



THE TRAIL

Junior High Academic Handbook

Beginning the Trail:

Guide us, Lord,
On the trail set before us.
We come with open minds, hearts, and hands.
Use every challenge and victory for our good and growth.
Help us recognize our worth and place in Your story.

For the Student:

Whether we encounter peaks of achievement
Or valleys of struggle,
Each big or small step taken
Brings opportunities for learning and growth.
Amid uncertainty and times of conflict,
Help us:
Value hard work,
Not run from struggles,
Find resilience to persevere.

For the Parent:

Let us prepare our children for the trail ahead.
May we guide them well but not carry their load.
Remind us that independence is the goal.
Help us remember that the process of learning and growth
Is more important than any grade.
We acknowledge that emotions may cloud perception.
Help us:
Listen well,
Avoid assumptions by asking good questions,
Remain the calmest voice they hear.

For the Teacher:

Help us be good stewards and guides,
Starting with the end in mind.
Help us cultivate engaging ecosystems that support learning.
May we provide appropriate opportunities for struggle
That build cognitive flexibility.
Help us:
Build a supportive community,
Strengthen the green wall,
Meet each other, students, and families with His love.

Contemplation:

As we walk along the path,
There may be roots or pebbles along the way.
Help us deal with little annoyances quickly,
So they don't grow out of proportion or cause us to stumble.
Help us resolve conflict
With the goal of reconciliation.

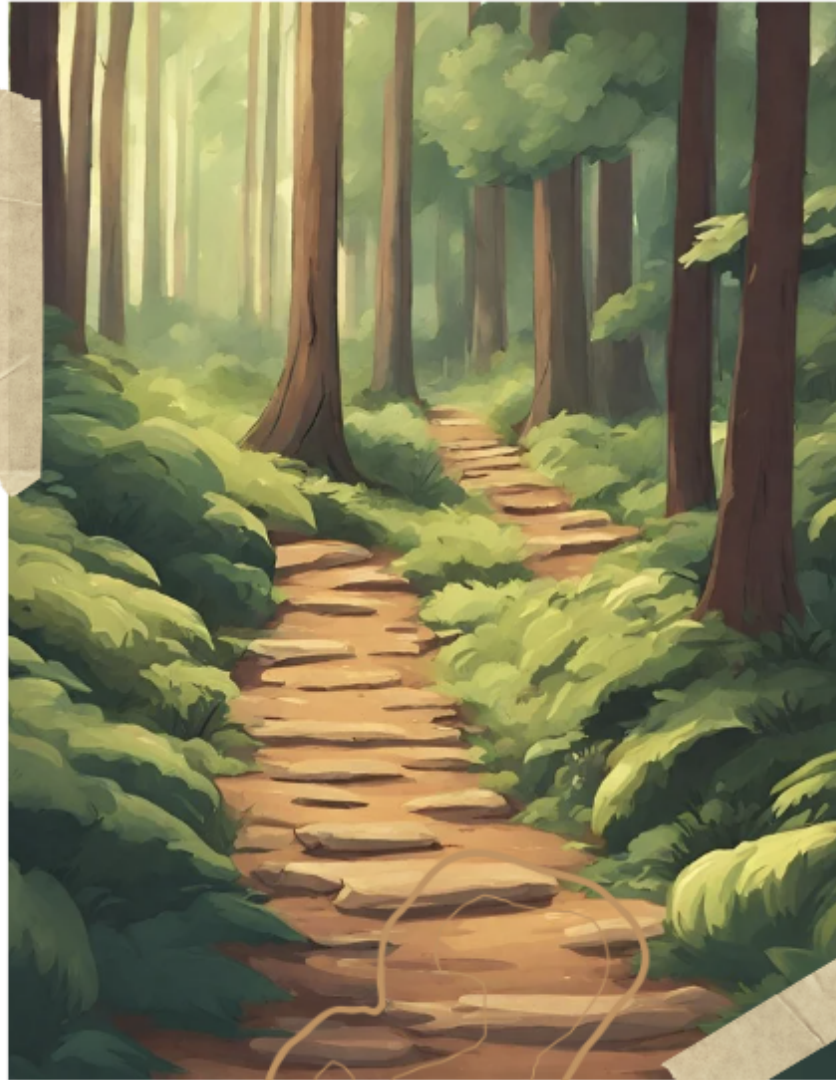
Sometimes students get lost along the way.
Give parents wisdom in knowing when to step in,
Help students find their voice to ask for help,
Grant teachers ears to hear and hearts to respond.
Take heart,
Remember this is part of the transformation process, too.

Prayer for Guidance:

Grant us strength and wisdom for the trail ahead.
Illuminate the Way.
Be the lamp unto our feet,
And the light unto our path.

May this trail of education lead us toward transformation
Spiritually, academically, physically, socially, and emotionally.
Shape us into compassionate and engaged people
Who seek out ways to touch this world with Your Love.

