

Middle School Course Catalog School Year 2024-2025



OAKLAND
CHRISTIAN
— S C H O O L —

Equipping students to fulfill their unique, God-given purpose.

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To Oakland Christian School students:

This booklet is designed for you to use in the selection of the courses you will take during your middle school education. Use the booklet to its fullest extent. Read it carefully in conjunction with your Secondary Student Handbook. Discuss your course interests with your counselor, teachers, parents, and principal. Ask questions and make certain that your selections meet your future needs.

Mission Statement

The mission of Oakland Christian School is to equip students to fulfill their unique, God-given purpose.

Christian Philosophy of Education

Oakland Christian School views Christian education as the process of instructing and learning in an atmosphere where God and His written Word are the highest authority. We intend to challenge and motivate students to find their highest potential in spiritual, academic, social, and physical growth. Believing that all truth is God's truth, we strive to integrate the student's learning experience with a Bible-centered worldview, enabling the student to realize a life of purpose that is beneficial to people and glorifying to God.

Secondary School Principal
Guidance and Counseling Department

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Middle School Course Offerings

BIBLE DEPT		SOCIAL STUDIES DEPT	
0107	Bible 6	0501	Geography 6
0108	Bible 7	0502	World History 7
0109	Bible 8	0503	American History 8
		0504	Social Studies-Span Immersion
LANGUAGE ARTS DEPT		PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH DEPT	
0201	English 6	0701	Physical Education & Health 6
0202	English 7	0702	Physical Education & Health 7
0203	English 8	0703	Physical Education & Health 8
0250	Spanish for Spanish Speakers-Span Immersion		
FINE AND PERFORMING ARTS		ELECTIVES & ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS	
0601	Beginning Band - 6	0211	Spanish I (8)
0602	Intermediate Band - 7/8	0231	American Sign Language I (8)
0603	Beginning Band - 6 (Orchestra)	0629	Theater 6
0604	Intermediate Band - 7/8 (Orchestra)	0801	STEM 6
0610	Choir - 7/8	0802	MS STEM (7,8)
0622	Art - 7/8	0901	Yearbook: Writing for Publications (7,8)
		0906	Building Biblical Habits (7,8)
MATHEMATICS DEPT		0907	Exploring Literature (7,8)
0301	Math 6	0908	Forensic Science (7,8)
0302	Math 7	0999	Advisory
0305	Math 8	9996	Pass Class
0303	Honors Algebra I		
SCIENCE DEPT			
0401	Physical Science 6		
0402	Life Science 7		
0403	Earth Science 8		

Course Descriptions

Bible Department

Bible 6

Course ID: 0107

Grade Level: 6

In the 6th grade Bible course, students will go on a journey through all 66 books of the Bible. Students will be introduced to the structure and themes of the Word of God. Students will briefly examine each book in Scripture, learning how God uses imperfect men and women to reflect His grace.

Bible 7

Course ID: 0108

Grade Level: 7

In the 7th grade Bible course, students are introduced to the wisdom of Proverbs. As students reflect on these principles, they will be better equipped to face the responsibilities and decisions of young adulthood. As students face more and more decisions on their own, they will find that their new freedoms are followed by greater responsibility and higher expectations. This course encourages students to study the wisdom of God in Proverbs, inviting Him to shape their lives into the image of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Bible 8

Course ID: 0109

Grade Level: 8

In the 8th grade Bible course, students will follow in the footsteps of Jesus. As they study the Gospels, they will become better disciples of the Christ who changed the world. Students will explore the identity and purpose of God's Son, as revealed through His earthly ministry. Lessons and exercises will challenge students to respond to the gospel of Christ.

Language Arts Department

English 6

Course ID: 0201

Grade Level: 6

Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading literature and informational text by analyzing various grade level texts. They will identify key ideas and details, theme, main idea, author's purpose and the development of themes and characters. Students will write for a variety of purposes, as well as conduct and present research. Students will learn to organize writing for a variety of purposes, including essays. Students will become proficient in vocabulary acquisition strategies. There will be a strong emphasis on knowledge of grammar and reading strategies to provide a thorough foundation for continued success in reading and writing across the curriculum.

