

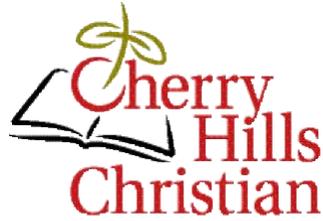


Middle School

**2018-2019
CURRICULUM GUIDE:
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

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Middle School

OUR MISSION

Cherry Hills Christian is committed to honoring Christ by teaching, encouraging, training and grounding students in God's truth within a dynamic, academic environment. Heart, Soul, Mind, Strength.

Heart: "Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer." (Psalm 19:14)

Soul: "As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God." (Psalm 42:1)

Mind: "Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds." (Romans 12:2a)

Strength: "The Lord is my strength and my shield, in him my heart trusts." (Psalm 28:7a)

(All verses are taken from the New Revised Standard Version.)

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***Department Head**

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS:

BIBLE

The Bible department at Cherry Hills Christian Middle School is built upon *relationship*. We believe we were created for relationships, first with God and then with ourselves, with others, and with the culture in which we live. In conjunction with our study of the Bible to this end, we also include materials from The Center for Relationship Education (Real Essentials Starting Point for 6th and 7th grades, and Real Essentials for 8th grade). The primary text used in all three grades is the Bible. Much of our Bible curriculum, written in consultation with CHCMS by Headwaters Resources, emphasizes key themes that recur throughout the Bible in order to engage the students in the grand narrative of the Bible as *their* story, the story in which they live every day.

6th grade

Students study the history of the Jewish people from the Old Testament (OT). We walk through the OT in chronological order, looking for what we learn about God and His relationship with people through these historical events. With a strong emphasis on making the Bible practical for the lives of middle school students, we ask the “So what?” question: What difference does this passage of Scripture make in the life of a sixth-grade student living in 21st century America?

7th grade

Students focus on the life of Jesus and the history of the early church as found in the New Testament (NT). The curriculum picks up where sixth grade leaves off by studying Old Testament prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. The NT Gospels tell of Jesus, who is the fulfillment of the OT prophecies. Students look for what the NT teaches us about the triune God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and about the relationship He desires to have with each of us. Seventh grade concludes with the history of the early church from the book of Acts. Throughout the year, emphasis is again put on helping students discover what difference these passages of Scripture make in their own lives.

8th grade

Students focus on the theme of *transformation*. We believe that God’s plan for each of us is to be changed by our ever-deepening relationship with Him. The Bible uses terms *likewise*, *righteous*, and *godly* to describe people who are living transformed lives because of their relationship with God. Thus, eighth grade students will be challenged to live out the truths of Scripture in all of their relationships: with God, with themselves, with others, in the culture in which they live.

LANGUAGE ARTS

Cherry Hills Christian Middle School strives to equip students with the skills necessary to be successful in the 21st Century with a strong foundation in Language Arts (reading, writing, speaking and listening). During their course of study at Cherry Hills, students read a wide range of literature. They learn and are expected to write to inform, to describe, to entertain, and to persuade with coherent organization. In addition, students deliver formal and informal oral presentations and learn also to integrate listening and reasoning strategies to effectively build understanding. Having completed three years of study at CHCMS, students should be well prepared and equipped for success in high school Language Arts classes as they move forward.

6th Grade

This course is designed to help students improve thinking, reading, writing, and grammar skills. Students read and analyze literature through a Christian worldview. The literature program includes such titles as Where the Red Fern Grows, A Long Walk to Water, Tuck Everlasting, and a biography of someone who has struggled and overcome obstacles to become successful. Near the end of the year, students enjoy a unit on short stories. Students explore what makes a great paragraph/essay using the Shurley Grammar and Image Grammar curriculum as well as the principles of Six Traits. They will write expository, narrative, descriptive, and persuasive pieces. In addition, spelling and vocabulary skills are sharpened through use of the Sadlier series. The focus of grammar instruction includes the study of parts of speech; sentence structure, including basic sentence diagramming; overcoming usage problems; and an introduction to figures of speech. As students experience the challenges of their first year of middle school, they learn and practice organizational skills that help them in all aspects of their education.

