

# THRIVING IN THE *Middle*

A parent's guide for the  
6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Years at OCS



OAKLAND  
CHRISTIAN  
— SCHOOL —

HELPING STUDENTS GROW IN **CONFIDENCE, CONNECTION, AND PURPOSE**

3075 SHIMMONS RD. | AUBURN HILLS, MI 48326

# A Parent's Guide

## *TO THE MIDDLE SCHOOL YEARS*

Middle school is a season of big change. Students are gaining independence, forming stronger friendships, and learning how to manage greater academic responsibility. It's an exciting time, but it can also feel overwhelming for families.

### Our Approach

**Intentional. Supportive. Full of Opportunity.**

Middle school at OCS is designed to help students:

- Grow in confidence
- Build meaningful connections
- Develop a strong sense of purpose as they prepare for high school and beyond.

### What You'll Find Inside

- Smooth 6th grade transition
- Strong academics and hands-on learning
- Personal growth, leadership, and service
- Close-knit community and belonging
- Arts, athletics, and activities

Whether you're just beginning to explore middle school options or considering a school change, this guide will help you picture what your child's experience could look like at OCS.

[Start Exploring](#)

# FROM ELEMENTARY >>> TO MIDDLE

The schedule for 6th grade is designed to facilitate the transition of students from a traditional elementary school classroom to a middle school setting where they interact with multiple teachers.



## 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE TRANSITION PROGRAM

- 1) Two core teachers for English/Social Studies and Math/Science.
- 2) Physical Education, Band or Orchestra, and Bible classes in addition to the core subjects.
- 3) Quarterly rotation through other elective courses.
- 4) Study Skills/ Organization Skills are implemented in the 6<sup>th</sup> grade curriculum

## QUOTE FROM PARENT:



“The 6th grade transition program made the move to middle school smooth and stress-free. We felt welcomed from day one, and the supportive teachers and close-knit community have made a big difference for our son.”

-OCS 6<sup>th</sup> Grade Parent

Students will experience the traditional middle school practice of switching classes, but with fewer teachers for their core subjects. This approach ensures consistency in the expectations and systems within the core classes. Additionally, the schedule includes built-in brain breaks, outdoor time, and playtime, which are crucial for the learning and development of students in this age group.

# Encouraging **Curiosity, Critical Thinking, & Confidence**

- **Core subjects built on a strong foundation of Christian Worldview**
- **Project-based learning and cross-curricular connections**
- **Hands-on STEM and technology integration**

Middle school at OCS combines strong academics with hands-on learning and intentional faith integration. Students build skills in core subjects while strengthening critical thinking, collaboration, and communication. Project-based learning and cross-curricular connections help students see how ideas fit together and apply to real life. Technology and STEM experiences encourage creativity and problem-solving as students grow in confidence and independence.

Electives such as art, band, orchestra, choir, physical education, and STEM allow students to explore interests and develop well-rounded skills. Through projects, teamwork, and service opportunities, students are prepared academically and personally for the transition to high school.



# PERSONAL GROWTH >>> <<< *THAT LASTS BEYOND MIDDLE SCHOOL*

## *Student Reflection*



“I really like that we get to learn about the Bible every day and that our smaller school feels like a close community. I enjoy being able to talk with teachers one-on-one, pray openly in class, and make faith-based friends who share the same values. Chapel, retreats, and other spiritual opportunities have helped me grow.” -OCS 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Student

We believe that spiritual development is a critical aspect of a student’s education. As middle school students begin to discover who they are, we want to help them discover the unique person that God created them to be. Our program is designed to help students deepen their faith, develop a personal relationship with God, and understand how their faith applies to their daily lives..

- **Chapel, Bible Classes, and small groups**
- **Teaching for Transformation Framework**
- **Service learning and leadership**
- **Focus on identity and purpose**

# Discovering God-Given Talents Through the *Arts*

The arts are a meaningful part of everyday life at OCS. Through art, band, orchestra, and choir, students get the chance to try new things, build skills, and discover what they enjoy in a supportive setting. Whether a student is picking up an instrument for the first time, growing as a musician, or creating original artwork, they're encouraged to explore their creativity, practice consistently, and gain confidence along the way.

Art

Band

Choir

Orchestra

**L** Students learn how to work together, stick with challenges, and take pride in their progress. Concerts, art displays, and group projects give students a chance to share their work with others and experience the joy of contributing their gifts to the community.



# ATHLETICS

- **Development over outcomes:** We focus on building skills, confidence, and a love for the game. Progress matters more than the final score.
- **Character and faith formation:** Athletics help teach discipline, responsibility, humility, and perseverance—values rooted in our Christian mission that extend beyond sports.
- **Inclusive participation:** Every athlete is valued and given meaningful opportunities, recognizing that students grow at different paces.
- **Team-first mindset:** Middle school sports emphasize teamwork, resilience, and putting the group above individual success.
- **Positive coaching environment:** Coaches lead with encouragement and instruction, creating a safe, supportive space where students feel motivated and excited to participate.

## [ Fall ]

Boys' Cross Country  
Girls' Cross Country  
Boys' Football  
Boys' Soccer  
Girls' Volleyball



## [ Winter ]

Boys' Basketball  
Girls' Basketball



## [ Spring ]

Boys' Baseball  
Girls' Soccer  
Girls' Softball  
Boys' Track (Club)  
Girls' Track (Club)



# STUDENT LIFE

*A place to belong*



At OCS, student life is about more than classes—it's about being part of a close-knit community where everyone can find their place. Small class sizes and supportive teachers help students feel known, while clubs, activities, and events give them chances to explore new interests, make friends, and try new things. Here, students grow, take on challenges, and enjoy being part of a community that truly cares.



## Clubs/Activities



- Girls' Interscholastic Athletics
- Boys' Interscholastic Athletics
- Robotics
- 8th Grade Trip
- National Jr. Honor Society
- Ski Club
- Field Trips
- Spirit Week
- Fall Retreat
- Student and Adult-led Bible Studies
- Drama

# Let's Start the Journey Together



**\$1,500  
TRANSFER  
STUDENT  
DISCOUNT**



**6TH-12TH  
GRADE**

RECEIVE A ONE  
YEAR \$1500  
TUITION CREDIT

**Schedule a tour today**

**Click Here**

Questions: Contact our Director of Enrollment Kelly Wood at 248-373-2700 or [kwood@oaklandchristian.com](mailto:kwood@oaklandchristian.com).

**Request a Shadow day**

Students entering 4th-12th grade can spend a school day as a Lancer for a Day “shadowing” an OCS student in the same grade level.

**Click Here**



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