“THE TRAIL”





GENERAL INFORMATION

EXTRACURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY

Students wishing to participate in the rich array of extracurricular opportunities LRCA offers must prioritize academic success. Students are expected to attend at least two blocks during the school day if they participate in after-school activities, such as games, practices, tryouts, competitions, or concerts. Participating in extracurricular activities may be limited for students placed on academic probation. In such cases, sponsors and coaches will communicate with the Middle School/Junior High Leadership Team to monitor student progress and determine steps for individual students to maintain eligibility for specific programs.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PERIODS

All seventh and eighth-grade students must complete at least one semester of physical education. Students participating in one of the athletic periods (e.g., football, basketball, volleyball) are not required to take a separate physical education class. Students participating in after-school teams (e.g., cheer, track, cross-country, wrestling) are also exempt from taking a separate physical education class.

Students participating in non-school-affiliated sports (e.g., baseball, dance, tennis, horseback riding) may be eligible to apply for an alternative physical education credit. Please contact Delta Bost for more information.

REQUIRED ELECTIVES

Seventh and eighth-grade students are required to take a fine arts credit, such as theater, art, band, orchestra, or choir. In addition, students must take at least one semester of Classical Latin in 7th or 8th Grade.

SCHEDULES

Classes are scheduled using a block schedule. The schedule has alternating “A” and “B” days. Each class will be approximately 75 minutes in length. House Time, which includes chapels, assemblies, house meetings, seminars, and other special events, lasts approximately 30 minutes. Each student will have eight classes in his or her schedule, four classes per day. Individual student schedules will be available on a date to be communicated in August.

Most required classes for 7th and 8th grade meet all year. Some elective classes (such as athletic periods and certain performing arts classes) meet throughout the year,

while others meet for a semester. Some electives can be repeated in the second semester. More information about scheduling for each grade level is found on the following pages.

SCHEDULE CHANGE REQUEST

Please be very careful when requesting classes. Schedule changes will be made only if new or unforeseen factors require them. For example, a student adding or dropping a team sport, or the school adjusting to balance class sizes or teaching loads, could result in a change.

All schedule changes must be made via the Schedule Change Request Form in the Middle School/Junior High Office. Students may not make schedule change requests without parental approval. Schedule change requests must be submitted during the first week of the semester.

SUMMER READING

All students will be required to read a selected summer reading text. Summer reading encourages students to engage their heads through comprehension and critical thinking, their hearts through empathy and perspective-building stories, and their habits through consistency and continued growth as readers. Students will begin the school year by applying their understanding of the summer reading texts through engaging activities and discussions that reinforce literary skills and meaningful connections.



ABSENT WORK POLICY

The student, NOT the teacher, is responsible for arranging to make up missed assignments. Lesson plans will be available on FACTS. Students should speak with their teachers regarding missed class assignments when they return to school.

For each day missed, a student has two school days to complete make-up work. Work that builds, such as math, should be done more quickly. Assignments must be completed within the designated time to avoid a grade of zero. Some work, such as class participation, cannot be made up and may affect grades. Other assignments or experiences, such as quizzes or labs, may not lend themselves to make-up work.

We understand that students may miss school for a variety of reasons, including family circumstances or planned trips. Because teachers plan instruction responsively to meet students' needs, they are not required to prepare lessons more than one week in advance. As a result, teachers are not expected to gather or provide assignments prior to a student's absence. However, when possible, teachers may share general information about upcoming learning, such as assigned reading in a class novel or broad math concepts that will be introduced. All missing assignments can be gathered and completed upon return to school.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Academic integrity refers to honesty in completing and submitting class or homework assignments. Violations of academic integrity include, but are not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, unauthorized collaboration, and submitting work that is not one's own.

Academic integrity violations could result in anything from a zero on an assignment to possible suspension from school. Multiple offenses will carry progressively more serious consequences.

ACADEMIC PROBATION

A student with two or more D's (below 70%) or one F at the semester's end will be placed on academic probation. Academic probation will involve closer scrutiny and increased accountability regarding student achievement. LRCA desires to partner with families of students who are struggling academically.

If a student is placed on academic probation, parental involvement, Learner Services (if applicable), and/or other faculty resources are expected to be jointly utilized to help the struggling student achieve to the best of his or her ability. The administration may place students on individualized action plans to help ensure progress. Parents will be notified via email of academic probation.

If the student has not shown improvement after a semester, the administration will determine if dismissal will occur.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Students may not use ChatGPT or any similar artificial intelligence (AI) to generate original content, including, but not limited to, summaries or analyses. Consequences may include conversations with the teacher, administration, and/or a zero on the assignment. The opportunity to redo the assignment will be at the school's discretion.

Teachers may allow students to use AI to edit or revise their original work. All support provided by AI must be approved by the classroom teacher or administration.

GRADING

The school year is divided into four 9-week grading periods. A 9-week grading period provides timely and consistent feedback that helps students and parents clearly understand academic progress throughout the year. With more frequent checkpoints, students can identify areas of strength and growth early, adjust their study habits, and seek support when needed, before challenges become overwhelming. This structure encourages steady effort, responsibility, and engagement, as well as communication and the development of habits that support long-term success.

Percentage grades are rounded up or down to determine letter grades.

A+	97 - 100	C+	77 - 79
A	93 - 96	C	73 - 76
A-	90 - 92	C-	70 - 72
B+	87 - 89	D+	67 - 69
B	83 - 86	D	63 - 66
B-	80 - 82	D-	60 - 62
		F	59 and lower

GRADEBOOK CODES

- **P (pending)** - will only be used to indicate a student has submitted an assignment, but the assignment has not been graded (value set as uncalculated into grade)
- **E (excused)** - will be used to indicate that an assignment does not have to be completed by the student (value set as uncalculated into grade)

**Letter codes P and E are set so that the grade for the student is unaffected.*

- **M (missing)** - will be used to indicate that an assignment has not been turned in. The assignment may be missing due to an absence or failure to submit it. When M is used, add a note stating the reason for the missing assignment and the assignment's due date.

