



*Cultivating strong minds and a passionate faith*

# **Middle School Course Description Guide**

2016-2017

**Mount Airy Christian Academy**

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# Mount Airy Christian Academy

## Middle School Course Description Guide 2015-2016

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 various novels

Sixth grade students study the basic components of grammar in the Bob Jones curriculum. They also learn spelling and vocabulary in conjunction with the novel units. Additionally, they learn to write several types of compositions, including reports, poetry, and creative writing. They read from a broad range of literature selections including poetry, short stories, and novels. Novels include *Swiss Family Robinson* and *My Side of the Mountain*, among others.

**Grade 6 Accelerated/Grade 7** BJU Press and various novels

The accelerated sixth grade and seventh grade students build on the grammar foundation laid in previous English courses using the Bob Jones curriculum. They learn the basics of the writing process and develop writing skills through different compositions. The novel units expand their vocabulary and explore different types of literature, such as *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* and *The Hiding Place*. Students develop vocabulary and spelling ability as they work with words from the novels.

**Grade 7 Accelerated/Grade 8** BJU Press and various novels

Accelerated seventh grade and eighth grade students continue building on previous middle school classes through reading and writing exercises. Added to this curriculum is the correct use of gerunds, infinitives, and participles. The students learn the essay writing process, including developing a thesis statement and correct citation techniques. They create compositions in multiple genres to develop their writing skills across a broad spectrum. In literature, students read novels along with other stories from a variety of genres; novels include *Johnny Tremain* and *The Hobbit*, among others.

**Grade 8 Honors English (HS 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 personal narratives. 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 reading units, the students are introduced to Poe, Shakespeare, Verne, 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 will receive high school credit.**

## **Science Department**

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

The purpose of this class is to build on earlier knowledge in areas of science such as:

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 areas of science such as:

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 areas of science such as:

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 Renaissance and Reformation, 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
- Study Hall
- Journalism

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

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

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

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

**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. Applications include Microsoft Word, Excell, PowerPoint, Google Docs, Google Sheets, and Google Slides.

Students will be introduced to more comprehensive applications at each grade level. All 6<sup>th</sup> grade students will be taught how to type and basic computer skills.

### **Journalism (6-8)**

(Logistics of Journalism) This course is 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 and sports writing. Students will create a variety original stories using differing structures and writing techniques. Students will also collaborate to publish a monthly school newspaper.

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### **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.

### **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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