7th Grade

Students continue to develop and refine language arts skills with the express goal of increasing levels of literacy. Class materials include a variety of traditional/classical language arts instructional methods such as studies in literature, composition, grammar, vocabulary and spelling, and journaling. Classroom texts link with Social Studies curriculum and include: Literature anthology, The Bronze Bow, Greek Gods, Good Masters Sweet Ladies, and Romeo and Juliet. Spelling and Vocabulary studies are based on Sadlier-Oxford Vocabulary as well as vocabulary in context. Writing instruction emphasizes basic paragraph and essay form including expository, narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and compare-contrast, and is based on 6+1 Writing Traits. Grammar instruction continues to reinforce current skills based on the Shurley Grammar and Abeka Grammar and Composition I curriculum.

8th Grade

This course is designed to produce proficient and empowered readers, writers, and learners through relevant instruction. Students will read and analyze literature through a critical and Christian perspective that ties into the US History curriculum. Titles may include The Fifth of March, Nightjohn, To Kill a Mockingbird, Crossing the Wire, and Whirligig. Students will refine their creative and expository writing skills, as well as gain experience in researching skills, utilizing the 6 +1 Writing Traits program. Spelling, vocabulary, etymology, and grammar instruction are also integrated with each literature unit. Additionally, this course strives to help each student perfect their own organization system, while instilling a love for learning, literature, and life.

MATHEMATICS

Recognizing that mathematical skills and problem solving are fundamental to education, the Math Department at CHCMS is dedicated to equipping students with all the math skills necessary to be successful and to reach the next level of their education feeling comfortable in their ability to handle math challenges. Students use numbers and number relationships to find patterns and solve problems. Algebraic methods are used to explore, model and describe patterns and functions involving numbers, shapes, data and graphs. Students use data collection, analysis, statistics and probability to communicate reasoning. They also link concepts and procedures as they use techniques and instruments like estimation, mental arithmetic, pencil and paper, calculators, and computers in

problem solving situations and in applying their skills to everyday life situations. Having completed three years of math at the Middle School, students are well prepared for high school math.

Math Course 1

This course is designed to introduce students to a broad spectrum of pre-algebra and geometric concepts including number patterns and functions, operations with fractions and decimals, ratios, proportions, percents, angles and angle relationships, perimeter, area, volume and basic probability. At the beginning of this course, students should have mastered the basic concepts of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing whole numbers, decimals, and fractions and they are expected to have memorized their multiplication and division tables through the number 12.

Math Course 2

This course continues to cover many of the concepts from Course 1 with more complex problems and problem-solving situations including operations with integers, rational and irrational numbers. Students continue to master problems involving ratios, proportions and percents and are introduced to variable expressions, polynomials and variable equations. Students also develop geometric and spatial reasoning skills involving area, volume and right triangle relationships.

Math Course 3

This course explores more difficult concepts from pre-algebra and geometry including integers, rational numbers, real numbers, complex fractions, ratios, proportions, percents, non-linear functions and polynomials, equations and inequalities, surface area and volume, right triangle relationships, and probability and statistics. Although this is not an Algebra I class, it introduces students to many of the concepts they will cover in Algebra I their freshman year in high school.

Advanced Pre-Algebra

The purpose of this course is to provide a bridge between basic skills and the kind of algebraic thinking that will be necessary in an Advanced Algebra class. Students will build on their understanding of variables and expressions and extend them to equations and inequalities. The areas of study covered in this course include basic math skills, introduction to algebra concepts, and geometry. Specific topics include properties of equality, integers, probability proportions, slope, scientific notations, ratios, multi-step equations, inequalities, sequences, unit multiplies, special right triangles, direct variation, radicals, and polynomials. There is a concentrated focus on solving word problems using algebraic thinking as well as analyzing patterns and functions. This course is offered only to 7th grade students who have completed course 2 (or its equivalent) in 6th grade.

Algebra I

This course is the foundation for high school mathematics courses. It is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. Topics include simplifying expressions, evaluating and solving equations and inequalities, solving systems of equations, graphing linear and quadratic equations, rational expressions and real world applications. Students must successfully complete the Pre-Algebra (Math Course 3 or Advanced Pre-Algebra) curriculum for entry into this class.

Advanced Algebra I

This course is equivalent to an honors high school Algebra class. It is the bridge from the concrete to the abstract study of mathematics. This course is designed to provide students with a mastery of the following concepts: Algebra Foundations, Functions and Relations, Equations, Linear Equations and Functions, Polynomials, Rational Expressions and Functions, Inequalities, Systems of Equations and Inequalities, Radical Expressions and Functions, Quadratic Equations and Functions, Absolute-Value Equations and Inequalities, and Probability and Data Analysis. Students must successfully complete the Advanced Pre-Algebra curriculum for entry into this class.