**The letter code for M is set so that the grade is calculated as 0.*

GROWTH OVER GRADES

In the middle school years, focusing on growth, character, servant leadership, and skill development is far more important than simply chasing grades. This is a critical time when students are forming habits, discovering how they learn best, and building resilience in the face of challenges. While grades can provide a snapshot of performance, they do not fully capture a student's effort, curiosity, creativity, or perseverance. Emphasizing progress over perfection encourages students to take risks, learn from mistakes, and develop a deeper understanding of content rather than aiming for short-term success. When students are supported in building confidence, responsibility, and a love of learning, they are better prepared for long-term academic success and personal growth beyond the classroom.

HOMEWORK

The amount of homework will vary depending on the course, the time of the grading period, and the student's abilities and goals. If a student seems to spend an excessive amount of time on homework, first investigate these possibilities: procrastination on long-range assignments (e.g., projects, notebooks, book reports), improper use of study time at school, or inefficient study habits at home. Please consult the teacher if none of these apply, and the homework is frequently excessive in a particular class. If your child is consistently experiencing difficulties with overall class load or homework assignments, please contact LeAnn Murry, Assistant Principal for Middle School and Junior High.

LATE WORK POLICY

Homework is expected to be turned in on time. Failure to meet this expectation will result in the following grading penalty:

1st class after due date = 50% off

2nd class after due date = Zero

SEMESTER EXAMS

Seventh and eighth-grade students take semester exams in Math, Science, English, and History at the end of each semester, in both December and May. Some courses use assessments such as projects, Harkness discussions, or papers.

Dates and times for the semester exams are announced midway through each semester. On exam days, students do not attend regular classes; they come only to take exams. We expect all students to take semester exams at the established times. Only in extenuating circumstances may students take exams outside the scheduled times. Approval must be granted by LeAnn Murry, Assistant Principal for Middle School and Junior High.

7th Grade - Semester exams count as 10% of the semester grade.

8th Grade - Semester exams count as 20% of the semester grade.

STANDARDIZED TESTING

MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) testing is an important tool that helps us understand not just what students know, but how they are growing over time. Because the test adjusts to each student's responses, it provides a clear picture of individual strengths and areas for improvement.

Rather than focusing only on a score, we look closely at growth—how much a student improves from fall to spring—and whether they are meeting their projected progress. This growth mindset helps students see that effort and learning over time truly matter. MAP results also connect to future success, as they align with the skills measured on the ACT and can help predict college readiness. By using MAP data, teachers can better support each student's learning journey, ensuring students build the skills needed for long-term academic success.



Our goal is to place each student in the best class to support their continued growth and development. In addition to readiness in reasoning and working with abstract ideas, other factors to consider include mastery of mathematical skills, academic achievement, motivation, and work ethic.

We know that students mature at different rates, which is often the most important factor. Optimal placement allows students to learn best. If a student is placed in a class that is too difficult, discouragement and possibly a fixed mindset about his or her ability in mathematics may result.

Math placement in any given year does not lock students on a “track.” Students are re-evaluated every year to determine the best placement. Because math is sequential, we gather input from multiple sources to recommend the best math class for a particular student. Evaluation points include the student's previous mathematics grade, MAP and IXL scores, Orleans Hannah testing results, semester test grades, teacher recommendation, student work ethic, and overall academic maturation.

7th Grade - Students are placed in 7th Grade Mathematics, 7th Grade Honors Mathematics, 8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra, or 8th Grade Honors Algebra I (high school credit).

8th Grade - Students are placed in 8th Grade Pre-Algebra, 8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra, 8th Grade Honors Algebra I (high school credit), or 8th Grade Honors Geometry (high school credit).

These mathematics courses differ in complexity, challenge, speed, depth, and the prior knowledge required. The LRCA math department has overarching goals of developing mathematical thinkers who understand mathematical patterns and problem-solving at the conceptual level, so that math knowledge and skills are applied fluidly, adaptively, and with advanced understanding.

Current Placement	Next Year	Following Year
5th Grade	6th Grade Honors 6th Grade Honors 6/7	7th Grade 7th Grade or Honors 7th Grade Honors 8th Pre-Algebra or Honors 8th Algebra 1
6th Grade	7th Grade Honors 7th Grade	8th Pre Algebra Honors 8th Pre-Algebra or Honors Algebra I (HS credit)
Honors 6th	7th Grade Honors 7th Grade	8th Grade Pre-Algebra or Honors 8th Pre-Algebra Honors 8th Pre-Algebra or Honors 8th Algebra I (HS credit)
Honors 6/7	Honors 8th Pre-Algebra Honors 8th Algebra I (HS credit)	Honors 8th Algebra I Honors 8th Geometry (HS credit)
7th Grade	8th Grade Pre Algebra Honors 8th Pre-Algebra	Algebra I (HS) Honors Algebra I or Algebra I (HS)
Honors 7th Grade	8th Grade Pre-Algebra Honors 8th Grade Pre-Algebra Honors 8th Algebra I (HS credit)	Algebra I (HS) Honors Algebra I or Algebra I (HS) Honors Geometry with Statistics or Geometry (HS)
8th Grade Pre-Algebra	Algebra I (HS)	Honors Geometry with Statistics or Geometry (HS)
Honors 8th Grade Pre-Algebra	Honors Algebra I or Algebra I (HS)	Honors Geometry with Statistics or Geometry (HS)
Honors 8th Algebra I (HS credit)	Honors Geometry with Statistics or Geometry (HS)	Honors Algebra II or Algebra II (HS)
Honors 8th Geometry with Statistics (HS credit)	Honors Algebra II or Algebra II (HS)	Honors Pre-Calculus or Advanced Placement Calculus AB (HS)

