



Curriculum Overview 2025-26

Faith Integration

Since the 2019–20 school year, Oakland Christian School (OCS) has been implementing **Teaching for Transformation**—a program sponsored by the Center for the Advancement of Christian Education. This initiative emphasizes character development, the use of effective practices, and formative learning experiences. Its goal is to invite, nurture, and empower both teachers and students to actively participate in God’s story through their daily learning in all subject areas.

Elementary (Grades K–5)

OCS's elementary program uses reliable, research-backed curriculum resources and age-appropriate combinations of physical and digital materials to support each student’s academic growth. In addition to dedicated Bible instruction through the **Deep Roots** curriculum and a weekly, all-elementary **Chapel**, faith integration is woven into every subject.

Core Subjects:

- **Language Arts**
 - *Brain Friendly Reading* by Kristin Dwer and Elaine Smith for explicit phonics, reading, and spelling instruction aligned with the Science of Reading
 - *Zaner-Bloser Handwriting* (K–3): Manuscript (K–1), Cursive (2–3)
 - *HMH Into Reading* (English) and *Arriba la Lectura* (Spanish Immersion)
- **Mathematics**
 - *HMH Into Math* (English) and *Arriba las Matemáticas* (Spanish Immersion)
- **Science**
 - *FOSS (Full Option Science System)*, aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards
- **Social Studies**
 - *Savvas MyWorld*, incorporating both national and Michigan-specific learning objectives

In addition to these core areas, students also participate in **weekly enrichment classes** taught by specialized instructors. These include **Art, Music, Physical Education, S.T.E.M., and Chapel**.

Spanish Immersion Program

The Spanish Immersion program follows the same faith-based integration and academic standards for Science, Math, Social Studies, and Language Arts as the English-track program, but provides English-speaking students the opportunity to become proficient in Spanish.

- **Instructional Language**

- *Kindergarten–Grade 2*: 100% of instruction is in Spanish
- *Grade 3*: 90% Spanish / 10% English (one content area taught in English)
- *Grade 4*: 85% Spanish / 15% English (two content areas taught in English)
- *Grade 5*: Similar 85/15 model with increased complexity
- *Middle School*: 50% of instruction in Spanish, 50% in English

- **Curriculum Approach**

- Literacy instruction (Reading, Writing, Grammar, Spelling/Word Study) is delivered in Spanish in all elementary grades
- The program uses a robust curriculum framework and state-of-the-art dual-language immersion training for teachers

- **High School Spanish Immersion Expansion**

Beginning in 2025–26, Spanish Immersion students in high school will have the opportunity to take **college-level courses**, beginning with a two-year **AP Spanish Language and Culture** sequence in grades 9–10. Following this, students may have access to **dual enrollment** opportunities through partnerships with higher education institutions.

Middle School (Grades 6–8)

The Middle School program at OCS balances the social and emotional development unique to this age with strong academic foundations necessary for success in high school.

Core Subjects:

- **Language Arts**

- Based on *CommonLit 360*, a comprehensive ELA curriculum focused on both thematic and skill-based units
- Students engage with novels, short stories, and nonfiction texts
- Reading, writing, speaking, listening, grammar, and vocabulary are integrated into instruction

- **Mathematics**

- *Reveal Math* by McGraw-Hill (Grades 6–8), with both digital and print resources
- Standards-based instruction with flexible assignments and assessments

- **Science**
 - *Project-based Inquiry Science* by Activate Learning encourages students to become curious, thoughtful problem solvers
 - **Social Studies**
 - A combination of primary sources, historical fiction, and nonfiction fosters empathy and critical thinking
 - Interactive digital lessons from TCI support knowledge building and study skills
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High School (Grades 9–12)

High school students at OCS access academic content through a blend of teacher-curated materials, print resources, and digital platforms, rather than traditional textbooks in all courses. This flexible model supports deeper engagement and mastery across subjects.

Core Subjects:

- **Language Arts**
 - Builds on the *CommonLit 360* framework with thematic and skill-based units
 - Students read a variety of texts and engage in writing, grammar, and vocabulary development
 - *AP courses* use materials from the College Board’s AP Classroom platform and other reputable publishers
- **Mathematics**
 - *Reveal Math* by McGraw-Hill (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2) with both print and digital resources
 - Upper-level and AP courses use a range of high-quality supplemental materials
- **Science**
 - Courses such as biology and chemistry are supported by *Savvas* resources
 - Physics and other advanced topics use carefully selected instructional materials
- **Social Studies**
 - Students explore U.S. History (post-1870), Modern World History, Civics, and Economics
 - Instruction includes primary source analysis and integrated literature to build historical understanding and critical thinking