

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

2018-2019



Learning, Leadership & Service

43065 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187
734.459.3505 www.plymouthchristian.org

7th Grade Electives

(Students choose 2 electives per semester)

- **GRADE SEVEN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – CONCERT BAND**

Full year

Students will develop their aural and musical skills through the study of different band music styles and become familiar with a variety of musical time periods. Each student will be encouraged to develop his or her skills through better technique in playing, sight-reading to speed up the process of learning new music, learning to blend with other instruments and to develop an appropriate performing stage presence. The discipline gained from personal practice and perfecting their talents has a great deal of carry-over to their adult lives. Many churches provide opportunities for individuals to enhance the worship of God through the vehicle of instrumental music all through their adult lives.

- **GRADE SEVEN VOCAL MUSIC – MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR**

Full year

The MS Choir at PCA is designed to encourage each student to use his/her voice to honor and glorify God. Each choir student will begin to explore basic singing skills and develop a solid foundation for vocal production through instruction in proper breathing, posture, diction, vowel formation, and sight-reading. They will also learn to develop and expand music reading, writing and performance skills through introduction to theory, composition, musical games, and various performance media (i.e. concerts, chapels, festivals). The importance of working together as a team is emphasized as students learn to blend as an ensemble and perform with proper stage presence. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate works of art and to describe them in their historical and cultural contexts. Lastly, students will learn to recognize and describe connections among the arts. By this means each student is given an opportunity to use his/her voice in order to "...sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord." (Ephesians 5: 19)

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL - INTRO TO THEATRE**

Full Year

Intro to Theatre is an introductory overview to theatre as a performing art form. Students will explore the basic building blocks of live theatre such as elements of performance, acting technique, basic theatre history, technical elements, scene study, and theatre in relation to faith. Topics will be covered through literature, visual representation, and hands-on performance activities.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRENT EVENTS**

One semester

This course covers current social issues domestically and internationally through a Biblical Worldview. The course will follow national and global current events through watching, reading, and discussing news stories from television, newspapers, and news magazines. Students will also develop skills in identifying bias and in-depth analyzation. This course is designed to increase a student's knowledge of the world as it exists today and to focus on content that will enhance a student's understanding of World History, Government, Economics, and US History.

- **GRADE SEVEN INTRO TO WORLD LANGUAGES**

Full year

This course introduces students to the languages of German and Spanish. They will learn some basic vocabulary and communicative phrases. The students will be introduced to the influences of these cultures on the American society. They will also learn about holidays, historical events, famous people, geography and food related to these cultures.

- **ACADEMIC STUDY HALL**

One or two semesters, Pass/Fail with no credits. Students can use this study hall to do homework, make-up tests, etc. Students must attend this class as normal class attendance rules apply. This is a Pass/Fail class. The grade does not affect GPA but it will show up on your transcript.

8th Grade Electives

(Students will choose 2 electives per semester)

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART**

Full Year

Students will explore the elements of art and the principles of design using various media and techniques including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics. The history of art, various artists and styles will be introduced.

- **GRADE EIGHT INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC – CONCERT BAND**

Full year

Students will develop their aural and musical skills through the study of different band music styles and become familiar with a variety of musical time periods. Each student will be encouraged to develop his or her skills through better technique in playing, sight-reading to speed up the process of learning new music, learning to blend with other instruments and to develop an appropriate performing stage presence. The discipline gained from personal practice and perfecting their talents has a great deal of carry-over to their adult lives. Many churches provide opportunities for individuals to enhance the worship of God through the vehicle of instrumental music all through their adult lives.

- **GRADE EIGHT VOCAL MUSIC – MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR**

Full year

The MS Choir at PCA is designed to encourage each student to use his/her voice to honor and glorify God. Each choir student will begin to explore basic singing skills and develop a solid foundation for vocal production through instruction in proper breathing, posture, diction, vowel formation, and sight-reading. They will also learn to develop and expand music reading, writing and performance skills through introduction to theory, composition, musical games, and various performance media (i.e. concerts, chapels, festivals). The importance of working together as a team is emphasized as students learn to blend as an ensemble and perform with proper stage presence. Students will learn to analyze and evaluate works of art and to describe them in their historical and cultural contexts. Lastly, students will learn to recognize and describe connections among the arts. By this means each student is given an opportunity to use his/her voice in order to "...sing and make melody in their hearts to the Lord." (Ephesians 5: 19)

