

Oakland Christian School

“Home of the Lancers”

Middle School Curriculum Guide School Year 2023-2024



**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

Mrs. Brian Eddy, Secondary Principal

Mrs. Jennifer Wilson, Guidance Counselor

Mrs. Jeneane Frazee, Registrar

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	
	Bible 6 & Spanish Immersion	0701	Physical Education & Health 6
	Bible 7 & Spanish Immersion	0702	Physical Education & Health 7
	Bible 8 & Spanish Immersion	0703	Physical Education & Health 8
		Electives	
Language Arts Department			STEM 6
	English 6 & Spanish Immersion Lang Arts		STEM (7,8)
	English 7 & Spanish Immersion Lang Arts		Choir (7,8)
	English 8 & Spanish Immersion Lang Arts		Band 6
Mathematics Department			Middle School Band (7,8)
	Math 6		Concert Band 6
	Math 7		Symphonic Band II (Orchestra 7,8)
	Math 8		Publications (7,8)
	Honors Algebra I (8)		Art (6, 7, 8)
Science Department			Theater (7,8)
	Physical Science 6		Exploratory American Sign Language 6
	Life Science 7		American Sign Language I (8)
	Earth Science 8		Spanish I (8)
Social Studies			
	Geography 6 & Spanish Immersion		
	World History 7 & Spanish Immersion		
	American History 8 & Spanish Immersion		

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

Bible 6

6th grade Bible class focuses on how to read and study the Bible. It will also cover a survey of the Old and New Testaments of the Bible, each of the books of the Bible and show how Jesus is the center of the Biblical text.

Bible 7

7th grade Bible class builds more tools for the students to read and study the Bible. It covers an in depth study of the gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke and John) as well as the book of Acts in the New Testament. If time allows, this class will also cover parts of the books of Ephesians, Colossians, and the book of Revelation.

Bible 8

8th grade Bible class continues to build more tools for the students to read and study the Bible. Topics covered include identity (Who the Bible says I am), the Trinity (God the Father, the Son, and Spirit), and the topic of worshiping God as it is presented in the Old and New Testaments. This class also surveys the Pentateuch, the historical books, the gospel of Mark, and a brief survey of the book of revelation.

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.

Spanish for Spanish Speakers (AVD)

Course ID:

Grade Level: 6, 7, 8

This class is specifically designed for students who already speak Spanish 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 open to 6th, 7th, and 8th-grade Spanish-speaking students every year.

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 & Spanish Immersion
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 & Spanish Immersion

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 & Spanish Immersion

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 DEPARTMENT

Physical Education & Health 6 (AVD)

Course ID: 0701

Grade Level: 6

Students participating in sixth-grade physical education will be challenged to become physically literate while developing lifelong healthy habits. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, and other various group games. Students will also participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

Physical Education & Health 7 (AVD)**Course ID: 0702****Grade Level: 7**

Students participating in seventh-grade physical education will be challenged to become physically literate while developing lifelong healthy habits. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of team sports along with basic understanding of team sports rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, and other various group games. Students will also participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leaderships are emphasized.

Physical Education & Health 8 (AVD)**Course ID: 0703****Grade Level: 8**

Boys and girls participating in eighth-grade physical education will be challenged with a variety of fitness conditioning activities that will increase their muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and cardiovascular endurance. Students will develop skills to be used to play a variety of teams sports along with a basic understanding of team sport rules. Indoor and outdoor activities include; basketball, volleyball soccer, speedball, floor hockey, softball and group games. Students will participate in fitness testing. Sportsmanship, teamwork and leadership are emphasized.

ELECTIVES**STEM 6 (AVD)****Course ID: 0801****Grade Level: 6**

STEM 6 is a quarter-long mandatory class for sixth-grade students incorporating 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.

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.

Concert Band (AVD)**Course ID: 0603****Grade Level: 6**

This is our beginning band class. 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 except for in the area of percussion. Students interested in playing percussion must have at least one year of piano lessons. 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 band will need to rent or purchase a quality instrument. Enrollment in Band constitutes a commitment of the student to participate in all scheduled performances. This is a full-year class.

Choir (AVD)**Course ID: 0612****Grade 6**

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.

Choir (AVD)**Course ID: 0610****Grade Level: 7, 8**

7th grade - Participation in all performances is mandatory. This class is designed for 7th-grade students who are interested in studying vocal music. Students will learn specific skills in the art of singing such as proper posture, breath support, and vowel placement. They will also study music theory and sing to develop skills in vocal techniques. The winter concert, spring concert, district, state, pre-festival, and festival performances are mandatory. Auditions are required.