English 7
Course ID: 0202
Grade Level: 7

Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading literature and informational text by analyzing various grade level texts. Students will identify key ideas and details, theme, main idea, author's purpose and the development of themes and characters. Students will write for a variety of purposes, as well as conduct and present research. Students will learn to organize writing for a variety of purposes, including essays. Students will become proficient in vocabulary acquisition strategies. There is a strong emphasis on knowledge of grammar and reading strategies to provide a thorough foundation for continued success in reading and writing across the curriculum.

English 8
Course ID: 0203
Grade Level: 8

Students will demonstrate proficiency in reading literature and informational text by analyzing various grade level texts. They will identify key ideas and details, theme, main idea, author's purpose and the development of themes and characters. Students will write for a variety of purposes, as well as conduct and present research. Students will learn to organize writing for a variety of purposes, including essays. Students will become proficient in vocabulary acquisition strategies. There will be a strong emphasis on knowledge of grammar and reading strategies to provide a thorough foundation for continued success in reading and writing across the curriculum.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers-Spanish Immersion (AVD)
Course ID: 0250
Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

This class is specifically designed for students who already speak Spanish at home and have basic conversational skills in Spanish. In this class, students will improve their reading and writing skills in Spanish while learning more about the cultures of the Spanish-speaking communities in the United States and around the world. In each unit, students will be supported in reading a variety of Spanish language texts including picture books, stories, poems, short novels, and informational texts that relate to the unit theme. Students will be supported in producing their own Spanish-language writing in each unit. This year-long course will be required for 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade Spanish Immersion students every year. The curriculum will operate on a rotating three-year basis, with different content covered each year, such that students could take it for all three years of their middle school experience if interested.

Fine and Performing Arts Department

Beginning Band - 6 (AVD)
Course ID: 0601
Grade Level: 6

In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a wind instrument or percussion instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: flute, clarinet, alto saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone or percussion. Students who participate in Beginning Band will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument.

Enrollment in Beginning Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full-year class.

Intermediate Band - 7/8 (AVD)

Course ID: 0602

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Beginning Band class, or private lessons and director approval

Intermediate Band is a performing ensemble that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Oakland Christian High School Band. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Beginning Band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include four performances, and may include the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

Beginning Band - 6 (Orchestra) (AVD)

Course ID: 0603

Grade Level: 6

In this class, students will learn music, basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory and terminology as well as instrument care and maintenance. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required. Students will have the opportunity to learn how to play a stringed instrument. Students will start on one of the following instruments: violin, viola, cello, or bass. Students who participate in Beginning Band (Orchestra) will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument. Enrollment in Beginning Band (Orchestra) constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full-year class.

Intermediate Band - 7/8 (Orchestra) (AVD)

Course ID: 0604

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: Beginning Band (Orchestra) class, or private lessons and director approval

Intermediate Band (Orchestra) is a performing ensemble that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the Oakland Christian High School Orchestra. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of Beginning Band (Orchestra). Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include four performances, and may include the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

Middle School Choir (AVD)

Course ID: 0610

Grade Level: 7, 8

Choir is designed for students who are interested in studying singing and learning to read music. In this class, students will learn music basics pertaining to rhythm, tone, intonation, theory, and terminology as well as specific skills in the art of singing such as proper posture, breath support, and vowel placement. This class will start from the most basic components of music, and no previous experience is required. Enrollment in Choir constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full-year class.

Middle School Art (AVD)

Course ID: 0622

Grade Level: 7, 8

This is a Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum class including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Students will participate in concentrated efforts to apply design elements and principles in organization, creation, reflection, and self-evaluation of all projects. Extensive explanation, instruction, demonstration, and skill practice prior to major project work. Students will explore visual examples of various designs through world and art history, contemporary work, multi-disciplinary connections, and problem-solving.

