

Legacy Christian Academy



Middle School Curriculum Guide

2009-2010

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Introduction

This Middle School Curriculum Guide will enable you and your parents to plan a successful Middle School experience.

Course Selection

English and Math courses have been designated as Standard and Honors courses. Honors courses have the same basic content as the Standard courses but with assignments and reading requirements at a more challenging level and accelerated pace. Standardized testing and teacher recommendation will determine English and Math placement.

Foreign Language

Seventh grade students will take Phenomena of Language as their foreign language. Eighth grade students will take Spanish 1.

Homework Load

Core courses typically require up to 30 minutes of homework per class meeting for the average student. Students should expect to spend additional time in preparation for tests and projects.

Bible

A year long Bible course is required each year of Middle School.

Electives

Elective courses may be selected in each grade of Middle School. Some courses may require teacher approval (e.g., cheerleading team). Electives could include choir/drama, art, physical education, and computer.

Physical Education

Physical Education in 6th through 8th grade may be pursued in one of the following ways:

1) Participation in 1 semester of PE class per year, and 1 season per year of extra-curricular sports or school-sponsored physical activity:

Fall Sports

Cross-Country
Cheerleading
Football
Girls' Volleyball
Co-ed Soccer

Winter Sports

Basketball
Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Track and Field
Softball
Golf
Girls' Tennis
Boys' Tennis

2) Two semesters of PE class at least one year.

Thank you for your careful attention to this important process. As you begin to plan for a new school year, we look forward to working with you and your child to make a successful year.

General Information

Course Registration

Class schedules and teacher assignments are determined on the basis of information provided during registration in the spring. Students should carefully consider their selections in registering for the following year. Although student choices of electives will be honored to the greatest extent possible, balance in class sizes and numbers of requests may preclude granting a first choice in all instances.

Drop/Add Requests

All scheduling conflicts will be addressed prior to the start of the course with the approval of the Registrar. All drop/add requests must be made to the Registrar within the first week of the start of the course. Request forms are provided by the Registrar's office, or may be downloaded from the school website.

Exams

The school year is divided into two semesters, at the end of which 6th through 8th graders take 90 minute examinations. Examinations account for 10 percent of the total grade in the Middle School. A student who is ill and cannot take an exam at the established time should:

- ◆ Supply a parental note, and
- ◆ Contact the course teacher to schedule make-up exams.

Middle School students who have failed a semester as the result of failing an exam are eligible for a re-exam under the following conditions:

- 1) Student must have a passing pre-exam average (70% or above).
- 2) Examination grade must not be lower than 50%.
- 3) Student must take the re-exam at a specified time and date.

To receive a passing grade for the course, the student must pass the re-examination. The maximum semester grade, based on passing the re-examination, is 70. If the student passes the re-exam, both the exam grade and the semester grade will be recorded as 70. A student who does not receive a passing grade on the re-exam receives the higher of the two exam grades and the resulting final average.

Enrichment (Tutorials)

Students are encouraged to seek individualized extra help from teachers during Enrichment at the end the school day, Monday through Thursday. This time allows students to ask questions, to clarify ideas, to practice or reinforce skills, make up work or tests missed due to absences, or to pursue a special topic of interest. Any student having difficulty scheduling extra help should see the Department Head. Any student with a grade below 75 is strongly encouraged to attend Enrichment/Tutorials. Daily attendance for Enrichment (Tutorials) is maintained in each classroom. Students are required to sign-in and sign-out. Parents may check on a student's attendance in tutorial by contacting the Dean of Students.

Failures

Any grade below 70 is a failure. To receive a passing grade and earn credit in a year long course, a student must earn a two-semester average of 70. A student failing two or more core subjects for the year will be considered for repetition of the grade or dismissal.

Grade Reporting

The academic year is divided into two semesters. Each semester is divided into 3 grading periods. At the end of each grading period, progress reports will be sent home containing the student's cumulative grades for the semester at that point. Grades will be reported as follows:

- ◆ 1st grading period - grades for all students and comments for students 75 or below.
- ◆ 2nd grading period – grades for all students and comments for students earning 75 or below.
- ◆ Semester grading period - end-of-semester grades for all students and comments for students who have failed.