Geometry

This course is equivalent to an honors Geometry class. It is designed to provide students with a mastery of the following concepts: tools of Geometry, proportions and similarity, reasoning and proofs, right triangles and trigonometry, parallel and perpendicular Lines, circles, congruent triangles, area, surface area, and volume, relationships in triangles, probability and measurement, and quadrilaterals. Students must successfully complete the Advanced Algebra or Algebra curriculum for entry into this class.

SCIENCE

The goal of science at Cherry Hills Christian Middle School is to give students the tools needed to help them explore, understand, and be good stewards of all that God has made. With the rapid advancement of science and technology, it is critical to equip students with the knowledge to understand and participate in these advances. Science education needs to include current content in the different disciplines, and skills such as computer modeling, hands-on inquiry and discovery labs, and a solid understanding of the scientific method. Achieving these goals enables students to be well equipped to think critically and use problem-solving abilities to succeed in high school and beyond.

6th Grade Physical Science

Sixth grade science lays a general foundation in physical science (chemistry and physics), and also introduces students to the basics of scientific inquiry, lab safety, problem-solving, and engineering/technological innovation. Specific topics include energy, magnetism, sound and light waves, physical and chemical properties, force and motion, simple machines, atoms, and the periodic table of the elements. Learning occurs through hands-on labs, activities, and extended projects, as well as in-depth reading and writing. The class also includes an exploration of the scientific method and its applications. In addition, sixth grade science focuses on the use of graphs and other means of data analysis. Finally, students become familiar with the SI (international system of measurement units) utilized in fields of science worldwide. In short, sixth grade science is a study of how the physical world works, how we can better use and improve existing technology, and how to use scientific knowledge to be better stewards of the world God has given us.

7th Grade Biology

The Biology curriculum is designed to prepare students for high school level life sciences. Students study the structure, function, and relationships among God's living creations, and are provided a foundation in the Christian worldview of the origin of life. The course begins with an overview of the history of Scientific Investigation and the Scientific Method, covering Creation and leading into the 21st century. Students discuss the impact technology has had on our understanding of life and its origins, and how humans are affecting the survival of life on

Earth. This foundation enables students to appreciate the progress being made in biological sciences, and to recognize how science and technology can be used to nurture or hinder life on Earth. This viewpoint emphasizes the importance of maintaining our vigil as stewards of the Earth. Specific topics covered in Biology include but are not limited to: Creation and Evolution, Plants, Ecology & Natural Resources, Arthropods, Invertebrates, DNA/Cloning, Amphibians and Reptiles, Mammals, Disease & Our Immune System, and Human Body Design.

8th Grade Earth Science

The study of Earth Science delves into Chemistry as a basis to study the Earth and universe. Astronomy, Geology, Weather and Climate, and Oceanography and fresh water resources are also covered. The Scientific Method is reinforced, with students using critical thinking and problem solving skills to relate current topics with Earth Science content knowledge. Emphasis is placed on students' creating and interpreting data tables and graphs, and drawing conclusions and understanding from these data instruments. After becoming comfortable using the metric system of measurement in the previous two years, students learn to convert from the English system to the metric system, and from units within the metric system. To reinforce content knowledge, this class depends heavily on using current event topics and hands-on labs, from modeling atoms too small to be seen, to computer-modeling tornadoes.

SOCIAL STUDIES:

"If you would understand anything, observe its beginning, and its development." Aristotle

The study of history and current events are foundational to the understanding and development of a contributing citizen who endeavors to impact the world for Christ. Mankind's history is really "His" story—God's Story—of creation, justice, redemption, love, and sacrifice. It is through the study of history and geography that students come to a greater appreciation of the God whom they serve and can begin to "love the Lord [their] God with all [their] mind" (Matthew 22:37). Our goal in teaching history is three-fold: To advance within our students a deeper understanding of the God of the Bible and how He relates to mankind; to prepare students to understand and elucidate their Christian heritage in a culturally diverse world, considering the big picture of history, as well as, noteworthy individuals who lived in various contexts of time; finally, we endeavor to inspire students to catch a vision of Christ's mandate to be citizens who are "salt and light" (Matthew 5:13-16) in this culture and can impact the world for Christ "for such a time as this." (Esther 4:14)

6th Grade Cultural and Physical Geography

In 6th Grade Cultural and Physical Geography, students study the relationships between people, places, and environments with a focus on the Western Hemisphere. They also study the details, features, religions, and identities of a place or region. Students examine the physical processes that shape our earth, as well as how people interact with and shape the earth, and how the physical environment modifies human interaction. Finally, students experience how the study of geography affects their lives, and can help interpret the past and facilitate planning for the future. By participating in a hands-on Junior Achievement economics unit, students have the opportunity to experience true global economics, exposing them to the financial realities of our global marketplace. The textbook for this course is The World and Its People (McGraw-Hill). In addition, students will use computers, video resources, and various related resources.

