

# Middle School Program & Course Description Guide



2021 - 2022

*Cultivating strong minds and a passionate  
faith*

**Mount Airy Christian Academy**

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# GENERAL COURSE OF STUDY

The following is a sample of the typical course load for an on level and accelerated middle school student.

<p><b><u>6th Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 6</li> <li>● English 6</li> <li>● Math 6</li> <li>● Science 6 (Earth Science)</li> <li>● History 6 (Heritage Study)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Standard 6th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 6</li> <li>● English 6</li> <li>● Math 6</li> <li>● Science 6 (Earth Science)</li> <li>● History 6 (Heritage Study)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Accelerated 6th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 6</li> <li>● English 7</li> <li>● Math 7</li> <li>● Science 6 (Earth Science)</li> <li>● History 6 (Heritage Study)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>7th Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 7</li> <li>● English 7</li> <li>● Math 7</li> <li>● Science 7 (Life Science)</li> <li>● History 7 (U.S. History)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Standard 7th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 7</li> <li>● English 7</li> <li>● Math 7</li> <li>● Science 7 (Life Science)</li> <li>● History 7 (U.S. History)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Accelerated 7th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 7</li> <li>● English 8</li> <li>● Math 8</li> <li>● Science 7 (Life Science)</li> <li>● History 7 (U.S. History)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>
<p><b><u>8th Grade</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 8</li> <li>● English 8</li> <li>● Pre-Algebra</li> <li>● Science 8 (Physical Science)</li> <li>● History 8 (Geography)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Standard 8th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 8</li> <li>● English 8</li> <li>● Pre-Algebra</li> <li>● Science 8 (Physical Science)</li> <li>● History 8 (Geography)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>	<p><b><u>Sample Accelerated 8th</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Bible 8</li> <li>● English 8 Honors</li> <li>● Algebra 1 (HS weighted)</li> <li>● Science 8 (Physical Science)</li> <li>● History 8 (Geography)</li> <li>● Enrichments</li> </ul>

## **ACCELERATED PROGRAM**

In an effort to encourage our students to take demanding advanced academic work and to provide them with coursework that enables them to be more competitive in their future academic pursuits, Mt. Airy Christian Academy offers accelerated courses in English and Math for grades 6-8. Students on the accelerated English and Math track in grades 6 - 7 can qualify to receive high school credit for their English and Math classes taken in grade 8, provided their academic performance allows them to stay on the accelerated track.

### **ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCELERATED MATH AND ENGLISH COURSES**

#### **GRADE 8**

- Students must carry a B or above average in the course area.
- Students must be recommended for advanced courses from their prior teacher of the subject area they are seeking to enter.
- Students seeking acceptance into accelerated English may be asked to present a writing sample (minimum of 2 paragraphs demonstrating proper grammar and writing ability).
- Students within an accelerated class must maintain a 3.0 average in order to continue in the program. Students failing to meet the requirement will be moved to the regular class status in any class where they fall under a 3.0 average.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE 2021 - 2022**

In order to provide the best educational materials possible, MACA's administration and staff review the curriculum constantly.

### **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** 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 *I Am David* by Anne Holm, *My Side of the Mountain* by Jean

Craighead George, and *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munos Ryan. This curriculum also contains a variety of genres, some of which are stories and poems.

### **Grade 7** (On-Level 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. Potential literature selections include *A Long Walk to Water* by Linda Sue Park, *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* by George Speare, and *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. \*The accelerated classes will include extra reading and additional depth of study.

### **Grade 8** (On-Level and Honors)

Eighth grade students continue to build on the grammar foundation from previous years. Students investigate different types of writing including narrative, research essay, literary response, journal, etc. In literature, students read novels along with other stories from a variety of genres. Potential literature selections include *Silas Marner* by George Eliot, *Turning 15 on the Road to Freedom: My Story of the 1965 Selma Voting Rights March* by Lynda Blackmon Lowery, and *The Hobbit* by J.R.R. Tolkien. Vocabulary building is essential and tied to the literature the students read. \*The honors classes will include extra reading and additional depth of study.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

### **Math 6** (Standard) Holt McDougal *Mathematics Grade 6*

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 6** (Accelerated) Holt McDougal *Mathematics Grade 7*

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 Academic Dean 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 (seventh grade math) 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.