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL - INTRO TO THEATRE**

Full Year

This course is an introductory overview to theatre as a performing art form. Students will explore the basic building blocks of live theatre such as elements of performance, acting technique, basic theatre history, technical elements, scene study, and theatre in relation to faith. Topics will be covered through literature, visual representation, and hands-on performance activities.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL - ADVANCED THEATRE**

Prerequisite: Intro to Theatre

Full Year

Advanced Middle School Theatre is an advanced overview of theatre as a performing art form. Students will explore acting technique, theatre history, technical elements, scene study, and theatre in relation to faith. Topics will be covered through literature, visual representation, and hands-on performance activities. Students will have the opportunity to work on the middle school play.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRENT EVENTS**

One semester

This course covers current social issues domestically and internationally through a Biblical Worldview. The course will follow national and global current events through watching, reading, and discussing news stories from television, newspapers, and news magazines. Students will also develop skills in identifying bias and in-depth analyzation. This course is designed to increase a student's knowledge of the world as it exists today and to focus on content that will enhance a student's understanding of World History, Government, Economics, and US History.

- **GERMAN I**

8th grade: Full year, 1 credit

At the completion of German I, the students will have satisfactorily attained a number of elementary goals. The students will have sufficiently mastered the sound system of German so that they can be clearly understood by a native German speaker. They can aurally discriminate between similar sounds and can often correctly pronounce unknown words by using phonetics. They will be able to communicate in basic social situations like ordering food at a German restaurant, read and understand narrative and write paragraphs or short letters with correct grammar. German culture and geography are incorporated into each area of study.

- **SPANISH I**

8th grade: Full year, 1 credit

This course is an introduction to the Spanish language that includes reading, writing, listening and speaking skills. It covers basic vocabulary and grammar. Students will have sufficiently mastered the sound system of Spanish, correctly pronounce new words, communicate in basic social situations such as ordering food at a Mexican restaurant, reading and understanding narrative and writing paragraphs or short letters with correct grammar. Hispanic culture and geography are incorporated into each unit of study.

- **ACADEMIC STUDY HALL**

One or two semesters, Pass/Fail

Students can use this study hall to do homework, make-up tests, etc. Students must attend this class as normal class attendance rules apply. This is a Pass/Fail class. The grade does not affect GPA but will show on your transcript.

Middle School Core Class Descriptions

BIBLE DEPARTMENT

The foundation of instruction in the Bible begins with a total commitment to the inerrancy and infallibility of God's word. From the study of Creation in Genesis to the return of Jesus Christ and the Eternal State in Revelation, our goal is that our Kindergarten through Twelfth grade students will see God's plan of redemption for sinful man. Our objective is that every student will put their faith and trust in Jesus Christ for salvation and will be thoroughly grounded in their knowledge of Scripture, memorizing key Bible verses and passages, learning biblical doctrines and principles to apply to their lives. The students will be taught to discern truth from error in opposing worldviews. They will be instructed in Bible study skills, how to defend and share their faith in Jesus Christ, and will be given opportunities to live out their faith through service in the church and the community. Developing a deeper, personal relationship with Jesus Christ and being obedient to the truth of His teachings is emphasized daily.

GRADE SEVEN: A WALK THROUGH THE OLD TESTAMENT (Learning the Character of God)

Required for 7th grade, Full year

Students are presented with an Old Testament survey using Bible timelines with pictures and outlines. This includes a survey from introductory information featuring a study of geography through the exile, ending with Daniel. They will deepen their understanding of the characters and events of the Old Testament, while learning basic Biblical geography and characters. They will be able to tell several key facts about each Old Testament character/event, and be able to identify important Biblical truths, including theology. The students will also learn specific Scripture verses that reflect the essence of the Old Testament books and they are encouraged to make personal applications in their own lives. Christian service is a very practical component bringing the students to maturity.

GRADE EIGHT: SURVEY OF THE NEW TESTAMENT (Learning the Character of God)

Required for 8th grade, Full year

This course will survey the entire New Testament, actually starting with Haggai in the Old Testament and concluding with Revelation in the New Testament, with an emphasis on how Jesus Christ is presented in each book. Key characters and geography will be emphasized for a well-rounded understanding. The students will also learn a key verse for each book that best captures its essential truth. It will also be important for the students to understand an outline for each book and a picture will be used for each to speed the learning process and aid in retention. When completed, this course will complement the Seventh grade Old Testament course in giving the students a solid Biblical foundation. Christian service each quarter will bring practical opportunities to apply the truth learned in serving others for Christ, in the community.

CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

SEMINAR

Plymouth Christian Academy is intentional in leadership development in keeping with our mission, purpose, and expected student outcomes through "Seminar" at PCA. Each Seminar Class provides active and engaging discussions, thought-provoking strategy questions, illustrations, biblical foundations, student self-assessment and learning activities that communicate truth in a student-friendly way. Secondary students meet on average three times per month for Seminar. The curriculum is designed to train students about leadership skills and assist them in discovering their particular strengths and abilities that God has given them. It teaches basic leadership principles that students will put into practice during Seminar and service learning projects throughout their school career.

3

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

As Christians, written and oral communication skills are very important. This makes our English classes essential parts of an outstanding Christian education because of their practical and aesthetic qualities. Valuable reading-comprehension skills can transfer to effective Bible study with deeper understanding of God's Word. The development of oral and writing skills also help our students to better articulate their faith to those who need to hear the "Good News". Through the study of literature, our students can see the historical issues of life with its personal struggles and God's dealings with His creation. Through the study of aesthetics, our students will enhance their appreciation of the creative qualities of our Heavenly Father and His creative gifts given to various people throughout history.

GRADE SEVEN ENGLISH

Required for 7th grade, Full year

This course introduces students to the power they hold with reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing and representing skills. Students will explore each area of focus through a variety of units that enable them to not only discover these topics, but also apply and harness these skills as well. Using a combination of inquiry-based instruction, novel and genre studies, students will become readers and writers who critically and biblically examine the world around them. On a weekly basis, students will study vocabulary words, paying careful attention to their Greek and Latin roots, in order to build their academic language in both written and spoken texts. Seventh graders will also learn how to craft argumentative, memoir, and informative essays.

GRADE EIGHT ENGLISH

Required for 8th grade, Full year

Throughout the course of the year, students will work to further develop the skills they learned in seventh grade. Students will dig deeper into the various facets of English Language Arts through inquiry-based instruction, novel and genre studies. On a weekly basis, students will continue to study vocabulary words, paying careful attention to their Greek and Latin roots, in order to build their academic language in both written and spoken texts. In addition to genre, literature, and vocabulary studies, students will also learn how to write and polish poems as well as informative and thesis essays.

GRADE EIGHT LIFE TOPICS

Required for 8th grade

One semester (3 days per week split with PE, Keyboarding)

This course is designed to prepare students from a Biblical core of Truth to deal with life in its' various areas. Some of these areas include decision-making, manners, stress management, and peer pressure. This course will teach students how to be highly responsible and effective in their academic pursuits through organization. This includes such areas as managing time well, taking good notes, and learning how to prepare for and excel in test taking.

FINE & PERFORMING ARTS DEPARTMENT

Fine arts are essential in a well-rounded education. Our Fine Arts Education Program provides our students with the opportunity to explore Art, Music, and Drama. Through the act of creating, students are challenged to exercise their minds, solve problems, and to utilize their imaginations while formulating new ideas. It provides the individual with a sense of confidence through their accomplishments in their field. Participation in a fine arts program contributes to the development of the positive character qualities of teamwork, flexibility, appreciation and respect for others' ideas, and striving to glorify God through their efforts and talents.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ART

7th Grade: Days of week split with PE and Keyboarding

Students will explore the elements of art and the principles of design using various media and techniques including drawing, painting, sculpture, printmaking, and ceramics. The history of art, various artists and styles will be introduced.

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

As Scripture teaches in Isaiah 28:10 ESV, "For it is precept upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line, here a little, there a little." The Mathematics Department provides a complete and comprehensive program training students to advance in proficiency by providing opportunities for success at all levels of ability. Our goal is for every student to achieve the greatest possible performance in math, recognize their God-given talents through this process, and develop an appreciation for learning and using mathematics. All math courses emphasize problem-solving, mathematical concepts and applications, and critical thinking.

SAXON MATH COURSE 1-Middle School

7th Grade, Full year

This course strengthens math foundational concepts and builds skill levels.

SAXON MATH COURSE 2-Middle School

Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 1

7th or 8th Grade, Full year

This course provides detailed development of math skills and concepts as well as in-depth algebraic reasoning and evaluation.

SAXON MATH COURSE 3 - Middle School

Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 2

7th or 8th Grade, Full year

This course provides concentrated development of math skills and concepts as well as abstract reasoning and an extensive study of algebraic concepts with application.