7th Grade World History

This course is designed to expand upon the concepts taught in 6th grade, providing an examination of world history with a Christian worldview. Students study the ancient cradle civilizations of Mesopotamia and Egypt, the ancient Israelites, Greek civilization and contributions, the rise of Rome, Roman civilization, the rise of Christianity and major world religions, medieval Europe, the Renaissance and Reformation, the Age of Exploration and Enlightenment, Imperialism and World Wars I and II. Students consider various historical methods, examine the limitations of archaeology, determine how to form valid conclusions based on evidence, and analyze the dangers of historical revisionism.

Students practice research, presentation skills, various note taking methods, organizational, and study skills. In addition, students participate in diverse cross-curricular activities including a research project, art activities, and integration of other disciplines. In addition to the textbook, Discovering Our World: A History of the World (McGraw-Hill), students use the Bible, related primary and secondary resources, Internet sources, and enriching video segments.

8th Grade – U.S. History

Building on the foundation students receive in 7th grade world history, 8th grade U.S. history begins with the early settlements in present-day America and continues through modern times. As students learn about all aspects of U.S. history and government, they are challenged to think Biblically about the events and people they study. The textbook for this course is Discovering Our Past: A History of the United States, The Early Years, published by McGraw-Hill. An excellent textbook from an educational perspective, this secular text gives students the opportunity to practice critical thinking skills while they learn to interpret history from both a secular and a Christian perspective.

ELECTIVES

SPANISH Language Acquisition

In a world where over 500,000,000 people speak Spanish, it is our goal at CHCMS to prepare students to communicate with this Spanish-speaking populous, whether it be in the mission field, witnessing to neighbors or studying abroad. The value we place on our mission work in the world is directly reflected in our commitment to preparing our students with the tools they will need to go on to the mission field and communicate, witness and work alongside Hispanics, as we have in Juarez, New Mexico, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico. Students are prepared to enter high school and continue to pursue foreign language acquisition with the confidence acquired through their educational experience at CHCMS.

The program runs consecutively for three years, as follows:

6th Grade Spanish

The main aspects of the first-year course include: Spanish language acquisition through Comprehensive Input and TPRS Storytelling, Bible verse memorization, verb recognition and conjugation through Get Real Spanish curriculum, as well as basic Culture and Geography of Mexico and Costa Rica. Throughout the year, students build on their vocabulary through relevant conversation, reading/writing creative stories, and Spanish worship songs. A Biblical Worldview is integrated through discussions surrounding memory verse memorization/translation, as well as discussions about US and Latin American culture comparisons.

By the end of the year, students are able to ask and answer questions about Mexico and Costa Rica, as well as *their own* life, weekend activities, and basic information (family, age, birthday, what they like to do, etc.). Students are ready for the challenges of the next level.

7th Grade Spanish

This year the teacher uses Spanish as the primary language in the classroom, as the level of speaking, reading, and writing is expanded. The instructor continues to use Comprehensive Input and the TPRS (Total Physical Response Storytelling) methodologies, as relevant, everyday conversation is practiced daily. Students earn a Spanish-only participation grade, encouraging them to rise above their comfort level and speak Spanish more fluently. Students continue some Bible verse memorization, verb conjugation, and translation in this course. Songs written and sung by native Spanish-speaking artists are introduced to expose the students to a variety of dialects and accents within the Hispanic community. The students learn about the Caribbean, including Puerto Rico and Cuba through our geography studies and TPRS books.

8th Grade Spanish

The third year of the program is designed to challenge students to a higher level of Spanish language acquisition and prepare them for high school language programs. The objective is for 8th grade students to speak, read, and write more Spanish. Students are encouraged to rise above their comfort level and speak more Spanish in the classroom this year. The instructor also continues to utilize Comprehensive Input and the TPRS (Total Physical Response Storytelling) method of instruction. This provides a hands-on, kinesthetic, comprehensible manner of furthering Spanish speaking skills and abilities. Students continue some verse memorization, verb conjugations, and translation in this course. Songs written and sung by native Spanish-speaking artists are also used to expose students to a variety of dialects and accents within the Hispanic community. Geography, culture, art, music, and film in Spanish, are all a continued part of this course.