Grading System

Legacy uses a numerical grading system:

- ◆ A: 90-100
- ◆ B: 80-89
- ◆ C: 70-79 (70-74 is Deficient)
- ◆ F: Below 70 (Failing)

Homework

Teachers assign homework on a regular basis. Students should, with parental guidance, prioritize and manage their own schedules to allow time for homework to be balanced with personal activities. In planning their scheduling, students should allow for adequate time to complete assigned homework, study for tests, and prepare for major projects. The school strongly suggests that parents and students should carefully consider the student's commitment to academics, sports, extra-curricular, church, and family activities in consideration of the student's self-discipline and work ethic. RenWeb should be consulted regularly for homework assignments and grades earned.

Core courses typically require up to 30 minutes of homework per class meeting for the average student. Students should expect to spend additional time in preparation for tests and projects.

Homework Guidelines:

- ◆ Parents should be interested in and encourage their child's efforts; however, homework ultimately represents a student's effort. (Sharing homework, unless specifically permitted in certain cases of group work by teachers, breaks the Honor Code.)
- ◆ Assignments are seldom given over Thanksgiving break, Christmas break, Spring break, or Easter break.
- ◆ Good study habits are necessary for success at Legacy, in college, and in life. The following are suggestions for students reinforcing or improving upon present habits:
 - 1.) Do not procrastinate. Plan ahead. Do not put off assignments, papers, or homework. Use your assignment book to plan ahead, and mix major assignments with your daily homework so both will be completed well.
 - 2.) Set up a regular study time and location. Do not study in a busy part of the house where there are other distractions. Set up a regular study location and let other family members know so they can work their own routine around your schedule.
 - 3.) Collect all materials needed. Set up everything you will need for your study time so that you will not need to get up constantly, and be distracted from your tasks.

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- 4.) Be realistic about time expectations. Do not expect to do all of the preparation work in one hour the night before a test or a major paper is due. Allow enough time to do your best job on the expected work, but also some time to do additional research or problem solving which may not have been assigned. Allow yourself time to be curious and creative.

Honors Lists

Academic Champions – weighted GPA of 4.0 and above.

Academic Warriors – weighted GPA between 3.00 and 3.99.

Note: Averages are not rounded.

Records and Recommendations

Requests for records and recommendations should be made in writing to the Registrar, preferably 48 hours in advance of a deadline. There is a request form available in the Registrar's office. The school reserves the right to withhold student records when accounts are delinquent.

Test Scheduling

Legacy attempts to avoid overburdening students with too many tests on the same day. No student should ever have more than two tests on the same day (note that this does not apply to quizzes, projects, or papers due). If a student has more than two tests scheduled on the same day, the student is encouraged to talk with his/her teachers at least one day prior to the tests, to arrange for rescheduling.

Middle School Course of Study

Please note: Honors courses have the same basic content as the standard course, but with assignments and reading requirements at a more challenging level and accelerated pace.

6th Grade Course of Study

Subject	Standard College Prep	Honors Option
English	English 6	
Reading	Reading 6	
Mathematics	Math Course I	Math Course II
History	World History	
Science	Life Science	
Bible	Bible 6	
Physical Education	2 PE semesters	
Electives (2 semesters)	Visual Arts 6, Choir/Drama, Cheer, and/or Computer Fundamentals	

7th Grade Course of Study

Subject	Standard College Prep	Honors Option
English	English 7	English 7 Honors
Reading	Reading 7	
Mathematics	Math Course II	Pre-Algebra
History	Texas History 7	
Science	Earth Science	
Bible	Bible 7	
Foreign Language	Phenomena of Language	
Physical Education	Part of the electives below	
Electives (2 semesters)	Study Hall, Art, Choir/Drama, Cheer, PE, or Computer Fundamentals	

