



Cambridge Christian School
Middle School Course Description Guide
2018-2019

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English

English 9 – Intro to Literature and Composition

1 Credit

This course is designed to develop foundational college level reading skills based on exposure to increasingly complex literary and informational text. Students will be exposed to a variety of genres including short stories, plays, novels, and poetry from distinct cultures and historical perspectives. Strategic reading instruction will expand student knowledge of text structures and elements, as well as refine their ability to interpret and critically analyze literature/text. Through various writing exercises, students will develop and strengthen their ability to convey complex ideas clearly and coherently as proficient writers. Students will compose arguments to support claims/counter claims, produce informative/explanatory/narrative essays, and conduct research projects. Instruction in the proper use of grammar, acquisition of vocabulary, rhetoric, and effectual applications of language will support course objectives.

English 7

While exposing students to a variety of literary genres, this course will engage students in the reading behaviors which will enable them to develop proficiency and a love of reading. Students will focus on identifying, interpreting, and understanding the genres of literature, including poetry, novels, short stories, drama, and non-fiction. They will enhance their reading proficiency as they discover how to connect topics, make predictions, ask questions, draw conclusions, visualize the action, and understand and appreciate character development.

Writing Lab 7

As we explore various genres, techniques, and styles of writing, students will creatively use a combination of personal experience, imagination, and research for each writing assignment. Students will focus on the use of the “writing process” to create a variety of pieces, including poetry, short stories, memoirs, research papers and folk tales. Students will also review and improve grammar usage as part of their writing experience.

English 8

This middle school course functions to equip students with the critical reading and thinking skills necessary for success in a college preparatory high-school English course. Through a variety of dynamic instructional activities and assessments, reading is presented as a social activity; and reading for pleasure, as a life-long pursuit. Nonfiction works are paired with classic and modern fictitious texts—short stories, poems, dramas, and novels—to explore literary concepts and to incite deep analysis, as well as personal and Biblical application. A major emphasis of the course is the effective annotation of text. Students will also use technology to facilitate research and deliver presentations.

Writing Lab 8

Purposed in fostering a love for the written word, this middle school course empowers students with the ability to flex easily between a multitude of genres, both academic and creative. A work-shop approach is adopted to mimic real-world writing experiences. Students will become a community of authors who, together, walk through all steps of the writing process, including the sharing and publication of their work. A survey of key grammar concepts is woven into the curriculum, to provide a solid foundation.

Math

Pre-Algebra A & B

This middle school course provides the fundamentals of Algebra which sets a strong, solid foundation for future mathematics. Through interactive note-taking, students will develop problem-solving strategies, increase their study habits, and participate in dynamic active learning. Students will explore topics ranging from Variables and Expressions, to solving Multi-Step Equations, Functions, Probability and more. This class is designed to stretch minds and equip students for all future mathematics! Pre-Algebra A is taken in 7th grade and Pre-Algebra B is taken in 8th grade. Both courses are the equivalent of Pre-Algebra Honors.

Pre-Algebra Honors

This middle school course is designed to prepare students for Algebra 1 Honors. The topics covered in this course will provide students with the foundational algebraic skills and concepts needed for students to advance and be successful in future advanced courses.

Prerequisite: Placement is based on test scores, standardized testing, and teacher recommendation.

Algebra I Honors

1 HS Credit

Algebra I Honors is a high school credit course and serves as the foundation of all upper level mathematics. Algebra I Honors provides a formal development of the algebraic skills and concepts necessary for students to succeed in advanced courses. The concept of function, including linear and exponential, is emphasized throughout the course. The instructional program in this course provides for the use of algebraic skills in a wide range of problem-solving situations.

Prerequisite: Mastery of Pre-Algebra *with excellence* as demonstrated by standardized/placement test scores; teacher recommendation and Pre-Algebra Honors semester grades.

Science

7th Science

This middle school course provides the student with an integrated approach to scientific concepts as outlined by the Next Generation Science Standards. However, all topics are studied through a Biblical perspective. Throughout the year, the course explores topics in earth/space science, life science, and physical science with a solid foundation being laid in the student's understanding and use of the scientific method. A highlight of this year is the bridge-building unit which allows students to think and utilize both problem solving and interpersonal skills as they work through a series of tasks leading up to the culmination of the final project. This project is the design and construction of a bridge that will withstand at least 100 pounds of force; however, adding to the complexity of this project is a set of numerous, real-world constraints. There is a school competition, and the winners can proceed to the University of South Florida's Engineering Expo's bridge competition.

8th Science

Continuing the integrated approach to science, the eighth-grade student will complete an exploration of earth/space, life, and physical science concepts with special emphasis being placed on the understanding and use of the technology design process. As always, the scientific concepts presented will be connected to Biblical truths. The acme of this year is the completion of an inventions project in which each student works independently to identify a real world need or problem and then create a device that meets the need/solves the problem. A detailed design package must be composed which explains the device's operation and provides a blueprint. Additionally, the student must answer marketing and finance questions as they identify potential consumers and develop a realistic cost/price. The project culminates in a formal competition in which a panel of engineers and business individuals from the local community participate.

8th Science – Honors

The eighth-grade Science Honors is a high school credit course. The course will have the same integrated approach as described in the 8th Science and will include the same project/competition opportunities; however, the differences will be:

- A) More material is covered and at an accelerated pace.
- B) More math will be included in units.
- C) Additional enrichment opportunities will be provided.
- D) Students will be required to complete written lab reports similar to what is experienced in the high school science courses.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation and standardized test score results

Bible

7th Bible

This course is designed to introduce you to the lineage, history and message of the Old Testament. As we study the Old Testament, it will reveal the special relationship that Israel has with God. This course will introduce you to the major participants of Judaism; from Adam and Eve to King Solomon. Students will discover the significance of the “the line of David,” by acting in spontaneous melodramas, and working collaboratively on projects that examine the lineage of David. Students will understand the important role that God gave Abraham by studying in-depth Genesis and Exodus.

