

Mount Airy Christian Academy

Middle School Course Description Guide 2017-2018

In order to provide the best educational materials possible, MACA's administration and staff review the curriculum constantly. As a result, all materials are subject to change.

Bible Department

Bible 6 Positive Action *Winning the Race*

In this series for sixth graders, the Christian life is likened to a great race. Just as the athlete prepares in order to be his best in the upcoming race, so the young Christian must prepare to run the race of the Christian life. This class will focus on building a Biblical foundation for young people which will enable them to make wise daily choices that reflect inner character and obedience to God's Word.

Bible 7 Positive Action *The Life of Christ*

The seventh grade student will examine the life of Christ in the Gospel of John and the nature of God's Word. There will be a focus on the inerrancy and reliability of the scriptures as well as the discipline of Scripture memorization in the context of knowing our Savior personally. This course will be foundational for a life of faith, obedience, and relationship with Jesus.

Bible 8 Purposeful Design's *Mastering Bible Skills* and Josh McDowell's *Setting You Free to Make Right Choices*

The eighth grade Bible year is actually completed through two different series. In the first series the students will be led through a discovery of how important absolute truth is to their lives, and to discover a process for applying that truth to their lives. In the second series the students will learn how to accurately and intentionally study the Bible for a lifetime. To do this, students will need to learn several skills involved in an effective Bible study.

English Department

Middle School English

A research paper will be required each year for each middle school grade.

Grade 6 (Standard and Accelerated) Mosdos Press

Sixth grade studies the basic components of grammar. Through writing essays and reports, students will learn and practice the MLA format. Both classwork and evaluations will include spelling and vocabulary. Using the Mosdos Press Curriculum, students will read a variety of

works, potentially including *Caddie Woodlawn* by Johann Wyss, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George, and *Hatchet* by Gary Paulsen. This curriculum also contains a variety of genres; some of which are stories and poems.

Grade 7 (Standard and Accelerated) Mosdos Press

The seventh grade students build on the grammar foundation laid in sixth grade. With numerous opportunities to practice their writing skills, these students will develop different planning techniques. The literature curriculum by Mosdos Press covers different genres to instill new vocabulary and expand their world. Potential literature selections include *Where the Red Fern Grows* by Wilson Rawls, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by George Speare, and *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom.

Grade 8 (Standard) Mosdos Press

Eighth grade students continue to build on the grammar foundation from previous years. Added to the eighth grade curriculum is the correct usage of gerunds, infinitives, and participles. The students complete multiple creative writing essays which allow the eighth grade student to use his creative skills in his writing. In literature, students read novels along with other stories from a variety of genres. Potential literature selections include *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes, *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt, and *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Vocabulary building is essential in the eighth grade Mosdos Press curriculum.

Grade 8 Honors (1 HS weighted credit) BJU Press and various novels

This course focuses on a variety of genres from different time periods to illustrate the breadth and depth of literature. Students investigate different literary devices and learn to apply them in their own writing. They learn to master the writing process through a variety of compositions, including short stories, essays, and journals. The course emphasizes proper essay format and correct use of citations, especially during the research essay unit. Students also learn vocabulary, sentence clarity, and grammar and punctuation rules, particularly as applied to their writing. In the novel units, the students are introduced to Eliot, Shakespeare, Verne, Wells, and others.

Mathematics Department

Math 6 (Standard and Accelerated) McDougal-Littell *Middle School Math - Course 1*

This course is designed for the student entering 6th grade with a solid understanding of elementary school math. It covers number sense, basic algebraic thinking, measurement, decimal, and fraction usage (in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division), and analysis of number patterns. It also explores ratio, proportion, percent, geometry, and introduces integers, equations, functions, probability, and statistics. There is a focus on study strategies, note-taking skills, and problem solving.