SPANISH IMMERSION TRIP

Often (but not always) CHCMS offers 7th and 8th grade Spanish students the opportunity to travel to a Spanish-speaking country for a complete (one week) Spanish language immersion experience. Students and chaperones live with native families, study at The Spanish Language Institute, and tour historic sites. In addition, students serve God as they spend time in service and fellowship with a local church or ministry. This is only a portion of all they experience while living all they have learned during the school year. In past years, students have visited Cuernavaca, Mexico, Costa Rica and Puerto Rico.

COMPUTER EDUCATION/TECHNOLOGY

In the computer department, the focus is on using 21st century tools to teach students how to learn, think critically while acquiring the skills necessary to succeed as a Christian in today's technological world. The projects we cover in Computer classes attempt to teach skills that can be used in any computer environment, not just how to use any specific application. With the acquisition of the Promethean technology at CHCMS, the way students learn and how the teachers teach is changing. Classes are much more interactive and students are experiencing a technology to which only a small percentage of the school population of the U. S. has access.

6th Grade Computer

This course focuses on the basics of Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint. While working on improving their typing skills, students explore topics about the Internet and acceptable uses of computers. If time allows we may cover an introduction to computer programming. Evaluation and assessment procedures shall consist of occasional homework assignments, projects, class participation, tests and quizzes.

7th Grade Computer

This course focuses on advanced Word and Excel topics as well as some more *fun* topics like video editing and Flash animation. Students engage in discussion about the Internet and acceptable uses of computer; in addition, students continue to strive to improve their typing skills. Evaluation and assessment procedures consist of occasional homework assignments, projects, class participation, tests and quizzes.

8th Grade Computer

This course covers even more advanced Word and Excel topics, and students learn Web Design, HTML, and Computer Programming as well. In addition, students continue to explore topics about the Internet and acceptable uses of computers. Finally, students continue to strive to improve their typing skills.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education for Grades 6-8 is designed for students to establish life-long fitness skills, and to develop their knowledge and understanding of various sports. Students participate in strength, flexibility and endurance exercises. These daily exercises enhance each student's overall fitness level, while encouraging further development outside of school. Students share and demonstrate their increased fitness levels through quarterly evaluations. Every semester students have the opportunity to participate and learn about sports, including, but not limited to: basketball, volleyball, soccer, floor hockey, lacrosse, pickle ball, and flag football. Focus during these sports units is placed on basic skill attainment, rule knowledge, and the Christian values of positive sportsmanship and encouragement to others.

THE ARTS

CHCMS offers a number of related electives in Drama and Music as well as three different Art classes from which students choose to round out their full schedules and explore their God-given talents.

Visual Arts Program

The Cherry Hills Christian Middle School Art Program is a unique combination of Visual Art Standards and Fine Art Techniques with an emphasis on our Biblical Worldview.

The program is divided into three sections by grade levels 6th, 7th, and 8th. Drawing, painting, design, and creativity are taught according to grade level and will increase in skill level progressively. Our goal is to nurture individual creativity while encouraging students to be part of positive community, where Art is created in an intellectually safe, yet challenging environment.

By the end of Middle School, Art Students will:

CREATE:

- Various categories of art including still life, portrait, figurative, landscape, cityscape, animals, and plants.
- Design, construct, invent props for our school dances and musical theatre productions.
- Art that glorifies God, nature, and our Biblical principles.
- Prepare various graphics, posters, books, and other printed materials for mission's trips, and activities.

EVALUATE:

- Practice and learn the art criticism model using description, analysis, and compassion towards fellow students.
- Identify the elements of art and the principles of design in the analysis of artworks.
- Critique their work and the work of others and receive criticism by teachers and peers – always to build up and gently correct to allow artistic growth and confidence.

ANALYZE:

- Effectively and respectfully use the internet to research images and information.
- Compare & contrast various brainstorming methods.
- Explain and discuss ideas that may or may not lead to creative solutions.
- Utilize rubrics correctly.

APPLY:

- Develop and maintain a personal sketchbook with class notes, personal images and assigned drawings that demonstrate skills acquired during courses.
- Demonstrate fundamental skill in visual measuring and be able to see size relationships as they practice observational drawing.
- Use techniques that demonstrate fundamental skill in drawing, design principles, perspective, shading, contour, painting, basic color mixing, and color theory including hue, intensity, value, complements, and color schemes.