7th Grade Mathematics (full year)

The 7th-grade math curriculum begins to build foundational skills that prepare students for Algebra. Students learn ratios, proportions, unit rates, work with rational numbers, and solve algebraic expressions, equations, and inequalities. They also study percent applications, basic geometry concepts like area and volume, and introductory statistics and probability. Overall, the course develops problem-solving and mathematical reasoning needed for success in Algebra I.

7th Grade Honors Mathematics (full year)

7th Grade Honors Mathematics covers pre-algebra standards to prepare students for Algebra I. Students should desire a higher order of thinking to draw on a deep prior knowledge of math and recently acquired concepts. Students will combine problem-solving strategies with critical thinking skills through real-world scenarios.

Prerequisite: Completion of 6th Grade Math with a 90% average or higher, recommended MAP score of 85% or higher, qualifying scores from the semester test and IXL, and teacher recommendation

8th Grade Pre-Algebra (full year)

8th Grade Pre-Algebra is designed to serve as a bridge between seventh-grade mathematics and Algebra 1. This course will build a foundation of algebraic concepts through technology, manipulatives, problem-solving, and cooperative learning. Concepts include algebraic and numeric expressions, operations with rational numbers, linear equations and inequalities, factoring, exponents, and geometry. Connections between math and everyday applications will be emphasized throughout Pre-Algebra.

8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra (full year)

8th Grade Honors Pre-Algebra is designed for students who enjoy learning math but who prefer not to take a high school credit class. This class will cover the same concepts as 8th Grade Pre-Algebra. The distinguishing features of this class are the pace, the depth of material covered, and the ability to apply concepts to various problem-solving scenarios. This course includes operations with rational numbers, factoring, properties, exponents, variables, equations, and geometric concepts that deepen understanding of algebra, such as area, volume, and perimeter.

Prerequisite: Completion of 7th Grade Math with a 90% average or higher, recommended MAP score of 85% or higher, qualifying scores from the semester test and IXL, and teacher recommendation

8th Grade Honors Algebra I (full year; 1 High School credit)

This course is designed to introduce the symbolism and concepts of algebra and their applications to problem-solving. Topics covered include solving linear equations and inequalities, introducing functions and systems of linear equations and inequalities, factoring polynomials, solving and graphing quadratic equations, and simplifying

rational and radical expressions. This course will appear on the high school transcript but does not impact the student's high school GPA. Students will still be required to take four additional years of math in high school.

Prerequisites: Completion of Pre-Algebra with a 90% average or higher, recommended MAP score of 85% or higher, qualifying scores from the semester test and IXL, and teacher recommendation

8th Grade Honors Geometry (full year; 1 High School credit)

This course covers introductory concepts in geometry, statistics, and problem-solving applications at a level designed to prepare students for advanced mathematics. The primary source of curriculum will be Pre-AP Geometry from College Board. Topics covered include measurement and data, tools and techniques of geometric measurement, measurement in congruent and similar figures, and measurement in two and three dimensions. This course will appear on the high school transcript, but does not impact the student's high school GPA. Students will still be required to take four additional years of math in high school.

Prerequisites: 90% or above in Honors Algebra I, recommended MAP score of 85% or higher, qualifying scores from the semester test and IXL, and teacher recommendation

7TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

7th Grade Math (full year)

See the descriptions above in Math Placement.

7th Grade Life Science (full year)

7th Grade Life Science is an adventure that begins with the characteristics of all things living. An in-depth study of cells and cell processes follows. This prepares us for a study of heredity, including genetics. A tour of the human body comes next as we learn about the basic anatomy and physiology of the eight major organ systems. Life Science would not be complete without a look at the world of plants.

7th Grade English (full year)

Students develop literacy, writing, speaking, and listening skills in this course. Emphasis is placed on reading for meaning, increasing reading speed, learning new vocabulary, and distinguishing between literal and figurative language. Texts include *The Outsiders* and *The Boy on the Wooden Box*, as well as a variety of short stories, poems, short plays, informational articles, and essays. Each semester, students complete an independent reading assignment on a book chosen from an approved list. In analyzing texts, students practice annotation skills. Grammar concepts include

learning the parts of speech in greater depth and identifying and using dependent and independent clauses. Students practice writing in various analytical and creative assignments to understand the important components of the writing process and apply them consistently.