Mathematics Department

Math 6

Course ID: 0301

Grade Level: 6

Math 6 focuses on four main areas: connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; complete understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and developing understanding of statistical thinking. There is an emphasis on the application of learned concepts.

Math 7

Course ID: 0302

Grade Level: 7

In Math 7, students develop their understanding of proportional relationships; develop additional understanding of operations with rational numbers, working with expressions and linear equations/inequalities; solve problems involving scale drawings and geometric concepts, using two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and draw inferences about populations based on samples. There is an emphasis on the application of learned concepts.

Math 8

Course ID: 0305

Grade Level: 8

In Math 8, students focus on three main areas: formulating and reasoning with expressions and equations, including solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem. There is an emphasis on the application of learned concepts.

Honors Algebra I

Course ID: 0303

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: NWEA Spring Math score of 240 or higher and B or higher in Math 7.

Honors Algebra I builds upon topics covered in the middle grades including interpreting and writing expressions, and creating equations. Students further the study of linear functions and their graphs as well as explore seven nonlinear functions, including quadratics, exponentials, and polynomials. Additional topics include inequalities and systems of equations/inequalities. Students in Honors Algebra I should expect advanced course work with depth beyond an on-level middle school math class.

Science Department

Physical Science 6

Course ID: 0401

Grade Level: 6

Physical Science is a hands-on approach through inquiry. The course includes an overview of scientific principles and procedures and leads students towards a clearer understanding of matter, energy, and the physical universe. Students gain understanding of the scientific method by planning and implementing various experiments related to the content being studied. This includes the study of various forms of energy such as electric, thermal, and chemical energy. Students also understand potential and kinetic energy through the study of simple machines. Science fair is an important part of this class. Students work to answer a question on a topic of interest. They form a hypothesis, write a procedure, and conduct the experiment. Students share their conclusions on a trifold board and compete in the annual OCS science fair.

Life Science 7

Course ID: 0402

Grade Level: 7

Students learn Life Science using a hands-on approach and inquiry. The course focuses on introducing students to the diversity of life found on our planet. It includes an overview of scientific principles and leads students toward a clearer understanding of cells and heredity, the five kingdoms, human body systems, and ecology. Students learn about germs and viruses and how they spread, the parts and reproduction of cells, and the impact of genetics on animals, plants, and humans. Students dive into ecology through the study of watersheds and ecosystems and how they affect the interactions of various living organisms. Science fair is an important part of this class. Students work to answer a question on a topic of interest. They form a hypothesis, write a procedure, and conduct the experiment. Students share their conclusion on a trifold board and compete in the annual OCS science fair. Life Science is a hands-on approach based on inquiry. In-class projects are designed to probe the thinking process coupled with content that explores the five living kingdoms.

Earth Science 8
Course ID: 0403
Grade Level: 8

Earth Science collectively seeks to understand the Earth and its neighbors in space. The main purpose of Earth Science is to introduce students to the Earth and the intricate workings of the Earth's systems. Students learn about the forces within, without, and upon our planet. Weather, volcanoes, earthquakes, rocks and minerals, environmental issues, and astronomy are all covered as part of this class. Science fair is an important part of this class. Students work to answer a question on a topic of interest. They form a hypothesis, write a procedure, and conduct the experiment. Students share their conclusion on a trifold board and compete in the annual OCS science fair.

Social Studies Department

Geography 6
Course ID: 0501
Grade Level: 6

Geography introduces students to the regions of the world through our travels with Phileas Fogg in *Around the World in Eighty Days*. The five themes of geography - location, place, region, movement, and human-environment interaction - are explored as students use geographic inquiry to ask and answer such questions as, "How are the physical, human, and political characteristics of places similar or different?" and "How do people, goods, and ideas move from one location to another? A historical synopsis as well as a glimpse into the cultures and major world religions are covered through activities and projects that are designed to allow students to make connections and gain a better understanding of our global community. Throughout the year, students are given opportunities to see how God invites each into His story to impact their community and world for Christ.