Math 7 (Standard and Accelerated) McDougal-Littell *Middle School Math - Course 2*

Students must have a "C" average or higher in Course 1 (sixth grade math) or have a recommendation by the teacher with approval from the Secondary Principal to enter this course. This course builds upon Course 1, expanding and deepening understanding of mathematical concepts. It has a brief overview of number sense, mathematical patterns, and basic algebraic thinking from Course 1. Then it moves quickly through fraction and decimal operations. As it moves past those concepts, Course 2 spends more time on integers, more challenging algebraic equations, inequalities, and functions. A strong understanding of ratios, proportions, percents, data and statistics is developed. Course 2 ends with a strong emphasis on geometry skills and using them in conjunction with basic algebra skills. Study strategies, note-taking skills, and problem solving are developed further.

Pre-Algebra McDougal-Littell *Middle School Math - Course 3*

Students must have a "C" average or higher in Course 2 (seventh grade math) or have a recommendation by the teacher with approval from the Secondary Principal to enter this course. This course builds upon Course 2 and prepares the student for Algebra 1 the following year. There is a brief review of many of the concepts from the previous two books including basic algebraic thinking, integer operations, and solving equations and inequalities. Then factors, fractions, and exponents are added into the integer operations while making multi-step equations and working with all rational number operations. Ratio, proportion, and percent are developed fully as well as geometric formulas and their uses. Pythagorean's Theorem is introduced along with special right triangle formulas. Students develop an understanding of linear equations and graphs and are introduced to polynomials and functions. Study strategies, note-taking skills, and problem solving skills are utilized continuously.

Algebra I - (1 credit) McDougal-Littell's *Algebra I*

Students must earn a "C" minimum average in Pre-Algebra or have a teacher's recommendation to take this class. This course covers real numbers, rational numbers, square roots, graphing, and a constant review of general mathematics. Problem solving is emphasized through linear equations, polynomials, factorings, and quadratic equations. Students will learn to think deductively. **Students who earn a C or better in this course while in middle school will receive high school credit.**

Science Department

Science 6 Christian Schools International *Earth Science*

This course is designed for the student who enjoys science and is able to grasp and expand on new concepts. Students will be required to complete challenging reading and writing assignments, perform investigative laboratory exercises, and actively participate in classroom

discussions. Additionally, this course will work emphasize the importance of earth science in our daily lives. All Earth Science students will be required to complete one inquiry-based project as part of the course that will teach them to use the testable knowledge base and analytical, problem solving skills that define science.

Science 7 & 8 (2017-18 only, from 2018 on Grade 7 only) Christian Schools International *Life Science*

Life Science is an introductory level course designed to enable students to explore basic biological concepts in a laboratory setting. Students focus on concepts that are shared by all living things such as cell structure, biochemical make-up, and inheritance. As students move into the second semester, the focus is on the diversity of life as they classify the many different species of living organisms into kingdoms and other classification categories. Students finish the year with a unit on ecology that relates the interdependence of living with each other and with their environment.

Science 8 Christian Schools International *Physical Science*

Physical Science stresses an in-depth understanding of the nature and structure of matter and the characteristic of energy. The standards place considerable emphasis on the technological application of Physical Science Principles. Major areas covered by the standards include the organization and use of the periodic table; physical and chemical changes; nuclear reactions; temperature and heat; sound; light; electricity and magnetism; and work, force, and motion. This class continues to build on skills of systematic investigation with a clear focus on variables and repeated trials. Students will plan and conduct research involving both classroom experimentation and literature reviews from written and electronic resources.

Social Studies Department

Heritage Study 6 BJU Press *Heritage Studies 6*

Heritage Study 6 is a comprehensive survey of human history from creation to the Middle Ages, taking into consideration every major culture. "It has been said that ancient history was but a preparation for the coming of Christ and that subsequent history is but an anticipation of the return of Christ." (Teaching God's Providence in History by David A. Fisher, Ph.D. BJU Press) Students will study the customs, religions, and history of the various cultures in light of God's wonderful plan for mankind in the hopes that they will be impressed by the biblical truth that God has always been at work in history, both the sacred and the secular.