ALGEBRA 1

Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 3 or Algebra Foundations

8th grade-Teacher Recommendation: Full year, 1 credit

This course meets State of Michigan graduation requirements and meets and exceeds the Michigan Curriculum Standards. This course covers linear and quadratic functions as well as lessons on probability, data analysis, and geometry. TI-83 or TI-84 Graphing Calculator is required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

The total education of a person involves their development spiritually, mentally, socially and physically. Therefore, physical education is a very integral part of the total curriculum in the educational process. Physical education enhances the overall health of young people by improving their cardiovascular endurance, muscular strength, flexibility, proper weight regulation, skeletal development, posture and coordination. The discipline learned in a quality physical education program carries over to a physically fit adult with reduced risks for heart disease, diabetes and cancer. Students are taught to respect their bodies and to show good stewardship for the “temple of the Holy Spirit” (I Corinthians 6:19) through proper training. God has made our bodies in a marvelous way (Psalm 139:14) and our students will learn how to properly care for those bodies in order to function more efficiently in their lives to their best potential for God’s glory and the rest of humanity. God also gives many physical talents that must be developed and used wisely as much as any musical, artistic, intellectual and spiritual gift should be developed and used wisely as being accountable back to God. Physical education helps increase our students’ mental alertness, academic performance and enthusiasm for learning. It develops our students in the areas of self-esteem, independence, personal responsibility, assertiveness, emotional control, mental toughness and effectively handling pressure. Physical education also teaches personal integrity, cooperation, persistence and good sportsmanship. It is preparation for life-long success.

GRADE SEVEN PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required for 7th grade, Full year (days of week split with Art, Keyboarding)

This course is designed to develop physical skills while improving overall fitness. It will acquaint our students with the basic skills and rules of many team, individual and life-time sports, as well as present a strong Christian perspective on sportsmanship. Twenty-two different activities could be used to achieve these goals.

GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Required for 8th grade, Full year (days of week split with Life Topics, Computers)

This course is designed to develop physical skills while improving overall fitness. It will acquaint our student ⁵ ₁ the basic skills and rules of many team, individual and life-time sports, as well as present a strong Christian perspective on sportsmanship. Twenty-two different activities could be used to achieve these goals.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

God, as the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, is the foundation of all our science classes. The truth that is taught at PCA, in grades K-12, is anchored in the Scriptural Truth that our Sovereign God designed everything. Our students are intellectually challenged to better understand their world through scientific investigation. They will develop inquisitive minds to understand the truth of God’s creation. Hands-on experimentation, will provide our students with exposure to all areas of science: life, earth, physical and engineering. As our students understand the complexity and beauty of our universe, the more they will appreciate the greatness of God.

GRADE SEVEN GEO-PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Required for 7th grade, Full year

This course uses the nation's leading middle school science program, “Prentice Hall Science Explorer”. It is the perfect fit for PCA’s middle school classroom as it weaves together current, real-world content with hands-on science inquiry. The content is divided into four small books or volumes, each with a unit theme, all of which are examined with a Biblical World View. Topics to be covered include: Weather and Climate; Astronomy; Sound and Light; Electricity and Magnetism. We will also integrate STEM/Engineering concepts throughout the year where students will define problems, develop solutions, and improve designs

GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL SCIENCE

Required for 8th grade, Full year

This course uses the nation's leading middle school science program, “Prentice Hall Science Explorer”. It is the perfect fit for PCA’s middle school classroom as it weaves together current, real-world content with hands-on science inquiry. The content is divided into four small books, each with a unit theme, all of which are examined with a Biblical World View. Topics to be covered include: The Nature of Science and Technology; Chemical Building Blocks; Chemical Interactions; Motion, Forces, and Energy. We will also integrate STEM/Engineering concepts throughout the year. Students will be defining a problem by precisely specifying criteria and constraints for solutions as well as potential impacts on society and the natural environment; systematically evaluating alternative solutions, analyzing data from tests of different solutions and combining the best ideas into an improved solution; developing models and testing/improving it to reach an optimal solution.

SOCIAL STUDIES DEPARTMENT

Ours is a great nation which God has richly blessed, but we struggle with political, social and economic complexities which affect our lives, nation, and global community in countless ways. Students will be able to identify the roots of these complexities, explore their ramifications and understand God's calling on our lives to be a light to this world. In this process, students will develop critical thinking skills to examine and explore past and present societies. They will gain an understanding of political, social and economic factors which guide decision making and the results of these decisions, both positive and negative. Developing an appreciation for what makes societies unique in this vast world and celebrating how God brings us all together is significant for students to appreciate in our ever expanding global society. Students will explore their dual role as citizens of the Kingdom and citizens here in our society. Most importantly, students will develop a foundational understanding of God's sovereignty over the past, present, and future. II Chronicles 20:6b "You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you."