7th Grade World History & Geography (full year)

7th Grade World History is the continuation of 6th Grade World History, presented chronologically. As students gain a deeper understanding of history, we continue to challenge them to view what they learn in light of God's orchestration of events to bring about His purposes. We survey the world, focusing on Asia, North America, and Europe from the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Topics for the year include the following: Great West African Empires, later Chinese Dynasties, Japan, Cultures of South and Southwest Asia, Early Americas, Europe in the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution, Age of Exploration, Enlightenment and Revolution, and Industrial Revolution.

Class assignments include reading, note-taking, participating in Harkness discussions, creating timelines, and identifying maps. Additionally, students will be asked to apply their knowledge of history to write creative journal entries and letters, write and present poems and songs, perform skits, write and debate arguments, and engage in other creative activities.

7th Grade Biblical Worldview (full year)

Biblical Worldview students will examine what it means to apply faith to everyday life by reading, studying, and discussing scripture and truth. The life of Christ will be a focal point as students see the paths Jesus walked and hear Jesus' teachings in the Gospel of Luke. The purpose of this course, in partnership with families and church communities, is to challenge students to a deeper understanding of their Christian faith and to choose a life that passionately follows Jesus. Specific units include spiritual disciplines, the fundamentals of the Christian faith, Old Testament history from Judges to Samuel (comprising Judges, Ruth, and Samuel), the life of Jesus as recounted in the Gospel of Luke, and living faithfully in a world marked by sin.

This course is divided by gender to allow for discussing sensitive topics. The goal is to navigate cultural and life issues with biblical insight and view them through a biblical lens.

Boys - Boys will examine God's instructions and standards for human sexuality through the lens of Ephesians 5:3. Sensitive topics such as sexuality and dealing with the sin of lust will be discussed.

Girls - Girls will apply the truth of Proverbs 31 to cultural issues. Sensitive topics such as identity, value, relationships, and technology use will be discussed in light of God's truth about His beloved children.

8TH GRADE REQUIRED CLASSES

8th Grade Math (full year)

See the Math class descriptions above in Math Placement.

8th Grade Earth and Physical Science (full year)

8th Grade Earth Science uses an inquiry-based approach to help students learn the concepts associated with Earth's processes and their relationships to physical science. There is a strong emphasis placed on the scientific method. Earth science concepts will include mapping technologies, Earth's structure, plate tectonics, Earth's processes (e.g., water cycle, rock cycle, weathering, and erosion), atmosphere, climate, and astronomy. Additionally, physical science concepts will be emphasized throughout this course. 8th Grade Earth Science invites students to explore and appreciate God's creation while developing the knowledge and skills necessary to become good stewards of the planet He has entrusted to our care.

8th Grade English (full year)

Students develop their literacy, writing, speaking, and listening skills in this course. They learn to analyze literature through textual annotation and by applying literary terms in discussions and compositions. For informational texts, the focus is on identifying the author's claim, analyzing the type of evidence used to support it, and learning to evaluate motives behind texts and media presentations. This course's research and writing component bridges the foundation laid in seventh grade and prepares students for the 9th-grade research project. Major works include *The Giver*, *A Christmas Carol*, and *Romeo and Juliet*. A variety of poems, essays, and short stories are also studied.

8th Grade American and Arkansas History (full year)

In 8th Grade American and Arkansas History, students will learn about the formation of the United States, beginning with the migration across Beringia from Asia to America and concluding with the emergence of the United States as a global power through the mid-20th century. As this broad American timeline unfolds, students will pause to examine Arkansas's role in the larger story of our nation. Throughout, students will exercise critical thinking skills and learn to think like historians as they

analyze and interpret primary sources, such as old diaries, letters, paintings, and memoirs. Students are encouraged to seek God's purpose in historical events, thereby gaining a deeper understanding of Him and learning valuable lessons from the past.

8th Biblical Worldview (full year)

8th Grade Biblical Worldview is designed to help students continue to grow in wisdom and understanding and to encourage them to affirm a life characterized by the practice of their Christian faith. As such, it provides an appropriate transition to the increased independent thinking that will characterize future BWV studies. In essence, this course aims to help students develop a biblical worldview and apply it to every aspect of their lives. This course is divided by gender to allow for discussing sensitive topics. The goal is to navigate life and cultural matters with biblical insight, viewing them through a biblical lens.

As students work through the book of Acts, they will examine the early church and observe the apostles' sacrifices, with a particular focus on Paul. Later in the year, students will research other figures in ancient and contemporary history in the "Missionaries and Martyrs" unit. Students will learn about wisdom literature and parables as genres of literature in the Bible. They will be challenged to apply wisdom and discernment in everyday situations. This study deepens as believers recognize the Holy Spirit's role and the power of prayer in their lives, emphasizing God's sovereign care as He leads and equips them in their struggle against sin.

JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVE CLASSES

FINE ARTS

Junior High Art I: Drawing (1 semester)

In this introductory course, students improve their drawing skills, develop an understanding of the elements of art and design principles, and build confidence. Based on the concepts of the book "*Drawing on the Right Side of the Brain*" by Betty Edwards, students learn to use "right brain mode" thinking, concentrate on lines, and compare spatial relationships. Students experience a variety of media, including drawing pencils, charcoal pencils, watercolor pencils, chalk pastels, colored pencils, and oil pastels. **This class is strongly encouraged for 7th graders interested in the High School Art and Design I option in 8th Grade.**

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Prerequisite: None

Course Fee: \$10

Junior High Art II: Painting (1 semester)

This semester's course builds on the concepts and techniques introduced in Junior High Art I and further develops students' understanding of painting at the junior high level. This class is open to students who have completed Junior High Art I: Drawing. This course enhances students' confidence and prepares them for high school art courses. This course emphasizes the use of various types of paint, further develops students' understanding of the elements of art and design principles, examines color theory, and explores famous artists and painting styles. **This class is strongly encouraged for 7th graders interested in the High School Art and Design I option in 8th Grade.**

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Prerequisite: Junior High Art I: Drawing

Course Fee: \$30

7th Grade Jazz Band (full year - 2 semesters)

The 7th Grade Jazz Band is designed for students who successfully completed the beginning band in 6th grade; however, experienced or beginning students in 7th grade are also welcome to join. If a student is brand-new to band, it is highly recommended that they sign up for private lessons to build foundational skills and keep pace with the class. The 7th-grade Jazz Band participates in 2 to 3 performances each semester, including concerts and competitions. The band provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities, such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region Band.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th Grade Jazz Band Students

Course Fee: \$100

Warrior Jazz Band – (full year - 2 Semesters)

The Warrior Jazz Band is an 8th-12th grade performance group that participates in a variety of activities, including ASBOA and AAA competitions. Students will perform in fall and spring concerts, serve as the pep band at high school sporting events, and have opportunities to audition for All-Region and other honors. The band also enjoys opportunities to travel for performances. Warrior Band is a full-year course in which students represent LRCA as a pep band in the early fall and as a jazz band in late fall and spring.

Prerequisite: Most students will enter Warrior Jazz Band with two years of prior experience, but any student eager to learn a band instrument may join with approval from the band director.

Open to: 8th Grade Jazz Band Students

Estimated Course Fee: \$100 + Concert Attire (\$100 - new members only)

7th Grade Orchestra (full year - 2 semesters)

Junior High Orchestra is designed for students who have successfully completed a year of 6th-grade orchestra; however, experienced or beginning students in grade 7 are also welcome to join. If a student has no prior experience, it is highly recommended that they sign up for private lessons to get them up to speed with the class. The orchestra participates in approximately two to three performances a semester, including honor ensembles, concerts, and competitions. It provides an environment where students of various abilities can grow and be challenged together. Students are encouraged to participate in ASBOA/AAA activities, such as Solo & Ensemble and All-Region Orchestra.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th Grade Experienced and Beginning Orchestra Students

Course Fee: \$100

Warrior Orchestra – (full year - 2 Semesters)

The Warrior Orchestra is an 8th-12th grade performance group that participates in ASBOA and AAA activities, presents concerts in the fall and spring, and performs at various school events. Students enrolled in this class are encouraged to audition for All-Region Orchestra and for other honors. Orchestra students often enjoy travel opportunities as a performance group. Orchestra is a full-year class.

Open to: 8th Grade Orchestra Students

Prerequisite: Most students will enter Warrior Orchestra with two years of prior experience, but any student eager to learn an orchestra instrument may join with approval from the orchestra director.

Estimated Course Fee: \$100 + Concert Attire (\$100 - new members only)

Junior High Girls Choir (full year - 2 semesters)

Legacy Choir is a performing ensemble open to all Junior High girls. This introductory choral ensemble will equip the beginner choir student with foundational singing techniques and music sight-reading skills and challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in her leadership within her section. Students will discover a safe space to overcome singing anxiety and hone their gifts to a high level of proficiency and excellence. Legacy Choir will give 2 to 3 performances each semester. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities, such as All-Region Choir auditions.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Girls

Course Fee: \$20

Junior High Boys Choir (full year - 2 semesters)

The Junior High Boys Choir seeks to be a strong brotherhood of men committed to building one another up and to achieving excellence in pursuing a strong, unified sound. This introductory choral ensemble will equip students with foundational

singing techniques and music sight-reading skills, and challenge the seasoned choral veteran to grow in his leadership within his section. Encore Choir will give 2 to 3 performances each semester. Students are encouraged to participate in AAA/ArkCDA activities, such as All-Region Choir auditions.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Boys

Course Fee: \$20

Junior High Theatre (1 semester)

Junior High Theatre enables students to explore various aspects of acting and theatre. Students study acting and design, and also learn to analyze plays critically. Some activities include writing and performing original pieces, learning monologues, and basic set design. Junior High Theatre offers a great opportunity for students to learn new things, discover hidden aspects of their personalities, and refine skills and abilities related to this field. It is also a place where students can work on overcoming shyness and build confidence as they learn to interact with and encourage others by studying and performing across various genres. Students are required to attend the LRCA High School productions. All students will perform in a one-act production at the end of the semester.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Junior High Technical Theatre (1 semester)

Junior High Technical Theatre provides students with a behind-the-scenes look at the theatre. Students will study various technical aspects, including lighting, sound, set design, and costuming. Junior High Technical Theatre is an excellent venue for students to learn new skills, explore emerging technologies, and refine their abilities in this field. It is also a great way to gain experience that can be used in our school's major productions. All students will work backstage at a JH Theatre production.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: \$20

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE

Introduction to Creative Writing (1 semester)