8th Grade Course of Study

Subject	Standard College Prep	Honors Option
English	English 8	English 8 Honors
Reading	Reading 8	Reading 8 Hon.
Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Algebra I
History	United States History 8	
Science	Integrated Physics/ Chemistry	
Bible	Bible 8	
Foreign Language	Spanish I or Latin I	
Physical Education	Part of the electives below	
Electives (2 semesters)	Study Hall, Visual Arts 8, Concert Choir, Computer Fundam., PE, Cheer	

Descriptions of Courses Offered

English

English 6

Sixth grade students will read a wide variety of literary and informational texts. Students will compose written texts with a clear controlling idea, coherent organization, and sufficient detail, following the Six Traits model. Knowing how to locate relevant sources, then present ideas and information, will constitute their research skill base. Students will listen and respond to ideas while contributing their own ideas in conversations and in groups, accomplished through a biblical worldview. In sixth grade, students will engage in activities that build on their prior knowledge and skills in order to strengthen their reading, writing, and oral language skills. Students should read and write on a daily basis.

English 7

In English 7, students increase their knowledge and appreciation of fine literature; develop communication skills, both oral and written; and establish the habit of critical thinking, all with a biblical worldview. Through the use of the literature text and supplemental readings, students study short stories, short novels, poetry, and drama, and increase their understanding of the elements of fiction including character, setting, and plot. Students learn to express themselves clearly, concisely, and correctly through the study of grammar, regular vocabulary and spelling tests, and frequent writing assignments including essays and poetry. A unit of study is devoted to proper research techniques and MLA style. At least one interdepartmental research paper (e.g., history-English, science-English) is assigned during the year.

English 7 Honors

English 7 Honors continues the study of short stories, short novels, poems, and plays, increasing their understanding of the elements of fiction including character, setting, and plot. In addition, the course includes vocabulary, a review of basic grammar, and the application of advanced grammar in writing. Honors students are expected to have a solid foundation in grammar, to read well at an advanced pace, and to incorporate a Christian worldview. English 7 Honors emphasizes critical thinking and the synthesis of ideas. Organizing ideas, creating a thesis statement, choosing supporting facts, and designing a concluding sentence are skills each student develops. Through in-class exercises, students develop writing techniques that produce correctly structured one-, three-, and five-paragraph compositions. In addition, a unit of study is devoted to proper research techniques and MLA style. At least one interdepartmental research paper (e.g., history-English, science-English) is assigned during the year.

English 8

In English 8, students increase their knowledge and appreciation of fine literature; develop communication skills, both oral and written; and establish the habit of critical thinking, all through a

biblical worldview. Through the use of the literature text and supplemental readings, students study short stories, short novels, poetry, and drama, increasing their understanding of the elements of fiction including character, setting, plot, theme, and point of view. Particular attention is given to themes, techniques and styles, and authorial intent - what does the writer say, how does he say it, and why. Students learn to express themselves clearly, concisely, and correctly through the study of grammar and frequent writing assignments including essays, poetry, and short stories. In addition, at least one interdepartmental research paper (e.g., history-English, science-English) is assigned during the year.

English 8 Honors

In English 8 Honors, students increase their knowledge and appreciation of fine literature; develop their communication skills, both oral and written; and establish the habit of critical thinking, all with a Christian worldview. Through the use of the literature text and supplemental readings, students study short stories, short novels, poetry, and drama. Honors students are expected to have a solid foundation in grammar and to read well at an advanced pace. Particular attention is given to themes, techniques and styles, and authorial intent - what does the writer say, how does he say it, and why. Students learn to express themselves clearly, concisely, and correctly through frequent writing assignments including essays, poetry, and short stories. In addition, at least one interdepartmental research paper (e.g., history-English, science-English) will be assigned during the year.

Mathematics

Mathematics 7

This course investigates integers, decimals and fractions using the fundamental operations of arithmetic. Algebraic concepts are introduced through the study of the order of operations, inverse operations, exponents, graphing and the use of formulas and variables in expressions and equations. Basic skills are reinforced through the development of problem solving strategies involving number theory, fractions, decimals, measurement, statistics,

percent, ratios, scientific notation, geometry, graphing, and integers. Carefully sequenced lessons develop a broad spectrum of skills and concepts that build upon prior learning.

