Global Perspectives  
Career and Life Choices

Computer Applications I  
Computer Applications II  
Creative Writing  
Photography  
Intro to Robotics  
Yearbook^  
Global Perspectives  
Career and Life Choices

**Credits Completed:**

\_\_\_\_\_

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*\* Placement Test Required*

*\*\* Audition Only*

*# Course is split in Quarters (Student will be schedule for all four classes)*

*^ Full-year Electives*

*~ High School Credit - will be reflected on student's high school transcript*