Do you get lost in books? Have you ever thought about writing your adventures? If you are a blossoming storyteller or artist, or simply love to write, Introduction to Creative Writing is the class for you. This semester-long course will explore various genres, enabling you to read, write, and practice memoirs, fantasy, short stories, and more. Through thinking, reading, and writing, students will cultivate a storytelling heart and

dig into the elements of writing and art while creating original pieces and ideas for a writing portfolio.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Introduction to Debate (1 semester)

Do you like to argue? If so, take Introduction to Debate, and learn how to argue well. In this course, students will examine how they think, gather, and evaluate information to develop arguments grounded in textual evidence. They will explore critical thinking, media, bias, and the formation of logical arguments for debate. They will practice these skills in class with each other in controlled situations. The course heavily factors in student-focused discussion and in-class speaking-based projects.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Foundations of Classical Latin (1 semester)

Latin, often called the language of scholars and the foundation of modern Romance languages, provides a gateway to understanding classical literature, history, and the roots of Western civilization. This course is an introductory-level foreign language class designed for 7th- and 8th-grade students to build a strong foundation in Latin. Through engaging stories about an actual Roman family who lived in the 1st century, students will expand their knowledge of ancient Roman culture, geography, religion, government, and archeology. The class will also focus on understanding Latin grammar, building vocabulary, and practicing syntax. By the end of the course, students will be able to decline nouns in the nominative and accusative cases and conjugate verbs in the present, imperfect, and perfect tenses. Students will also have developed a rich and diverse vocabulary. Upon completion, students will be well-prepared for further study in Latin, French, or Spanish.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Classical Latin II (1 semester)

Building upon the foundation established in Latin I, this course continues students' exploration of the Latin language and the rich world of the ancient Roman Empire. Students will deepen their understanding of Latin grammar, vocabulary, and syntax through engaging readings that follow the surviving members of the Roman family studied in Latin I, after the eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Emphasis will be placed on expanding knowledge of noun declensions (including dative and genitive) and verb conjugations (including future and pluperfect tenses), as well as more complex sentence structures. As students progress, they will strengthen their translation skills

and begin to read longer, more sophisticated passages with greater independence. By the end of the course, students will demonstrate increased proficiency in reading and translating Latin, a broader, more nuanced vocabulary, and a deeper appreciation for the language's impact on English and the Romance languages, as well as for the significant legacy of the ancient Romans in our lives today.

Prerequisite: Foundations of Classical Latin

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

STEM/ROBOTICS

STEM: Robotics II (1 semester)

In this course, students will use VEX EXP Robotics to further develop their skills and knowledge in robotics. Students will engage in hands-on learning activities structured around the Engineering process and real-world application to design, build, and program their creations. Working hands-on with robotics and coding will motivate students to plan, predict, test, problem-solve, analyze, and explore, deepening their STEM learning and developing career-readiness skills.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

STEM: Engineering Design (1 semester)

As our world becomes more reliant on technology, a student's ability to design and create becomes a more valuable skill for the future. In this course, students will continue learning the Design Process and using Tinkercad, introduced in Middle School. Students will design, construct, and test various projects, all while learning and applying physics concepts.

Prerequisite: None

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

STEM: Business Innovation (1 semester)

This course lays the foundation for entrepreneurial success by cultivating a Christ-centered, redemptive entrepreneurial mindset. Students explore growth mindset principles - embracing challenges, valuing continuous improvement, and building the grit needed to persist through setbacks - while learning to redefine failure as a stepping stone to discovery and opportunity. These mindsets are applied throughout hands-on modules in prototyping, personal growth planning, selling, communication, and collaboration. In this semester, students move from theory to action as they design, launch, and operate an on-campus venture, developing mission, vision, values, leadership roles, strategic priorities, and financial systems while

experiencing the realities of running a business. By year's end, they see potential where others see limits - equipped to identify problems, create value for others, and lead with creativity, purpose, and faith.

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

OTHER JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVES (1 or 2 Semesters)

Athletics for Males and Females (full year - 2 semesters)

Boys who play basketball or football and girls who play volleyball or basketball must request 7th or 8th-Grade Athletics on the Course Selection Form. This class will meet during the school day. The athletic department determines additional practice times outside of class. Each coach notifies his/her players of specifics related to the sport. During the off-season, students participate in cardio and strength training. Parents or students with questions about participation in 7th- or 8th-Grade sports are encouraged to speak with the coaches of the sport of interest for more information. Students participating in athletics are not required to take physical education.

Prerequisite: Team Tryout

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Fee: Varies by Sport

Life Skills Lab (1 semester)

This course prepares students for independent living by teaching wise stewardship of their time, money, and health, coupled with servant leadership and personal responsibility, equipping students to honor God and others through their daily choices. Students will build practical life skills, develop healthy habits, explore the science of cooking, and discover what it means to live with integrity and purpose.

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Math Lab (1 or 2 semesters)

Math Lab reinforces foundational concepts and skills to support students' success in their current math studies. Students will be provided with additional examples, re-teaching, enrichment, and opportunities for project-based learning. Math Lab aims to provide students with the assistance and time they may need to gain confidence in their mathematical abilities. There will be minimal, if any, outside work assigned for this class. **Note:** Students may be required to take Math Lab based on their previous academic record and MAP or IXL scores.