UNDERSTAND:

- Determine best use of technique, or combinations for the assignment.
- Select appropriate materials needed to complete assignments.
- Discuss ideas and articulate artistic goals.
- Observe one's own work critically and make adjustments to enhance and improve in order to reach the desired goal.

REMEMBER:

- Repeat techniques acquired in early phases of coursework and apply to new works of art.
- Recognize characteristics of visual arts within a particular historical period, style, or culture.
- Retrieve and apply problem solving skills effectively.
- Critique skills learned and apply to self and others in a positive and constructive manner.
- Match assignment and goals to best suited materials and techniques.

MUSIC EDUCATION

At CHCMS, music is an integral part of general education for all students. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students participate in a General Music Class for nine weeks each year. These classes meet daily for a quarter. Students explore a number of different musical opportunities designed to interest and challenge them as they grow in their musical knowledge and experiences.

Music is important to life and learning. It connects each new generation to those that have gone before, and connects us with others all over the world. The study of music allows students to make these connections and to comprehend the world around them. The goal of the music classes at Cherry

Hills Christian is to help students learn how to listen to and speak about music intelligently and to appreciate its effectiveness in their day-to-day lives. Units of study are based on the National Standards for Music Education. Lessons focus on music listening and performance, terminology, and analysis. Cultural and historical traditions are embedded in each unit of study so that students make connections between music and the world around them.

Music students rotate through three yearly “themes” over the course of their time at CHCMS. Each theme aims to address different aspects of music appreciation and understanding. Throughout each year, students develop a variety of performance skills while playing the acoustic guitar.

Passport to Music

This theme gives students a chance to see how music impacts cultures around the world. We take a look at musical traditions from almost every continent, making connections to our own music while acknowledging and appreciating our differences. This theme culminates in an original composition project using sounds from our own lives!

The Evolution of Pop

This theme takes students on a journey through the history of popular music, from folk songs to Elvis and Michael Jackson. We attempt to answer questions like: What makes a song “good?” Why do some songs withstand the test of time? How has popular music changed and stayed the same over time? This theme culminates in an acoustic guitar performance project.

Music at the Movies

This theme guides students as we delve into how music can tell and impact a story. We look at how harmonies, instruments, and tempos can affect how we feel; how a catchy rhythm and melody can make a song stick; and how we can create music to set a mood or create a story to fit with music! This theme culminates in students’ creation of a short film to fit with a piece of classical

ADDITIONAL ELECTIVES:

Academic Services

Inside and outside of the classroom, Cherry Hills Christian offers individualized academic and instructional support as well as opportunities for extended learning. We are passionate about providing a differentiated learning environment to ensure our students thrive at Cherry Hills Christian. Cherry Hills Academic Services seeks to serve our students by providing support services that address their individual academic needs and inspire them to reach their full God-given potential.

Advanced Physical Education

Advanced Physical Education is an elective offered to any student. The curriculum of this class is designed to enhance and increase the student's knowledge of sports and fitness. Each student will participate in fitness activities utilizing equipment such as: medicine balls, weighted fitness bars, stabilization balls, and weighted jump ropes. Students will participate in current trends of fitness like Cross-Fit, yoga, dynamic movement and muscle confusion. Students will demonstrate their knowledge by leading fitness warm ups. Sports played in this class will be played following all normal rules. Students will have very limited skill development, so as to best utilize class time for actual play. Teamwork and character are an integral part of Advanced Physical Education. Students will participate in team building activities that develop creative problem-solving skills and peer relationships. Students are evaluated on their leadership and encouragement of others in an effort to create Godly athletes.

America at War (offered 1 semester)

This class explores America's wars beginning with the Spanish American War and continuing through the current day war on terror. Students discover why America fought in each of these conflicts and the outcome of each of them. Some of the questions discussed are: 1) Why do countries fight in wars? 2) What alternatives are there to fighting a war, and are those alternatives successful in resolving conflict? 3) What things do you believe are worth fighting for? 4) What, if anything, does God say about war? 5) What can we learn from each of America's wars to help us with conflict resolution in today's world? Students are challenged to think critically about the difficult subject of our country at war and to be able to substantiate their opinions.

Bible Topics

Students play a vital role in the development of the class and the content is generated through student surveys; that is, what are those issues that are most on the minds of the students in the class regarding information from the Bible? Examples of topics discussed are: *The End Times; the existence of heaven and hell; angels; and, ministering to a non-believer*. Facilitated by their instructor, students search the Bible for answers to their questions on these topics and discuss their findings with the rest of the class. Audio/visual resources are used to enhance the learning in this class of exciting discovery.

