

Ontario Christian Middle School

Curriculum: Course Offerings



Middle School Philosophy

The Middle School is a structured yet relaxed environment where each student is challenged through world-life Christian instruction. Each student will develop habits of positive, productive behavior, both as a student and as a Christian citizen. The Middle School philosophy emphasizes a wide range of subject material taught using a variety of methods. While work will be presented in ways appropriate to the developmental age and learning style of the students, a high expectation will be held for all. The students are taught a strong base of skills and knowledge to last a lifetime.

In preparation for the transition to high school, faculty and staff work together to nurture and develop students' academic, personal, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth. A variety of elective classes are offered to provide students an opportunity to learn different skills outside the typical classroom environment.

History/Social Studies

Sixth grade history students will study ancient history through the times of medieval Europe. Students will be using maps, primary and secondary sources and research to comprehend the importance of each region's impact on world history. Students will also work on a country project towards the end of the year; learning valuable research skills and new programs to enhance learning.

Seventh graders study world history from the perspective of a Christian worldview starting with the time of the decline of the Roman Empire and going through the time of early modern Europe with an emphasis on developing critical thinking, research, and geography skills.

Eighth graders study American history from the Colonial period through Reconstruction. Throughout the year, the students participate in various projects, videos, discussions, and research in order to keep history alive and exciting.

English/Language Arts

Literature provides the basis for the Middle School Language Arts curriculum. The teaching and learning of reading and literacy skills are used, including analyzing,

evaluation, and responding to text. Text consists of fiction in multiple genres, including nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will also read novels throughout the year to enhance their study of theme and genre. Grammar, writing, spelling, and vocabulary skills are derived through explicit instruction. Middle School uses Accelerated Reader in their evaluation of novels read in their classes, as well as for independent reading.

Math

The math department's goal is to provide an integrated approach to our math classes. Students enrolled in Math 6, 7, and 8 will learn concepts that will prepare them for Algebra 1 as freshmen in high school. Some advanced students will have the opportunity to take Algebra 1 as eighth graders, and the criteria for this is mentioned below.

Math classes currently offered:

- Learning Center Math: This is available at each of the grade levels, providing foundational instruction in each class.
- Math 6
- Math 7
- Math 8
- Algebra 1: Covers the full Algebra curriculum. This class is available to 8th grade students who have completed Math 7 in an exceptional manner, achieved high MAP math test scores, and have a teacher recommendation.

Science

The sixth grade studies include a year of Earth science. Key units include emphases on the solar system, weather and climate, rocks and minerals, and plate tectonics.

The seventh grade studies are based on a year of life science. Units include those on life, heredity and genetics, diversity of life, plants, and animals. A Christian's view of Darwin and his theory of evolution, and a look at various human body systems are also covered.

The eighth grade focuses on physical science, which covers an introduction to chemistry and physics. Units include matter, the periodic table, chemical reactions, motion, forces, and energy. Students in all grade levels will be utilizing a "hands on" approach in dealing with the experiments in the class, and learn lab safety as well as basic lab equipment use.

Bible

Sixth grade students use the *Deep Roots* curriculum as the basis for their instruction in Bible classes. This curriculum utilizes an apologetics framework in an effort to help students see the validity of the scriptures and internalize the message of God's word on a deeper and more personal basis. The New Testament is the main focus of the sixth grade lessons, with specific emphasis on Jesus as Messiah and a deeper look at some of the epistles of Paul or Peter.

Seventh grade students use the Bible curriculum called *Route 66: Travel through the Bible*. This course is an overview of the 66 books of the Bible, with a heavy emphasis on the Old Testament. Students understand the primary themes of Scripture, identify and locate key biblical characters and events, and apply godly principles to thought, speech, and action.

Eighth grade students use the Bible curriculum called *The God-Man: Christ in the Gospels*. This course explores the identity and purpose of God's Son, as revealed through His earthly ministry. By exploring Christ's work from His preexistence to His ascension, students will learn how to apply spiritual truths to their lives, as God shapes them into the image of His Son, Jesus. After Christ's ascension, students learn about the birth and growth of the church as it is described in the book of Acts.

Advisement

The emphasis of Advisement is on developing personal relationships between teacher and student that encourages communication and keeps staff informed of the needs and concerns of students. The advisement teacher's goal is to maintain strong communication between home and school regarding all aspects of the child's experience at school. Advisement teachers meet with parents and students twice yearly at conferences for updates on student progress. Throughout the year, parents or students may contact advisement teachers, as open and prompt communication leads to strong home and school relationships as together we serve Christ for the benefit of His children. The Advisement period (four days a week at the end of the day) also includes topics relating to our lives as responsible Christians. These may include, but not be limited to, study habits, friendship, worship, sex education, drinking and drugs, vaping, bullying, and spiritual growth.

Morning Electives

Art

Each middle school student has the option to take art for one semester per year. OCMS art is both an academic course with an art history component and tests, and a studio course with dedicated art making time in class. Students will recognize God as the original artist and designer, and that making art and the gift of creativity are a way we live out our identity as image bearers of God. Students gain a deeper understanding of the elements of art and principles of design, develop their art skills, and use critical thinking to come up with creative solutions for their works of art. Students will work with a variety of art media and techniques including pencil, colored pencil, pastel, oil pastel, watercolor paint, printmaking, collage, scratchboard, and clay. Middle school art builds on the knowledge and skills learned in elementary art class.

Band

6th-grade students may continue their fine arts experience with Intermediate Band as instruments are expanded. New students are welcome to join! The intermediate band performs 2-3 times a year and has the opportunity to take part in a Fine Arts Festival that has many music categories

Exposure to new elements of playing, literature, and learning continues in the Advanced Middle School band. Students can expect to perform 3-4 times a year in concerts and various festivals that involve light traveling. 8th-grade students are prepped for HS band life so they can be part of the marching/pep band at the start of the following school year.

Creative Lab

This is a very hands-on class where students will be encouraged to explore their own interests and use tools and materials, both virtual and physical, to develop creative projects. Students will participate in collaborative learning that fosters teamwork and problem solving.

PE

All Middle School students have PE five times per two weeks. Topics include fitness training as well as team and individual sports.

Spanish

Middle School students take Spanish five times per two weeks (one semester). Students are exposed to the fundamentals of the Spanish language starting with basic vocabulary, grammar, word conjugation, sentence structure, and gender agreement. Spanish culture will also be discovered and celebrated.

Afternoon Electives

Each middle school student participates in electives. These special interest classes meet two times per week for a semester. Students will be encouraged to explore their interests and participate in collaborative learning. [Click here](#) for a list of elective class offerings for this school year.

Extracurricular Athletics

Middle school students have many opportunities to participate in athletics. Practices take place after school.

| Season | Girls | Boys |
|--------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Fall | Cross Country Volleyball | Cross Country Flag Football |
| Winter | Basketball Soccer | Basketball Soccer |
| Spring | Softball Golf Track & Field | Baseball Golf Volleyball Track & Field |