



PLYMOUTH CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY

# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

## 2020-21

*Learning, Leadership & Service*

43065 Joy Road, Canton, Michigan 48187  
734.459.3505 [www.plymouthchristian.org](http://www.plymouthchristian.org)

## **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives**

(Students choose 2 electives)

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL 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.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL VOCAL MUSIC – 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

In this class students will learn the basics of improv, pantomime, voice, characterization, acting, and more. Students will watch, read, and experience theatre in order to develop a critical eye for quality. At the end of the year, the students will perform in their own production. There will be two curriculumms for this class that will switch every other year so that students may repeat the course if they desire.

- **GRADE SEVEN INTRO TO WORLD LANGUAGES**

Full year

This course introduces students to the foundations of language: how languages developed, types of alphabets, language structure, and many other facets of language. Students will learn Latin, Italian, French, Japanese, 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.

- **MS CODING 1**

First Semester

Do you find yourself wondering how your favorite apps, websites, and games were made? Maybe you want to try building your own. Well, now you can! In Middle School Coding 1, you will learn all about the technology you use in your day- to-day life as well as explore how the internet functions. Get an introduction to the basics of computer science and discover how to create and build your very own website using HTML and CSS. You'll also become familiar with programming languages like JavaScript and Python Programming. You will leave the course with your very own portfolio of work that will showcase your skills and all that you've created.

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- **MS CODING 2**

Second Semester

Prerequisites: MS Coding 1

We don't always think about the role technology plays in our world, but the truth is technology influences our everyday lives and affects how we relate to our friends, family, and even complete strangers. For those wanting to develop a greater understanding of this technology comes Middle School Coding 2. Building on what you learned in Middle School Coding 1, you'll expand your knowledge of programming languages and web development and further explore Advanced Python, HTML, and JavaScript. You will also learn the difference between web development and web application development and continue to grow your portfolio, which will serve to highlight everything you have learned and created in the course.

- **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.

## **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Electives**

(Students will choose 2 electives)

- **EIGHTH GRADE 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.

- **MIDDLE SCHOOL 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.

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First Semester

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- **MS CODING 2**

Second Semester

Prerequisites: MS Coding 1

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- **HIGH SCHOOL GERMAN I**

8<sup>th</sup> grade: Full year, 1 credit

Students in German I will build the ability to function in highly predictable situations using words, phrases, and complete sentences. At this level, students will learn to communicate with people who are accustomed to interacting with non-native speakers in a variety of contexts relating primarily to oneself, family, friends, home, school, neighborhood, community, and country; and to carry out a variety of language functions, including socializing, identifying and describing, exchanging information and exchanging opinions. Even at beginning levels of German, and the German language will be used in instruction to the greatest extent possible, with clarifications provided to check comprehension using gestures, visual input, and English when necessary.

- **HIGH SCHOOL SPANISH I**

8<sup>th</sup> 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

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## 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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

### **Spiritual Life Groups**

Plymouth Christian Academy is intentional in leadership development in keeping with our mission, purpose, and expected student outcomes through "Spiritual Life Groups" at PCA. Each SLG class provides active and engaged 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 once a month for SLG. 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 S and service learning projects throughout their school career.

# 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade: Semester, 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**

7<sup>th</sup> Grade, Full year

This course strengthens math foundational concepts and builds skill levels.

## **SAXON MATH COURSE 2-Middle School**

Prerequisite: Saxon Math Course 1

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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

7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> 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

8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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### **GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

Required for 8<sup>th</sup> 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 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.

## **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 INTEGRATED SCIENCE**

Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Full year

This course provides an integrated approach of studying science. Students will discover how the science disciplines are interrelated while introducing basic concepts and key ideas. Topics include: the atmosphere; weather factors and patterns; climate; exploring space, the solar system; stars, galaxies, and the universe; waves; sound; electromagnetic spectrum; light; magnetism; electricity and electronics. This course also provides an interdisciplinary and applied approach to science with several problem solving and reasoning activities involving STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math). All topics will constantly compare the worldview to the truth of God's word.

### **GRADE EIGHT PHYSICAL SCIENCE**

Required for 8<sup>th</sup> grade, Full year

This course analyzes the nature of energy and nonliving matter. Topics include defining science and the work of scientists; technology and engineering; motion; forces; work and machines; energy and heat; matter; periodic table; exploring materials; atoms and bonding; chemical reactions; acids, bases and solutions and carbon chemistry. The program weaves together current, real-world content with hands-on science inquiry. The integrated STEM activities provide opportunities for students to think deeply and problem solve so that they have the chance to become innovators, educators, researchers, and leaders who can solve the most pressing challenges of our world. All topics will constantly compare the worldview to the truth of God's word.

## **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."

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### **GRADE SEVEN WORLD HISTORY**

Required for 7<sup>th</sup> grade, Full year

The seventh-grade social studies curriculum focuses on early world history. Students begin their exploration into 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 7<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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**

At PCA, instruction in world language has at its core a love for God's people in other cultures, and a desire to see the Gospel take root and grow in the cultures we study. Integration of Biblical truth, Scripture application and target-language prayer and worship guide our approach to building linguistic and cultural competence in German or Spanish. Students will develop both interpretive (reading and listening) and productive (speaking and writing) skills in the target language. In addition to building holistic language proficiency through communicative tasks and comprehensible input in German or Spanish, students will also demonstrate basic knowledge of cultural practices, products, and perspectives of the culture(s) in which the language is used; gain cultural knowledge as well as knowledge in other curricular areas using the target language; demonstrate an understanding of the nature of language and culture through comparisons of the target language and culture studied and their own; and use German or Spanish both within and beyond the school setting. **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](http://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.

2020-21

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