8th Bible

This course provides the Cambridge Christian student with an opportunity to begin and/or strengthen a relationship with Jesus Christ through a survey study of the New Testament. Providing an overarching picture in how both Old and New testaments fit together, students will realize that the Bible is truly the living word of the Lord. Although written over 2,000 years ago, it still applies to us today.

History

7th Grade Civics

Civics examines the principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political course is also embedded with strong geographic and economic components to support civic education. Additionally, students will develop study and note-taking skills, while enhancing their critical thinking and analytical skills. Students will be introduced to, and expected to participate in, activities that involve recalling facts, discovering main ideas, making connections, drawing conclusions, and determining cause and effect. The biblical worldview will be emphasized throughout the entire course of study.

8th Grade US History

The U.S. History course for eighth grade examines the growth and development of the United States from the colonial period to the present. The study further examines the social, political, and economic development of our country through the examination of various primary and secondary source documents. In addition, students will continue to develop study and note-taking skills, while enhancing their critical thinking and analytical skills. Students will be introduced to, and expected to participate in, activities that involve recalling facts, discovering main ideas, making connections, drawing conclusions, and determining cause and effect. The biblical worldview will also be emphasized throughout the entire course of study.

Electives

MS Drama (9 weeks)

The objective of the middle school Drama elective is to prepare students to use their dramatic talent to glorify God and to share the Good News through drama. Students will learn basic dramatic terms and genres. They will also learn to identify and use their “acting muscles” (imagination, concentration, observation, and memory) through drama exercises, improvisation, and vignette preparation. An evangelistic vignette is presented by the class each quarter.

MS Robotics (9 weeks)

This course will introduce students to the basics of robotics including the design and construction of a robot and the programming of a robot. Different robotic programs will be explored including the LEGO EV3 robotics kits. The goal of this elective for students to have fun while learning to think “outside the box” and developing interpersonal skills as they work within groups to solve various challenges.

MS Lettuce Grow (9 weeks)

This gardening class is designed to help students discover the basics of gardening and some technological twists available in the 21st century. Students will actively design, build and grow a garden that utilizes alternative sources of water, fertilization and irrigation. Participants in this garden will get a chance to eat their classwork. This course will require digging, cutting, lifting, drilling, gluing, mulching, PH testing, splicing, and chopping to name just a few of the daily tasks associated with our hydroponic, aquaponics, and traditional raised bed garden.

MS Art (9 weeks)

Middle School Art is a 9-week course. It is an introductory course meant to give the student an opportunity to experiment with and learn about a variety of art media and techniques. Students will be taught the elements of art and principles of design as well as color theory. The bulk of our class time is spent in hands on activities that allow the student to apply techniques and concepts they are being taught in class. Student will use critical thinking skills to problem-solve for a creative approach to their work. Projects and lessons will also introduce students to well-known artists and art styles. The projects are meant to give each student a good foundation in art and the opportunity to come away with skillfully produced artworks. Students will begin to learn how to critique artworks based on the principles they will study. *No prerequisites are required for Middle School Art.*

MS Band (yearlong)

This course is a yearlong course for students with previous concert band instrument experience. Students will participate in both Pep Band and Concert Band. Students develop instrumental technique through scale studies, technique drills, and warm ups. A variety of genres and styles will be prepared throughout the year for performances, to teach music history and theory, and to reinforce instrumental technique. Students are encouraged to participate instrumental activities outside of class such as private lessons, local youth bands/orchestras, summer band camps, and competitions such as FBA District 7 Solo & Ensemble. *Band members are required to participate in all scheduled performances.* The band performs at all home football games, Performing Arts Showcase, Christmas Concert, Spring Concert, Disney Performing Arts On-stage, and a variety of other performance opportunities.

MS Choir (yearlong)

This is a year-long course that explores choral music from a wide variety of cultures and time periods through study and performance. The core curriculum emphasizes the basics of vocal technique and fundamental understanding of the written score. Students in Middle School Chorus are expected to participate in one evening concert each quarter as a major part of their grade. *Participation in this chorus does not require audition.*

MS Pre-Engineering/STEM (9 weeks)

This course will introduce students to the design process and STEM principles. This problem-based course is designed to expose students to engineering & design principles and how these are applied in our society today. The course will also explore STEM related fields and careers. Students will learn how advancements in STEM affect society and/or environment. They will also participate in a variety of STEM challenges that will require collaborative work, research, design, construction, analysis, writing and participation in projects based on real-world problems and curiosities.

MS Spanish 1 (yearlong)**1 HS Credit**

This level 1 language course is designed to introduce students to the structure of the Spanish language and the rich culture of the Spanish people. Students will develop their skills and basic understanding of the language through their study of thematic units prolific of vocabulary and grammatical instruction and practice at a Novice-Mid proficiency. Students will learn the present and preterit tenses along with other basic grammatical structures. They will participate in daily activities aimed to develop language production of the written and spoken language. Students will be expected to interpret and comprehend basic communications and conversations. Emphasis will be placed on introducing students to cultural aspects of Spanish culture for students to gain an appreciation for the people and language of both ancient and modern Hispanic countries.

Pre-requisite: Teacher recommendation