World History 7
Course ID: 0502
Grade Level: 7

Students will explore World History from the ancient world to 1500 AD. Biblical events are integrated in this class in areas including the Roman Empire, the development and spread of Christianity, and other world religions. This increases awareness of these religions and explains how religion affects history and culture. Students develop reading comprehension and critical thinking skills by investigating several primary and secondary sources dealing with the topic at hand. Students have opportunities to research aspects of ancient history that interest them. The class explores how God has shaped our world for His purposes. It helps students make connections with the Bible and see the historical truth within its pages. In addition, students will learn to defend their faith from attacks having to do with events in the ancient world.

American History 8

Course ID: 0503

Grade Level: 8

American History in Grade 8 covers events from the first contact Europeans had with indigenous peoples of North America to the Industrial Revolution, and everything in between. Students discover what the core values of the Founding Fathers were, and they learn the Founders' intent for being American. Students investigate American History using in-depth research of specific topics and read about the United States through primary source documents - the writings and thoughts of the people who lived in each time period. These tasks improve students' reading skills and allow them to better understand primary source documents. Students also learn American History through the context of geography and the economic systems of American society.

Social Studies-Spanish Immersion

Course ID: 0504

Grade Level: 6, 7, or 8

This middle school Social Studies course is designed for Spanish Immersion students to align with the equivalent grade level Social Studies courses for non-Spanish Immersion students. Depending on the cohort of Spanish Immersion students, the content will be one of the three traditional Social Studies courses: Geography, World History, or American History, as listed above, but taught in the Spanish language.

Physical Education and Health Department

Physical Education & Health 6 (AVD)

Course ID: 0701

Grade Level: 6

Physical Education & Health 6 teaches students to practice and develop skills in activities and sports that will help them maintain fitness throughout their lives. Activities include, but are not limited to, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, spikeball, badminton, handball, and Ultimate Frisbee. Health instruction includes the body systems' purposes, major organs and potential health problems. Nutrition fundamentals are also learned.

Physical Education & Health 7 (AVD)

Course ID: 0702

Grade Level: 7

In Physical Education & Health 7, students practice and develop skills in activities and sports that will help create lifelong activity habits. These activities include, but are not limited to, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, spikeball, badminton, handball, and Ultimate Frisbee. The health concepts learned in Grade 6 continue. Physical fitness and exercise, as well as mental and social health are learned.

Physical Education & Health 8 (AVD)

Course ID: 0703

Grade Level: 8

In Physical Education & Health 8, students develop skills in activities and sports that will help students maintain fitness for a lifetime. These activities include, but are not limited to, basketball, soccer, volleyball, softball, floor hockey, spikeball, badminton, handball, and Ultimate Frisbee. The health component emphasizes the effects of tobacco, alcohol, drugs and STDs. Goal setting and the importance of making wise choices are stressed. This course satisfies the high school Physical Education and Health graduation requirement.

Electives & Additional Offerings

Spanish I (AVD)

Course ID: 0211

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Earned grade of “B” or higher in English 7 and approval of their English teacher

This course will focus on developing the four language skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning. This course includes an overview of the geography and other cultural insights of the Spanish speaking world. Successful completion of this course may fulfill the High School 1st year World Language Requirement.

American Sign Language I (OXF)

Course ID: 0231

Grade Level: 8

Prerequisite: Earned grade of “B” or higher in English 7 and approval of their English teacher

ASL I is an introduction to American Sign Language (ASL). The first semester of this course includes basic grammar, vocabulary, fingerspelling, numbers, and cultural information related to the deaf community. The second semester is a continuation of basic study of the language and culture; an opportunity to build receptive and expressive sign vocabulary; use of signing space; further use of non-manual components of ASL grammar including facial expressions. Successful completion of this course may fulfill the High School 1st year World Language Requirement.