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: none

Physical Education (1 or 2 semesters)

Physical education incorporates the body, mind, and spirit as a whole. As warriors of Christ, students are encouraged to respect and reflect on the God-given worth of human life; pursue excellence in lifelong fitness and lifetime activities; and grow physically, mentally, socially, and spiritually. Students are engaged in various lifetime activities: general fitness, basketball, volleyball, speedball, flag football, and soccer. Students exercise sportsmanship and learn how to work successfully with others. They serve one another in love and with respect while developing individual potential and leadership.

Required dress: Students must dress modestly for each class period, wearing any Little Rock Christian t-shirt, gym shorts, and athletic shoes. The students change clothes in the gym locker room.

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: none

Study Hall (1 semester)

Students may elect to take one semester of study hall. Study Hall placement is not guaranteed. Students with challenging academic schedules or athletes participating in in-season sports will be given priority.

Prerequisite: none

Open to: 7th & 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: none

8th GRADE ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES

Service (1 semester)

The purpose of Service is for students to learn what Biblical service looks like through hands-on experience. First, students learn about service, identify individual strengths and interests, and understand the expectations of this unique course. Students will be matched with a teacher in the Middle School/Junior High. An expectations contract will be signed by both the parent and the student before placement in a service position. Placement is not guaranteed.

Prerequisite: Application plus administration approval (limited spots available)

Open to: Approved 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

Junior High Worship (1 semester)

Why do we worship? Because He is worthy, and we need His presence! Because He tells us to! In Junior High Worship, we will look closely at these answers and discover how worshipping Jesus shapes our everyday lives. There are hundreds of ways we can worship the Lord. Music in church or chapel often comes to mind, but Scripture

teaches us to live every part of our lives as an offering to God. “Every part” means everything we do, like talking, practicing, playing, obeying, etc. Students will study and discuss Scripture, create and present presentations, and plan and lead some chapel worship sessions. Interested students should desire to serve the Lord and lead others. But lead them where? Into the presence of the Lord!

Prerequisite: Application

Open to: Approved 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: None

High School Art & Design I (full year)

This course is a year-long survey of studio art. Students explore the fundamentals of art, including design principles, the elements of art, and basic technical skills in 2D and 3D design. The instructor exposes students to wet, dry, mixed, and sculptural mediums. Students explore the entire creative process, which includes concept, critique, competition, and display. The instructor also uses art history and contemporary artists as an extension of learning the various media and techniques. Students expand their knowledge of composition, artistic expression, and aesthetics congruent with a Biblical worldview.

Prerequisite: JH Art I, JH Art II, and approval by JH Art Teacher and/or HS Art Teacher

Open to: Approved 8th Grade Students

Course Fee: \$45

Junior High Art III: Advanced Mixed Media (1 semester)

This advanced course is an in-depth continuation of the techniques and concepts learned in JH Art I + II. Students will continue to further develop technical skills with an emphasis on mixed media. While students continue to gain an understanding of specific media and how to use them effectively, this class also emphasizes the creative process in developing a piece of art. Students will focus on layering materials as they explore texture, color, and composition to create both 2D and 3D art.

Open to: 8th Grade Students

Prerequisite: Junior High Art I and II

Course Fee: \$30

7th GRADE ELECTIVES

Required Electives

- At least one semester of P.E., a full year of Athletics, or alternative PE credit
- At least one semester of Fine Arts
- At least one semester of Classical Latin must be taken in 7th or 8th Grade

Full Year Electives

7th Grade Female Athletics
7th Grade Male Athletics
Junior High Boys Choir
Junior High Girls Choir
Jazz Band
Orchestra

One Semester Electives

Junior High Art I: Drawing
Junior High Art II: Painting
Junior High Theatre
Junior High Technical Theatre
STEM: Robotics II
STEM: Engineering Design
STEM: Business Innovation
Introduction to Creative Writing
Foundations of Classical Latin
Classical Latin II
Introduction to Debate
Life Skills Lab
Study Hall*

One or Two Semester Electives

Math Lab^
Physical Education

Note:

*Students participating in a school sport in the fall and spring semesters may request an additional semester of study hall. Placement is not guaranteed.

^This class may be required for some students. Please see the class description.

8th GRADE ELECTIVES

Required Electives

- At least one semester of P.E., a full year of Athletics, or alternative PE credit
- At least one semester of Fine Arts
- At least one semester of Classical Latin, if not taken in 7th Grade

Full Year Electives

8th Grade Female Athletics
8th Grade Male Athletics
High School Art & Design I
Junior High Boys Choir
Junior High Girls Choir
Jazz Band
Orchestra

One Semester Electives

Junior High Art I: Drawing
Junior High Art II: Painting
Junior High Art III: Advanced Mixed Media
Junior High Theatre
Junior High Technical Theatre
STEM: Robotics II
STEM: Engineering Design
STEM: Business Innovation
Introduction to Creative Writing
Foundations of Classical Latin
Classical Latin II
Introduction to Debate
Life Skills Lab
Junior High Worship (*spring only*)
Service
Study Hall*

One or Two Semester Electives

Math Lab^
Physical Education

Note:

*Students participating in a school sport in the fall and spring semesters may request an additional semester of study hall. Placement is not guaranteed.

^This class may be required for some students. Please see the class description.

BACK COVER