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra provides seventh & eighth grade students with the necessary tools to be successful in Algebra I. Students will master integers, multi-step equations, and other fundamental algebraic concepts. The course engages students in critical thinking about math concepts previously learned and applies this knowledge to the abstract nature of algebra.

Algebra I

Algebra I involves the study of algebraic concepts which includes operations with real numbers, monomials and polynomials, relations and functions, equations and inequalities, and graphing. Throughout the course, the students are introduced to the world of algebra as it relates to 'real world' experiences. Technology will be used with appropriate topics. Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra.

Social Studies

World History 6

This course covers people and places of the contemporary world. In conjunction with TEA guidelines, societies selected for study are chosen from the following regions of the world: Europe, Russia and the Eurasian republics, North America, Middle America, South America, Southwest Asia, North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, East Asia, Southeast Asia, Australia, and the Pacific Realm. Students describe the influence of individuals and groups on historical and contemporary events in those societies and identify the locations and geographic characteristics of selected societies. Students identify different ways of organizing economic and governmental systems. The concepts of limited and unlimited government are introduced,

and students describe the nature of citizenship in various societies. Students study and compare government, education, and religious institutions that are common to all societies. Students explain how the level of technology affects the development of the selected societies and identify different points of view about selected events. This course will also focus on Biblical principles and Christian history that are interwoven throughout the history of the world.

Texas History 7

This course covers the history of Texas from early times to the present. Students examine the full scope of Texas history, including the cultures of Native Americans living in Texas prior to European exploration and the eras of mission-building, colonization, revolution, republic, and statehood. In conjunction with TEA guidelines, the focus in each era is on key individuals, events, and issues. The course emphasizes the impact of Christianity in the settlement and development of the state. Students identify regions of Texas and the distribution of population in those regions and explain the factors involved in changing Texas from an agrarian to an urban society. Students describe the structure and functions of municipal, county, and state governments, explain the influence of the U.S. Constitution on the Texas Constitution, and examine the rights and responsibilities of Texas citizens. Using primary and secondary sources to examine the rich and diverse cultural background of Texas, students identify the different racial and ethnic groups that settled in Texas to build a republic and then a state. Students analyze the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of Texas.

American History 8

This course covers the history of the United States from the early colonial period through Reconstruction. Historical content focuses on the political, economic, and social events and issues related to the colonial and revolutionary eras, the creation and ratification of the U.S. Constitution, challenges of the early Republic, westward expansion, sectionalism, Civil War, and Reconstruction. In conjunction with TEA guidelines, students

describe the physical characteristics of the United States and their impact on population distribution and settlement patterns in the past and present. Students analyze economic factors that influenced colonial America and the early years of the Republic and identify the origins of the free enterprise system. An emphasis is placed on American beliefs and principles including limited government, checks and balances, federalism, separation of powers, and individual rights. Students use primary and secondary sources and examine the rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizens and the importance of leadership in a democratic society. Students evaluate the impact of scientific discoveries and technological innovations on the development of the United States. This course will also focus on Biblical principles and Christian heritage that are interwoven through the history of our country.

Christian Studies

Bible

Students will become familiar with the history of the books of the Bible, and the Old and New Testaments. Literary features such as the poetry of Psalms are examined. Students study the prophetic writings, and learn about the life and ministry of Jesus through the Gospels.

Science

Life Science

Students engage in hands-on activities, inquiry-based study of ecology, cell structure and function, genetics, and human body. An emphasis is placed on developing the student's science vocabulary, improving lab techniques, and skills in observation and classification.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)

IPC introduces students to the disciplines of chemistry and physics, as well as the methods and techniques used in scientific research and application. The course is intended to foster an interest and appreciation for science, as well as prepare students for more rigorous science courses in the High School.