Theater 6 (OXF)

Course ID: 0629

Grade Level: 6

The focus of this course is the development of a strong base of productions skills and vocabulary of theater arts. Students study basic theater terminology, movement, improvisation, and storytelling. There is a culminating lesson on theatrical storytelling through an opportunity to write and perform their own scene utilizing stage combat complete with special effects. Students in this class will perform a short scene for an audience of their peers.

STEM 6 (AVD)

Course ID: 0801

Grade Level: 6

Students will incorporate the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) module “Computer Science for Innovators and Makers”. In this course, we will be exploring physical computing systems, programming logic, and introductory electrical circuits. Students will design and develop a physical computing device, interactive art installation, and plan and develop code for microcontrollers that bring their physical designs to life.

Middle School STEM (AVD)

Course ID: 0802

Grade Level: 7, 8

Students explore computer programming, app development, using Code.org, and MIT App Inventor, and other online development tools. They learn graphic design, event-driven programming, debugging, and algorithm creation using variables and conditional logic. They create apps and fun interactive games that apply these concepts and use basic user interface features, media, and animation.

Yearbook: Writing for Publications (OXF)

Course ID: 0901

Grade Level: 7, 8

This year long course will cover the basics of yearbook including copywriting, photography, and page design. Other topics to be covered include theme development, content and coverage. In this course, students supervise picture taking, design the lay-out of each page, and write copy. Members of this class work to publish the Middle School Yearbook and are responsible for providing the student body with an accurate representation of the year's events. In order to take this course, students must have above-average writing skills, work independently, and a commitment to enroll for both semesters.

Building Biblical Habits

Course ID: 0906

Grade Level: 7, 8

Building Biblical Habits is course designed to help middle school students build habits that bring them closer to Jesus each day. Students will understand how to establish a daily devotional routine that includes reading Scripture, prayer, and reflection. They will explore different forms of prayer and be encouraged to develop their prayer life through journaling and group prayer times. Students will memorize key Bible verses that focus on foundational truths of the Christian faith and practical wisdom for daily living while learning how to study the Bible effectively. They will also discuss the Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control), exploring how to cultivate these qualities in their lives. Students will engage in acts of service and outreach to their community, reflecting Jesus' example of love and compassion. They will explore different forms of worship, including music, art, and creative expression, encouraging them to develop a lifestyle of worship in all areas of their lives. Students will be introduced to spiritual disciplines such as fasting, solitude, and Sabbath rest, emphasizing the role of discipline in a deepening relationship with Jesus. Finally, students will discuss practical topics such as forgiveness, humility, integrity, and stewardship, helping them to apply biblical principles in their everyday lives.

Exploring Literature

Course ID: 0907

Grade Level: 7, 8

In this engaging and dynamic middle school elective, students will embark on an exciting journey through the realms of literature, exploring diverse genres, cultures, and perspectives. Through a variety of texts, including novels, short stories, poetry, and non-fiction, students will sharpen their reading comprehension skills while fostering a deeper appreciation for the power of storytelling.

Forensic Science

Course ID: 0908

Grade Level: 7, 8

Welcome to the world of forensic science! In this course, students will delve into the exciting realm of criminal investigation and forensic analysis. Through a combination of theory and hands-on activities, students will explore various aspects of forensic science, from crime scene investigation to the analysis of evidence. This course will provide a comprehensive overview of forensic science principles and practices, equipping students with the knowledge and skills necessary to understand and analyze evidence in a forensic context.

Advisory (AVD)

Course ID: 0999

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

All students at OCS have a weekly advisory period. Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of the advisory period is to provide a personalized connection to our learning environment where all students will be well known by at least one adult advocate. This relationship and connection to school is fostered through intentionally scheduled lessons, group activities, and one-to-one interactions with the advisor. The structure of this program will provide opportunities for character education, bullying prevention lessons, positive behavior support, independent reading, academic monitoring, organizational meetings, school wide initiatives, and fun cooperative activities.

Pass Class (OXF)

Course ID: 9996

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

Pass Class is a time during which students can work on building their study habits, organizational skills, and confidence while improving their knowledge and understanding in English and Math through using IXL or some other digital platform.