Biblical Worldview vs. Secular Worldview:

The term "worldview" has a simple definition: how a person understands the world he or she lives in. However, the reasons people believe what they do about their world is much more complicated. This class will examine several different influences that shape the way we see life, including mass media, social media, scripture, and national, world, and church history. As we look at these, we will explore how to genuinely walk with Christ in the midst of the conflicting messages we receive about life's purpose.

Career

This class explores a variety of careers to help students understand educational requirements, pay scale, and details about different careers. There is discussion about college goals, college requirements, athletic scholarships, and academic scholarships. Students will take an interest inventory to help them understand their aptitudes and how they can be transferred into the work world. The class is a great opportunity for students to explore and think about their futures. A representative from *College in Colorado* may come to share with students.

Choir

Choir is a first semester class designed for students who enjoy singing and performing in a large group setting. The class is open to all students in 6th, 7th and 8th grades. Through the ensemble experience, students are exposed to a variety of quality choral literature, music theory, history, ear training, singing harmony, and performance techniques. An emphasis is placed on the maturing and developing adolescent voice and its application to praising and honoring our God. Choir members will perform in at least one concert per year, with off-campus performances at the discretion of the instructor.

Coding

This class is aimed at students with little or no programming experience. It aims to provide students with an understanding of the role computation can play in solving problems. It also aims to help students, to feel confident of their ability to write small programs that allow them to accomplish useful goals. The class will use the multiple methods of programming, first we start with Scratch, then Swift, and finally we will use BBC MicroBits.

Creative Writing

This course is designed for students who enjoy creative writing and want to sharpen their skills and grow their writing talent. We will examine the elements of a good story, experiment with different fiction and creative non-fiction forms, and learn how to respectfully and constructively critique our fellow writers' projects. No previous creative writing instruction or experience is required, just a love of story and a desire to write your own!

Current Events

Using a Christian worldview, this class uses the daily newspaper from the Internet, selected periodicals, video clips, special reports, etc. to teach students about contemporary issues that have relevance to their daily lives. Students examine bias in reporting and research topics using a variety of sources. This class provides practice in the skill of listening to others respectfully and summarizing another's point of view.

Drama Production for 8th Graders

This performance production class meets three times weekly for one semester. The thrust is on in this class is an all-school production to be presented at the end of the semester. Auditions are held and students experience preparing for an audition. In addition, students experience researching character and/or setting of the production, preparing publicity, memorizing lines, costuming for characters, staging and blocking, and rehearsals and performances outside the classroom. Upon completion of the production, students are asked to reflect on and evaluate their own performances as well as the overall production.

Film Literature

During this semester-long course students will view, predict, discuss, respond to, question, interpret and analyze films. Students will be introduced to film terminology and cinematic effects. They will also make connections to literature, literary techniques, and reading strategies while engaging with film.

Game Strategies

This course is designed primarily for those who are beginners or relatively new to the game. The basic rules of chess as well as some basic tactics and strategies are covered. Students who are already avid players may benefit from this course as well, and the hope is that all students will advance from their current level.

Handwriting: Legible and Lovely

Have you ever wished you could improve your penmanship and have fun at the same time? This course is designed to help anyone who either struggles to write legibly or enjoys the art of writing with a creative flair. We will begin by exploring the craft of readable manuscript, followed by a few lessons in cursive writing. Those who desire to indulge in the craft of lovely lettering will be introduced to the basic skills of calligraphy. Supplies will be provided.

Health and Wellness

Health and fitness is an elective offered to any student. The curriculum of this class is designed to give students knowledge of various health and fitness topics. This class is partial classroom work and some fitness activities. Students will explore current topics on healthy eating, obesity, common diseases, positive relationship building, positive decision-making, goal setting, and fitness trends. The students will gain knowledge and demonstrate their proficiency through; readings, videos, group work and class leadership. This course will focus on a desire to have every student leave with knowledge of what is needed to remain healthy throughout life.

Keyboarding

Keyboarding is a one-semester course designed to help students develop speed and accuracy by learning the touch operation of alphanumeric/keyboard characters. Emphasis is placed on the following: mastery of the keyboard with desirable keyboarding techniques: development of speed and accuracy and proper care of the equipment. Keyboarding is foundational for developing entry-level skills for business careers

Lifetime Fitness:

Lifetime fitness is an elective offered to any student. The curriculum of this class is designed to enhance and increase a student's core strength, flexibility, coordination, and balance. The student will understand the correlation between fitness in these areas and how it relates to long-term wellbeing and health. The course will utilize low impact activities like: dance, yoga, Pilates and Zumba. Each student will demonstrate improvement through core, flexibility and balance evaluations. Furthermore, students will practice strong leadership and encouragement through group dance activities and leading fitness sessions. This course focuses on low impact activities to increase fitness levels throughout life.

