

Oakland Christian School

“Home of the Lancers”

Middle School Curriculum Guide School Year 2021-2022



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 has been prepared to guide you and your parents 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.

Oakland Christian School Secondary Personnel

Susan Brock, Interim Secondary Principal

Mrs. Jeneane Frazee, Counselor/Student Adviser

Mrs. Jennifer Smielewski, Director of Curriculum and Instruction

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.

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Middle School Course Offerings

Bible Department		Physical Education & Health	
0104	God's Story & Our Story	0701	Physical Education & Health 6
	God's Story & Our Story-Spanish Immersion	0702	Physical Education & Health 7
0105	Jesus & My Story	0703	Physical Education & Health 8
0106	The Story of God's People	Electives	
English Department		0801	STEM 6 (Required in Grade 6)
0201	English 6	0601	Band 6
0202	English 7	0603	Symphonic Band I (Orchestra 6)
0203	English 8	0610	Middle School Choir (7,8)
Mathematics Department		0602	Middle School Band (7,8)
0301	Math 6	0604	Symphonic Band II (Orchestra 7,8)
0302	Math 7	0611	Middle School Concert Band-Assembly (7,8)
0305	Math 8	0901	Middle School Yearbook/Journalism (7,8)
0303	Honors Algebra I (8)	0622	Middle School Art (7,8)
Science Department		0803	MS Coding (7,8)
0401	Physical Science 6	0802	MS STEM (7,8)
0402	Life Science 7	0221	French I (8)
0403	Earth Science 8	0211	Spanish I (8)
Social Studies			
0501	Geography 6		
	Geography 6-Spanish Immersion		
0502	World History 7		
0503	American History 8		

God's Story & Our Story

Course ID: 0104

Grade Level: 6

God's Story & Our Story centers around God's story. We start with an introduction to Christian apologetics, learning how to defend what we believe in the unbelieving world we live in today, both with science, logic, and morality, all of which point to God. From there, students examine the story of creation, and the common themes that follow the Old Testament throughout, including God's deep forgiving nature and His promises of a Savior. In addition, students dive into C.S. Lewis' *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*, and closely study the Biblical themes this work carries.

God's Story & Our Story-Spanish Immersion

Course ID: 0104

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Grade 5 Spanish Immersion coursework

Spanish Immersion program students must enroll in God's Story & Our Story, and Geography 6

Students in the Spanish Immersion program will have the same subject area content experience as their peers learning in English, with an added emphasis of developing vocabulary and language skills in social studies.

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Jesus & My Story

Course ID: 0105

Grade Level: 7

Jesus & My Story centers mainly on Jesus Christ, His story, and the everlasting impact He and His Gospels have on mankind. Students will discuss Jesus and how His story and our stories connect, as well as what makes Him different from the deities of other religious beliefs in our world. The most significant differences are His forgiving nature, the fact that we as humans achieve salvation through faith in Christ and accepting His sacrifice. Students will examine the meaning of the scripture "faith without works is dead" and where faith and works interconnect in our lives today. Students will learn about the Gospels, their importance, and the ideas behind justice and redemption, as well as His role in restoration. Students will learn about the parables and their deeper meanings. The course is about the validity and transformative power of Christ.

The Story of God's People

Course ID: 0106

Grade Level: 8

In The Story of God's People, students examine the story of God's people and the struggles they faced from Egypt to the beginning of the New Testament church. The church of Acts was built out of the ashes of persecution, and grew despite increasing opposition from both Roman and Jewish leadership. From there, students learn about evangelism, how all believers can participate, and why it is an important part of our faith in Christ. We will examine prayer and worship to strengthen our faith journey. In addition, students will read John Bunyan's novel, *Pilgrim's Progress*, to help us with difficult questions, strengthen our understanding of spiritual discipline, and discover ways we can serve our communities for Christ.

ENGLISH 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.

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.

Geography 6-Spanish Immersion

Course ID: 0501

Grade Level: 6

Prerequisite: Successful completion of Grade 5 Spanish Immersion coursework

Spanish Immersion program students must enroll in God’s Story & Our Story, and Geography 6

Students in the Spanish Immersion program will have the same subject area content experience as their peers learning in English, with an added emphasis of developing vocabulary and language skills in social studies. 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.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT, CONTINUED

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.

Physical Education & Health 6

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

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

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

STEM 6

Course ID: 0801

Grade Level: 6 (Required in Grade 6)

Students explore the world of engineering through the design process. Using science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, they learn and apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Students develop skills in collaboration and teamwork as they design, build, and test solutions to real-world problems.

Band 6

Course ID: 0601

Grade Level: 6

In this introductory instrumental music course, students learn how to play a woodwind, brass or percussion instrument. No prior experience is required - just a commitment to keep trying! The first week of school is a time of exploration in which students get to try all the instruments before making final decisions about which one to choose: flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, or percussion. There are two required "informances" for families and friends per year. Required dates will be listed in the syllabus.

Symphonic Band I (Orchestra)

Course ID: 0603

Grade Level: 6

In this introductory course in instrumental music, students learn how to play a string instrument. No prior experience is required - just a commitment to keep trying! The first week of school is a time of exploration in which students get to try all the instruments before making final decisions about which instrument to choose: violin, viola, cello or bass. There are two required "informances" for families and friends per year. Required dates will be listed in the syllabus.