GRADE SEVEN WORLD HISTORY

Required for 7th grade, Full year

The seventh grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history. Students begin their exploration of world history with a focus on historical and geographical thinking. Students learn about the world by studying specific geographic regions. Students will learn the history of the region as well as their current economy, present government and what life is like in that region. The course objective is to help students expand their view of human history and begin to see the story of the United States in a more global context and more importantly, God's redemptive plan at work. The course concludes with students analyzing global patterns of continuity and change over time, and using evidence to construct historical arguments about the past.

GRADE EIGHT AMERICAN HISTORY

Required for 8th grade, Full year

God has blessed our country with a wonderful heritage. We were privileged to be born here and we accept the responsibility of protecting that heritage through knowledge and political action so that others may also enjoy this great land. This initial study of U.S. History focuses on our beginnings as a young nation and continues to the end of the American Civil War. Emphasis is placed on understanding the values and principles our nation was founded upon and analyzing how our principles have impacted our national actions.

TECHNOLOGY & BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Since technology is a permanent part of our life and is advancing at an incredible rate, it is important for our students to keep pace and be computer literate in the 21st Century. The critical factor is to maintain a high level of moral and ethical use of this technology with principals from Scripture. The classes offered in this department will give our students a working knowledge of the current hardware and software. Opportunity is given for practical application in real life situations and to discover if students may have some God-given talent in this area, equipping them for a lifetime of learning, leadership, and service.

GRADE SEVEN KEYBOARDING

Required for 7th grade, One semester (days of week split with Art and PE)

Following the keyboarding standards set by NBEA (National Business Education Association), this is a course in which Middle School students are introduced to the proper keystrokes for keyboarding. Also, through a computer program, students taking this course will gain proficiency in alphabetic keyboarding technique-letter key operation and skills. The same will be true in numeric keyboarding technique-operation and skills. They will also learn basic formatting and document processing.

GRADE EIGHT COMPUTERS

Required for 8th grade, One semester (days of week split with Life Topics and PE)

With the continuation of proper keystrokes, students are introduced to using Microsoft Office 2016. Students will learn word processing (Word) by researching and creating an MLA style report including the outline and works cited page. They will also create a Power Point project using animation and sound. An introduction to basic Programming is given by creating apps using block coding.

WORLD LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

Whether it is German or Spanish, world languages present communication and cultural understanding as some of God's great gifts to our world. Since God created people unique in their individuality, there is a sense of respect for different cultures and languages. The 21st Century has brought the world to us. Our own neighborhoods have people from all over the world. Our global awareness and the interdependence of the global economy have made the acquisition of world language skills a necessity in many careers. As Christians in an ever-shrinking world, we need a broader and deeper understanding of world missions. Many young people are experiencing an immersion into world cultures through short-term mission trips. World languages have given us the ability to communicate and function effectively in an international community. After completing three years in one of our two languages offered here at PCA, students should be able to demonstrate effective and appropriate communication (both written and oral) in their chosen language. They should also have good understanding of the culture and contributions made by the people of this culture to international society. A side benefit of the study of a world language is that the learner's proficiency in English also improves. **SEE ELECTIVES SECTION**

PCA ATHLETICS

At Plymouth Christian Academy we strive to maintain excellence in athletics, regarding sports as a key part of our comprehensive educational atmosphere. We have an experienced coaching staff that serves as Christian role models and examples of excellence.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, 734.459.3505 - Ext. 3198

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.plymouthchristianeagles.com to view GAME SCHEDULES

MIDDLE SCHOOL SPORTS

- Girls: Volleyball (fall), Basketball, Cheer (winter), Softball, Soccer (spring)
- Boys: Soccer (fall), Basketball (winter), Baseball (spring)
- Combined: Cross Country (fall), Track (spring)

FACILITIES

- 2 Gymnasiums
- Softball Field
- Weight Room
- Soccer Fields
- Baseball Field
- Practice Diamond
- Indoor Batting Cage
- Outdoor Batting Cage
- Locker Rooms

CAMPS / CLINICS

Past offerings have included basketball, baseball, soccer, volleyball, weightlifting, running and cheerleading camps & clinics on our campus.

2018-2019

Plymouth Christian Academy

Learning, Leadership & Service