U.S. History 7 BJU Press *American Republic*

U.S. History will attempt to build a solid foundation of knowledge about the biblical heritage of our nation. This course provides an in-depth study of events from the discovery of a new world

to the crisis of the Civil War. If time allows, the class will also briefly cover the period from Reconstruction to the Vietnam War (a period which will be covered in more detail in high school). It is our intention that students will come to understand and agree that "nothing in history is accidental; our sovereign God directs the affairs of men and nations to accomplish His will." (R.G. Lee, 1930)

Geography 8 BJU Press *Cultural Geography*

Geography 8 includes a survey of the earth and its resources, the use of those resources, and the geographic and cultural features of people in the various regions and countries of the world. It combines these elements of geography with a strong biblical philosophy. Students will also learn how physical geography affects countries economically, politically, and socially. In addition, students will study current geo-political events in the various global locations they will be surveying.

Middle School Electives

Electives are offered per semester according to student demand, teacher availability, and scheduling accommodations. Middle school students are able to take up to two elective courses each year. Elective offerings per grade:

6th Grade

- 6th Grade Band (year-long course – prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Physical Education
- Study Hall
- Journalism
- STEM

7th Grade

- 7th/8th Grade Band (year-long course - prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Physical Education
- Study Hall
- Journalism
- STEM

8th Grade

- 7th/8th Grade Band (year-long course - prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Physical Education
- Study Hall
- Journalism
- STEM

MACA reserves the right to not offer an elective if there is not enough interest.

Art (6-8)

Middle School Art is designed to give the students experience with a variety of media and materials, as well as exposure to the major movements in the field of art. Students will demonstrate knowledge and appreciation of art in the past and present. They will actively learn about what makes the great masters of art “great” and look at art through a Christian worldview.

Computer (6-8)

This course will give students a working knowledge of keyboarding skills, basic computer terminology, computer applications (Word, Excel and PowerPoint), accessing the internet and internet safety. Students will learn and practice correct typing skills for the duration of the course. Students will be introduced to more challenging ways to use the applications at each grade level/technical ability level.

Journalistics (the Logistics of Journalism, 6-8) a course designed for students interested in journalism and developing their skills as a writer. The course explores various topics including the "nuts and bolts" of reporting and writing, content issues, ethical responsibility, interviewing skills and basic vocabulary. Students will learn the fundamentals of news, feature, editorial, sports writing and photojournalism. Students will create a variety original stories using differing structures and writing techniques. Students will also collaborate to publish a school newspaper.

MS Band (6th grade advanced band, year-long)

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Students learn the techniques of playing instruments, working to develop ensemble and solo performances. Tonal quality and technical facility are developed. Students discuss and constructively comment on their own performances and on the performances of the band.

MS Band (7th and 8th grade, year-long)

Prerequisite: Teacher approval

Students learn the techniques of playing instruments, working to develop ensemble and solo performances. Tonal quality and technical facility are developed. Students discuss and constructively comment on their own performances and on the performances of the band. Students will be asked to perform outside of normal class hours for programs and chapels. **This course is a combined middle school/high school course.**

MS Physical Education (6-8)

This course is designed to improve the student's physical fitness and skill development through cooperative and competitive units. The student will develop an understanding of the importance

of health and exercise and will also develop an appreciation for the rules, knowledge, and strategies of several team and individual sports. An effort will be made to help the student develop Christian sportsmanship through self-control, fair play, group interaction, and cooperation.

STEM Elective - (7-8)

Inspired by the nationwide attention on science, technology, engineering, and math education, the result has been the creation of a unique course, simply called STEM. Students attend STEM in addition to their regular science and math classes. The STEM course, however, is not an add-on math, science, or technology course. The goal of STEM is to foster a learning environment in which students are guided to produce original ideas, objects, and structures according to certain specifications using concepts and skills from math, science, and technology. Although students make the math, science, and technology connections, those are still not the main focus of the course. Rather, the mission of the course is to grow students' capacity for creativity and back-loaded learning in a STEM context.

Study Hall - (6-8)

Students may enroll in a Study Hall. Study Hall will be a monitored class focused on giving students time during the day to work on individual homework assignments.