Foreign Language

Phenomena of Language 7

This course is an intensive introduction to the rudiments of the Latin language and the Roman world. Students acquire proficiency in reading and translating basic Latin constructions, study elements of Roman civilization, explore etymological dictionaries, and increase their knowledge of Latin phrases and abbreviations commonly used in the modern world. Students will find this course challenging as they gain knowledge of Latin that will be valuable to them for the rest of their lives.

Spanish 8

This course is a continuation of Spanish 7 that aims to help the student reach an Intermediate-Low level of proficiency. The vocabulary and grammar of the course will be taught with communicative functions in mind. While topics from Spanish I are reviewed, there will be a broader variety of reading material, including culturally authentic selections, and a greater freedom to create with the language, in the form of dialogues, letters, and short compositions on guided topics. Further development of listening and speaking skills will be accomplished through regular use of audio and video, and predominant use of the target language in class. Students will also further their knowledge of various aspects of the history and culture of the countries

comprising the Hispanic world, including Spanish-speaking communities in the United States. Prerequisite: Spanish 7.

Physical Education

Physical education may be pursued in one of the following ways:

1) Participation in 1 semester of PE class per year, and 1 season per year of extra-curricular sports or school-sponsored physical activity:

Fall Sports

Cross-Country
Cheerleading
Football
Girl's Volleyball
Co-ed Soccer

Winter Sports

Basketball
Cheerleading

Spring Sports

Track and Field
Softball
Golf
Girl's Tennis
Boy's Tennis

2) Two semesters of PE class for a year.

Physical Education

This course will teach students the basic fundamentals of achieving and maintaining health-related fitness, designed to help promote an active life. Students will participate in lifetime fitness activities for extended periods of time to teach the principles of adaptation and progression. Students will be exposed to a variety of team sports and individual activities that allow them to discover which exercise setting best fits their personality and fitness needs.

Fine Arts

Visual Arts 7

Students in seventh grade art class will explore art through different mediums including clay, drawing, painting, sculpture and graphic design. Each unit will involve completing one major art project. Small art exercises will also be completed in order to learn specific techniques. The elements of art (line, shape, color, value, texture, and space) and the principles of design (repetition, emphasis, balance, unity, and contrast) will be

applied to each art project. Art history may be incorporated to enrich student knowledge.

Visual Arts 8

Eighth grade art seeks to further advance students in creating a variety of two and three-dimensional works. As in Visual Arts 7, the semester is broken into units that will build on their skills in drawing painting, sculpture, ceramics and design. Awareness of art's impact on individuals and community is addressed throughout the course.

Concert Choir

The primary goal of this course is to rehearse and perform choral music. Within the context of these rehearsals, instruction will emphasize the improvement of vocal, sight-reading, and listening and blending skills. Students will study music theory and music history in order to appreciate the music at a higher level. The Concert Choir performs throughout the year at various concerts and festivals.

Theater

This course will introduce basic acting skills through storytelling, pantomime, and character study. Students will gain an understanding of the importance of expression through words and body, participating in a variety of exercises and forming constructive criticism of actors from clips of theatrical presentations that will be shown in class. Throughout the semester, students will put their new skills to use by performing a wide range of characters in monologues, short skits, and scenes that will be presented in class.

Technology

Computer Fundamentals

This course provides all seventh and eighth grade students continued development and refinement of foundational computer skills. Students will enhance their use of Microsoft Excel,

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PowerPoint, Word, typing for speed and accuracy, file management, computer networks, and digital photography. Students will explore the relevance of technology ethics, and refine their skills in communication and vocabulary. Instruction includes direct application to current assignments in other subject areas, and creates a solid foundation for future years.

Web Page Design

In this one-semester course, students will examine computer history, development, and hardware components. Students will then learn how to explore the Internet and develop efficient searching techniques. Students will use both HTML commands and page layout programs to construct web pages. Students will also work with graphics and audio files. As a final project in the course, students will develop an extensive web page to be posted on the World Wide Web.

Accreditations & Contact Information

Legacy Christian Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) for grades six to twelve.

Legacy Christian Academy is also recognized by the Texas Education Agency, and affiliated with The College Board.

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