Media Production

This course is designed to educate students and develop their skills and techniques in the creation of multiple forms of media, including video, photograph, and print materials. One of the overall objective is that as students gain confidence in their creative abilities, they will use them to influence the world for Christ. Supplemental Instructional materials include: I Movie, Photoshop, iPhoto, Microsoft Word and other online resources.

Media Studies (offered 1 semester)

In our media-saturated culture, we are continuously inundated with impactful imagery and words. Christians must be equipped to wisely evaluate the messages we're exposed to and responsibly handle the technologies used to generate them. This course explores texting, social media, advertising, movies, TV, propaganda disguised as public service announcements, and other means our society uses to influence thinking. Relying on a biblical worldview, we will look at both the positive and negative dimensions of media and provide tools for deconstructing and analyzing its messages.

Musical Theater

The semester-long CHCMS Music Theater Class works together to offer the school and community a high-quality production. In addition to rehearsal training, students gain knowledge in proper singing technique, acting skills, dance and choreography, make-up, costuming, and publicity. Stage managers, lighting technicians and stage crew all make important contributions to the success of the show. This course is open to students in 7th and 8th grade.

Piano

Piano Class is a semester-long course designed to introduce students to basic piano keyboarding skills and techniques. Students work at their own pace, learning how to read piano sheet music while playing a wide variety of songs. They are also given the opportunity to perform in "mini-recitals" for their peers in class. This class is accessible to students of all levels and is highly recommended for anyone interested in learning how to read music. It is open to all students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

Puppetry

This class meets twice weekly for one semester. The emphasis is totally on the puppetry field. Students are introduced to various types of puppets, and learn how each operates. They may construct a simple puppet in the classroom and use it in performance. The class acts as one large puppet team, which creatively performs both songs and skits with a great variety of puppets. This class prepares a puppet show (or shows) for an audience outside the classroom. CHCMS puppeteers perform in our community during our mission outreach days and have also had the opportunity to perform in CHCS chapels.

Robotics

This course consists of two main topics: 1) technology troubleshooting and 2) an introduction to Robotics. Students learn to diagnose both hardware and software issues and have the opportunity to volunteer as basic tech support for classroom teachers. Students also work in engineering teams to design, build, program, and test robots that they use to solve problems, and DO BATTLE 😊. As they gain confidence in their knowledge, use the technology and

discuss the importance of its application in today's society, students learn to influence the technology world for Christ, while enjoying their experience in class.

Runner

A runner is an office assistant. They run errands, make deliveries to students and staff, help clean the halls and office area, sometimes answer phones, and assist teachers if necessary. They also help the office with small projects. If there aren't any tasks for the day, they may use it as a study hall.

Science Lab

This elective science course gives students practice in inquiry-based science learning and in the technology design process. Students increase background knowledge in a particular topic (such as structures) and then are given a scenario in which they must meet a challenge or solve a problem (for example, span a specified distance with a bridge using only certain materials.) Students walk through the process of initial trials and prototypes, analysis of results, application of resulting knowledge in further trials, and articulation/communication of the process to others.

Student Leadership (This is by application and nomination only)

CHCMS Student Servant Leaders will complete The Essential Leader leadership course to study and emulate the leadership style of Jesus. They will lead their respective Houses; participate in Chapel; and model the CHCMS Behavior Essentials in their classes, in the school hallways, on field trips, and eventually, in their lives outside of school. They will be empowered and encouraged to live and lead successfully with the highest moral character.

Study Skills

This class is designed to help middle school students that may be having difficulty with organization and keeping up with their homework. Mini study skill lessons are provided in class to teach students different ways to study to help them find a method best suited to their learning styles. Because the class is small, individualized instruction is more readily provided.

Yearbook

This course is designed to develop students' skills in yearbook production by providing experiences in selected aspects of yearbook production. Students learn basic principles of yearbook production and develop skills that include writing copy, captions and headlines; digital photography; desktop publishing and using appropriate technology tools for media production. Yearbook Production supports students' development as writers, photographers, editors, independent users of technology and as responsible contributing members of the Cherry Hills Christian community.