8th grade - This course is designed for students who have advanced musical skills in singing and music theory. Students must have experience in reading music and performing. Students will learn specific skills in the art of singing, proper posture, breath support and vowel placement. Choir members will be required to perform at the winter concert, spring concert, district, and state, pre-festival and festival performances. Students are strongly encouraged to participate in Solo & Ensemble

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

Middle School Band (AVD)**Course ID: 0602****Grade Level: 7****Prerequisite: One year of band class, or private lessons and director approval**

Concert Band 7 is a performing ensemble designed for seventh graders that will focus on intermediate-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the OCS Concert and Marching Band. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of 6th grade band. Additional placements are determined by audition. This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOS District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is required.

Symphonic Band II 8 (AVD)**Course ID: 0604****Grade Level: 8****Prerequisite: One year of strings class, or private lessons and director approval**

Concert Band (Wind Ensemble) is a performing ensemble designed for eighth graders that will focus on advanced-level skills, techniques, and concepts in music comprehension and performance, as well as preparation to participate in the OCS concerts and marching bands. The prerequisite for this band is successful completion of 7th grade band. Additional placements are determined by audition (if new to the district or band program). This class will include at least four performances, including MSBOA District XVI Solo & Ensemble Festival. Participation at all performances is mandatory.

Publications (AVD)**Course ID: 0901****Grade Level: 7, 8**

This elective course is for students who wish to learn about what's involved in creating a professional Yearbook publication. Students will learn how to work both individually and collectively to create a memorable, and authentic publication of all events this school year while representing the OCS community. The class will cover topics such as Photojournalism, Caption Writing, Copyright Laws & Ethics, Interviewing/Reporting, Design, Layout, and Marketing. Students will also gain experience in team building exercises, communication skills, and how to create inclusive yearbook coverage.

Middle School Art (AVD)**Course ID: 0622****Grade Level: 7, 8**

This class includes experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. Prerequisite: Sixth-grade Art is not required. 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. Minimal homework required.

This class will develop students' skills in production, evaluation, judgment and art appreciation. We will look at examples in history to help us learn about creating art realistically, with expressive distortion and in abstraction. The materials we use may include: pencils, inks, pastels, various papers, clay, paper Mache, plaster, fibers, found objects, recycled materials and various glazes, stains and paints. In order to help cover some of the costs of the art materials, a lab fee/donation is requested. Students will own their work. We will apply the Elements and Principles of Design using a wide variety of techniques. Students' self-evaluation, quizzes, some homework, group critiques, displays and a final exam are included in

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

the experience. 7 th grade Art is NOT a prerequisite; however this is a more "advanced" class. Expect to fully participate in daily WORK; some homework is also required.

Art 6 (AVD)

Course ID:

Grade Level: 6

This class is an introduction to Middle School Level Visual Arts Curriculum including experiences in a variety of 2D and 3D media. No Prerequisite Required. 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. Minimal homework required. Please be prepared for rigorous thinking, problem-solving and art-activities in this middle school level art class.

Middle School STEM (AVD)

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.

American Sign Language I (OXF)

Course ID: 2301

Grade Level: 8

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.

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

World Language 8th grade courses are full year. This is a high school level course that will earn graduation credit if passed. Students will work toward proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing. The goal is to prepare students to interact independently in Spanish speaking countries. Students will also be introduced to the daily living and institutional cultures of their respective countries. Students will engage in a variety of activities to practice and promote language learning.

ELECTIVES CONTINUED

Theater

Course ID: 0630

Grade Level: 7, 8

This performance course is designed for beginner acting students. Students will gain overall personal confidence. Students develop acting and performing skills utilized and inherent on the proscenium, thrust and arena type stages. Students will perform scripted and unscripted material. Activities and instruction is based on the Stanislavski Method, in combination with the Laban Method of acting styles. All students will begin this course acting through improvisational activities, write and perform their own material, and memorize and perform written scripts from a variety of esteemed playwrights, such as: Shakespeare, Disney Productions, Arthur Miller, and other scene books compiled and written for the middle school and high school drama student. Students will also learn stage combat technique and execution, and have an opportunity to write and perform their own scene utilizing stage combat complete with special effects.

Advisory (AVD)

Course ID:

Grade Level: 7, 8

Student advisory groups are made up of grade level students that are led by teacher mentors. The goal of Advisory 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.

Careers (AVD)

Course ID:

Grade Level: 7

This course is designed to develop an understanding of career pathways and employment opportunities for students to explore the world of work. Students will develop a clearer understanding of their personal interests, values, and emerging aptitudes. The class engages students in a variety of classroom exercises and will conclude with a project in which they research a career of their choice and present it to the class