

# Mount Airy Christian Academy

## Middle School Course Description Guide 2014-2015

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. Yes, there is an ultimate prize, but there are also rewards and consequences along the way. It is imperative to the Christian 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** BJU Press and Mosdos Press

Sixth grade studies the basic components of grammar in the Bob Jones curriculum. Writing units are also a part of the curriculum including creative writing. Spelling is included in the classwork/evaluation. Literature uses the Mosdos Press curriculum. Potential literature selections include *Swiss Family Robinson* by Johann Wyss, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean Craighead George, *Call of the Wild* by Jack London and *Around the World in 80 Days* by Jules Verne. This curriculum also contains stories and poems covering different genres.

**Grade 7** BJU Press and Mosdos Press

The seventh grade students build on the grammar foundation laid in sixth grade using the Bob Jones curriculum. The students are given an opportunity throughout the class to use their writing skills. These skills prepare them to write more clearly using different planning techniques. The literature curriculum by Mosdos Press uses different genres to instill new vocabulary and expand their world. Potential literature selections include *Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens, *The Count of Monte Cristo* by Alexandre Du Mas, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by George Speare and *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom.

**Grade 8** BJU Press and Mosdos Press

Eighth grade students continue to build on the foundation that the Bob Jones curriculum has started in sixth grade. 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 *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens, *Johnny Tremain* by Esther Forbes, *Across Five Aprils* by Irene Hunt and *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank. Vocabulary building is essential in the eighth grade Mosdos Press curriculum.

**Foreign Language Department** – The study of Latin helps students to understand root words in the English language as well as the spelling and grammar of many of our everyday words and texts. The study of Latin also develops logic, reasoning and thinking skills that are applicable across all academic subjects.

**Latin I** – *Latin Alive! Book 1 Program*, Classic Academic Press

This course will introduce students to the foundation of Latin through study and translation of original Latin texts. Latin grammar is introduced in small and digestible sections that students will find easy to comprehend. Additionally, students will be introduced to the relevance of Latin in history, and ancient and contemporary cultures.

**Latin II-** *Latin Alive! Book 1 Program*, Classic Academic Press

This course will introduce students to the foundation of Latin through study and translation of original Latin texts. Latin grammar is introduced in small and digestible sections that students will find easy to comprehend. Additionally, students will be introduced to the relevance of Latin in history, and ancient and contemporary cultures

**Latin III-** *Latin Alive! Book 2 Program*, Classic Academic Press

This course will introduce students to the foundation of Latin through the study and translation of original Latin texts. At this level, greater emphasis is placed on development of grammar, Latin tenses and word derivatives. Students will continue to the relevance of Latin in history, and ancient and contemporary cultures.

## 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 will receive high school credit.**

## Science Department

### **Science 6** CSI *Science 6*

The purpose of this class is to build on earlier knowledge in the following areas of science:

Physical Science: Electricity, Magnetism, and Properties of Matter

Life Science: Diversity of Living Things and Ecology

Earth Science: Forms and Sources of Energy

Students will develop laboratory skills throughout this course.

### **Science 7** CSI *Physical Science, Life Science, and Earth Science*

The purpose of this class is to build on earlier knowledge in the following areas of science:

Physical Science: Newton's Laws and Forms of Energy

Life Science: Microscopes, Cells, Bacteria, and Health

Earth Science: Solar System

In this course a student will develop laboratory skills, practice graphing, and solve math word problems related to science.

### **Science 8** CSI *Physical Science, Life Science, Earth Science, and Answers in Genesis*

The purpose of this class is to continue to build on earlier knowledge in the following areas of science:

Physical Science: Properties of Light and Sound Waves and Introduction to Chemistry

Life Science: Examining Creation, the Evolution Theory, and Genetics

Earth Science: Meteorology

In this course a student will continue to develop laboratory skills.

## 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:

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

- 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Band (year-long course – prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Physical Education
- Latin I
- Study Hall
- Chorus

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

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band (year-long course - prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Robotics
- Physical Education
- Latin I
- Latin II
- Study Hall
- Chorus

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

- 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> Grade Band (year-long course - prerequisite teacher approval)
- Art
- Computer
- Robotics
- Physical Education
- Latin I
- Latin II
- Study Hall
- Chorus

**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, accessing the internet and internet safety. Students will be introduced to more comprehensive applications at each grade level.

**MS Choir – (1 credit)**

This course will introduce students to vocal techniques to enhance performance at concerts, chapels and other special events. Skills and elements to be studied include: breathing, posture, diction, basic musical terms and rudimental musical elements. Students will also gain a greater understanding of God’s plan for musical expression, worship and expectation of how to be an effective vocal musician. **This is a combined middle school/high school course.**

**MS Band (6<sup>th</sup> 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 (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> 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<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)**

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.

**Lego Robotics (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)**

This new and innovative course introduces students to the world of Lego robotics. Using the LEGO MINDSTORMS Education workbook, students will be working on robotic-based challenges with assessment activities covering: Robotics in Society, Flowcharting and Multimedia presentations. Students will model real-life mechanisms and use creativity, logic and problem-solving skills while learning key STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) concepts.

**Study Hall - (6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>)**

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.

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