Middle School Choir (Vocal Techniques/Worship Leading)

Course ID: 0610

Grade Level: 7, 8

Students explore various genres of choral music and develop foundational techniques through sight singing, listening, and studying music theory. This course is an exploration of many vocal music styles including pop, jazz, classical, choral, acapella, rock, musical theater, and praise and worship through the foundational techniques learned in choral music and music theory. Performances are required throughout the school year, including four school concerts, MSVMA Choral Festival, and high school graduation. Students may also participate in MSVMA Classical and Musical Theatre Solo and Ensemble festival, and audition for State Honors Choir.

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

Middle School Band

Course ID: 0602

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: One year of band class, or private lessons and director approval

This wind and percussion instrumental ensemble class is intended for second and third year players and will refine the skills learned in Band 6. Students perform at four school concerts, school events, and Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival. Dates of these required events will be supplied on the class syllabus. Students learn how to manage their time and be positive, contributing members of a performance group.

Symphonic Band II (Orchestra)

Course ID: 0604

Grade Level: 7, 8

Prerequisite: One year of strings class, or private lessons and director approval

This string instrumental ensemble class is intended for second and third year players and will refine the skills learned in Symphonic Band I. Students perform at four school concerts, school events, and Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association Festival. Dates of these required events will be supplied on the class syllabus. Students learn how to manage their time and be a positive, contributing member of a performance group.

Middle School Concert Band-Assembly (Guitar/Keyboard/Drums)

Course ID: 0611

Grade Level: 7, 8

This praise band ensemble leads middle school worship during chapel on a weekly basis. Students focus on developing skills on keyboard, percussion (drum set), guitars, and singing. Students read music and improve on their music theory skills as well as collaborate with classmates. As worship leaders, students study scripture and examine what it means to worship. Students are expected to practice outside of class times individually and provide their own instrument.

Middle School Journalism/Yearbook

Course ID: 0901

Grade Level: 7, 8

Students serve as historians, journalists, and artists to create a photojournalistic record of the school year that will be on shelves for many years to come. A journalistic approach will teach students skills in business, graphic design, visual communication, writing, photography and collaborative relationships. In order to capture and document the current school year for enjoyment and reference in the future, students will: write copy and captions in appropriate journalistic style for yearbook; use photojournalism techniques; design a professional, attractive theme-based yearbook; write effective headlines and captions; edit, proofread, and evaluate their own and others' work; work cooperatively within time constraints (deadlines); and learn and use effective sales and promotional techniques.

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

Middle School Art

Course ID: 0622

Grade Level: 7, 8

The middle school art course is for students in Grades 7 and 8. The course focuses on building a variety of art skills and covers art history. Students explore ancient art, Pop Art, Cubism and Impressionism. Projects cross disciplines and incorporate mathematics and science. Areas of study include drawing, painting, printmaking, mixed media, and three-dimensional art projects. Students use a variety of media, including watercolor, charcoal, graphite, color pencil, ink, found object sculpture, and ceramics. Students apply the elements and principles of design in their projects and demonstrate an understanding of this art vocabulary. Students build skills for success in high school art courses. This course is predominantly a project-based class focusing on traditional fine and applied art forms.

Middle School Coding

Course ID: 0803

Grade Level: 7, 8

Middle School Coding provides students essential skills in a technology driven world. Students will build skills through various forms of programming languages. Students will expand their coding “Toolbox” by gaining practical experience creating apps for mobile devices using MIT App Inventor® through “App Creators” curriculum provided by Project Lead the Way (PLTW). This course will culminate in more PLTW curriculum with “Computer Science for Innovators and Makers”. This portion of the course broadens students’ understanding of computer science concepts through meaningful applications that go beyond the virtual world and into the physical world. Overall, Students explore the impact of computing in society and build skills in digital citizenship.

Middle School STEM

Course ID: 0802

Grade Level: 7, 8

In the Automation & Robotics portion of the course, students trace the history, development and influence of automation and robotics as they learn about mechanical systems, energy transfer, machine automation and computer control systems. Students use the VEX Robotics® platform to design, build and program real-world objects such as computer programmed vehicles, dragsters, and clawbots. When students transition to Design & Modeling, they apply the design process to solve problems and understand the influence of creativity and innovation in their lives. Using Autodesk® design software, students create a virtual 3D image of designs to showcase their innovative solutions.

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

French I

Course ID: 0221

Grade Level: 8

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

This course introduces the fundamentals of the French language using Comprehensible Input (CI). With the CI approach, students will see and hear French daily, acquiring the language in a natural way. Language proficiency is spontaneous non-rehearsed ability. Students develop proficiency in listening, speaking, writing and reading in French through storytelling, story writing, movie and video clips, short readings, and songs. French culture on greeting etiquette, French schools, religious and secular celebrations, famous monuments, etc. also are learned this way. Students acquire the language through thematic units of study, including introducing oneself, school, sports, weather, seasons, and restaurant etiquette.

May fulfill the High School 1st year World Language Requirement.

Spanish I

Course ID: 0211

Grade Level: 8

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

This course introduces the fundamentals of the Spanish language using Comprehensible Input (CI). With this approach, students will acquire the language through a methodology that encourages students to produce language when they are ready and in more low anxiety situations, much like when they were children. Students develop foundational reading, listening, writing, and speaking skills in Spanish. In order to accomplish this goal, there is a heavy focus on listening, reading, and storytelling in order to help students to move higher in their levels of competency. Students reach this through units such as: introducing and describing oneself, learning where Spanish is spoken, describing family and others, talking about interests, and discussing school. Students gain a wide variety of cultural awareness throughout the year. Class is conducted in Spanish with opportunities for clarification in English. Students receive the tools, opportunities, and encouragement needed to develop listening, speaking, reading and writing skills of the Spanish language. Thematic units provide vocabulary and grammar necessary to practice these skills.

May fulfill the High School 1st year World Language Requirement.