**Math 7** (Standard) Holt McDougal *Mathematics Grade 7*

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 (seventh grade math) 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** (Standard) Holt McDougal *Mathematics Grade 8*

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.

**Pre-Algebra** (Accelerated) Holt McDougal *Mathematics Grade 7*

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 Honors** - (1 credit, HS weighted credit when taken in 8th grade) *Houghton, Mifflin, Harcourt 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*

Students will complete challenging reading and writing assignments, perform investigative laboratory exercises, and actively participate in classroom discussions. Additionally, this course will work to 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** Christian Schools International *Life Science*

Students will explore basic biological concepts in a laboratory setting. Students focus on concepts that are shared by all living things such as cell structure, biochemical structure, 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 with a 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.

## **ENRICHMENTS**

Mount Airy Christian Academy exists to mature students in all academic areas. We recognize the unique strengths and needs of all students and are committed to providing a rich, comprehensive, and challenging educational program for each student. That strategy includes non-core classes that provide an opportunity for students to excel in skill-based courses as well as strictly instructional programs. We are also aware that as students mature through the teenage years, they often begin to "find their place" and realize skills and interests of which they previously were not aware. In light of that, MACA has established an enrichment program for MACA middle school students that includes exposure to six different disciplines during the middle school years. Students will be enrolled in classes such as art, physical education, STEM, language, music and computer science during sixth through eighth grade. Students will have at least two enrichments per year and, during the course of the three years, will have an exposure to all six enrichment disciplines. Our desire is for all students to thrive in their God-given talents. MACA's middle school enrichment program ensures that all students have the opportunity to determine their specific interests and abilities, which will aid them as they move toward advanced courses in different disciplines.

### **Fine Arts**

#### **Art**

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 experiment with many techniques and will create artwork that is unique to them. Exploring the God-given gift of creativity, students will learn what it means to worship through art-making.

#### **Middle School Chorus** *Essential Musicianship Book 1, A Comprehensive Choral Method.*

This course will give students an introduction to a variety of choral music and an opportunity to develop both their individual skill and ability to perform within a large group of singers. Related music theory and history will be taught as well as opportunities to express creativity. The students will learn to understand the importance of singing joyfully for our Lord (Psalm 33:3).

#### **Intro to Music**

Students will explore various facets of music including but not limited to: God's design of music, elements of music, music history, composers, orchestra families, various music styles, bucket drumming, and careers in music. All music will be chosen for its educational value and its historical, cultural, spiritual and artistic significance. Limited performance opportunities will be available for bucket drumming.

## **Vocal Ensemble**

Students with little or no experience in a vocal ensemble will develop basic musicianship and ensemble performance skills through the study of basic, high-quality music in diverse styles. Student musicians will 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 will be required to attend and/or participate in rehearsals and performances outside the school day (winter and spring programs) to support, extend, and assess learning in the classroom. These performances will count as part of the student's grade.

## **\*Journalistics** (the 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, sports writing and photojournalism. Students will create a variety of original stories using differing structures and writing techniques. Students will also collaborate to publish a school newspaper.

## **Foreign Language**

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

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. 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 be able to comprehend. Additionally, students will be introduced to the relevance of Latin in history, and ancient and contemporary cultures.

### **Introduction to Spanish** - ¡Viva el Español!, National Textbook Company

This course will introduce the students to the Spanish language and speaking proficiency. The focus will be on basic expressions essential for everyday communication. Students will be challenged to learn how to respond to simple questions, statements, and commands, using words, phrases, and, in some instances, short sentences. Topics include colors, numbers, school personnel, the body, farm animals, family and the weather.

## **Physical Education**

### **MS Physical Education**

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**

At key times in their middle school years, 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.

## **Technology**

### **Computer**

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.

### **STEM Elective**

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.