



CHRISTIAN ACADEMY OF INDIANA

CURRICULUM GUIDE

The Christian Academy of Indiana Middle School curriculum is designed to develop a dependent elementary student into an independent high school student while meeting the spiritual, physical, social, and academic needs of individual learners. All middle school students will take core courses in Bible, English, ancient history (6), world history (6), American history (8), geography (7), math, pre-algebra (8), and science. Exploratory classes are one semester courses that allow students the opportunity to participate in physical education, computer, home economics (6,7), health (7), finance (8), and speech (8). They also have options for elective courses at each grade level. Elective courses include band, choir, art, drama, ministry drama, intro. to Spanish, and Algebra I.

All Christian Academy of Indiana students receive daily Bible instruction and participate in weekly Chapel programs designed to be integrated into the school day and student life.

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GRADE 6

BIBLE

Sixth grade Bible class will provide an overview of the Old and New Testaments. Their text book incorporates a variety of learning methods to help students connect with key truths and characters of the Bible. Students are challenged to memorize and explain key passages throughout the year. They learn some basic Greek and Hebrew definitions to help understand the Bible's meaning. Throughout the course, students are encouraged to encounter the living Word of God in a personal relationship, and to accomplish His purposes in their lives.

Route 66, Positive Action

HISTORY

Students study the regions and countries of Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas, including geographical, historical, economic, political and cultural relationships. The Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Reformation are just a few of the topics studied. This course is designed to help students gain an understanding about the world and people who occupied its land. It also promotes historic and geographic literacy and a proper understanding of history that enables us to see God's purpose and plan in developing civilizations.

World History and Cultures, ABeka

ENGLISH

The English curriculum incorporates reading and responding to grade-appropriate literature; using simple, compound, and complex sentences to express thoughts and researched information; and orally presenting those thoughts and research results effectively. The Foundations and Frameworks reading program engages students in reading different genres of literature and using high-level thinking skills to create visual tools by which students clarify understanding of texts. In writers' workshop, students write focused essays as they learn the requisite grammar skills for writing with clarity and coherence.

ABeka and Great Expectations, Scott Foresman

MATH

Sixth-grade mathematics integrates a variety of problem-solving experiences with many math topics. These topics include basic skills as well as decimals, fractions, algebraic thinking skills, statistics, probability, ratio and proportion, geometry and measurement. As the students' knowledge of mathematical concepts expands, they will gain a greater appreciation for the precision and consistency of God's creation.

Resource: Middle School Math Course 1 (McDougal Littell)

GRADE 6

SCIENCE

The middle school science curriculum is a spiraling curriculum which explores the life sciences, earth and space science, and the physical sciences in grades 6-8. The courses are enhanced by laboratory exercises and hands-on activities which include the use of the 40 acres of woodlands on campus. The material is designed to create curiosity, wonder, and appreciation of God's creation. The students develop knowledge of God as our Creator and Sustainer and understand that in order for science to be true, it must align with the Word of God. Sixth grade science explores earth science, physical science, and space and technology. The units integrate information from the text with hands-on activities, investigations, and projects. Students will utilize the scientific method to complete a science fair project to be presented to judges from the local scientific community.

Science 6, Pearson Education

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Students will develop proficiency at movement and use physical activity to maintain or develop fitness; develop skills for sport and recreation; and use movement for self-expression, enjoyment, challenge, and social interaction and lifelong physical activity.

COMPUTER

This course is a basic introduction to computers and the applications used in Microsoft Office. Students will work on keyboarding skills and learn how to use Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

GRADE 6

ELECTIVES

Band

Sixth-grade band is an ensemble that provides students with learning and performance opportunities on wind and percussion instruments. The primary focus is on the development, continuation, and expansion of basic skills begun the previous year that are necessary for effective instrumental music performance. In addition to large group ensembles, individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons. Students will perform in at least two concerts per year. Beginning band students choose from one of the following instruments: clarinet, trumpet, saxophone, trombone or flute.

Choir

Sixth-grade choir students work on etiquette, vocalizations, reading skills, breathing and group exercises necessary for performing choral music. Students perform music arranged for two and three vocal parts in both sacred and secular settings. Students participate in school concerts as well as community events, field trips and local and state festivals. Concert attire and attendance is required.

Art

Students create artworks using a wide variety of media including paint, crayons, pastels, collage, resists, markers, and pencil. They also learn about art history, art styles, art movements, and careers in art. Students learn how to intelligibly observe and discuss art. They participate in art criticism, compare and contrast writing, and creative writing about famous artworks.

Drama

Sixth-grade drama is designed to introduce students to drama. This class will stimulate creativity, refine communication skills, promote self-confidence, and enhance the ability to work cooperatively. Components of the class include character development, script writing, improvisation, and other elements of play performance.

Home Economics

This course seeks to develop skills needed to be independent and self-sufficient. Sixth grade students participate in units on study skills, child development and child care, food preparation and nutrition, caring for the environment, and friendships. Biblical principles are the foundation of each unit. Several of the units involve labs such as cooking.

GRADE 7

BIBLE

Seventh-grade Bible is a study of the life of Christ. It is done in chronological order, as students begin by learning who Christ is, studying the Old Testament prophecies concerning Him, and learning the circumstances surrounding His birth. The year concludes with studies of His death, resurrection, and ascension. Scripture memory work is also incorporated into each lesson. Through both the lessons and Scriptures, students are encouraged to apply what they are learning to their own lives.

Resource: The God-Man Christ in the Gospel by Cherie Noel; ProSeries/The Holy Bible, NIV

MATH

Students work individually, in pairs, and in cooperative groups to master addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and rational numbers including square roots. The number and variety of problems the students encounter give them the experiences they need in order to further develop their mathematical thinking skills. Additional instructional topics explored include number sense, patterns, and algebraic thinking; statistics and probability; equations, inequalities, and functions; ratios, proportions, and percents; and geometric figures and measurement. *Resource: Middle School Math Course 2 (McDougal Littell)*

ENGLISH

Seventh-grade English builds on previously-learned grammar, writing, and reading knowledge. Students acquire effective communication skills through grammar lessons tailored to coordinate with their writing needs. They write reflective journals, descriptive essays, outlines, research reports, persuasive position papers, book reviews, and original narratives. The seventh-grade reading classroom incorporates comprehension and analysis of age-appropriate literature and informational texts as well as oral presentations in order to equip each student to rightly divide and communicate the Word of Truth (2 Tim. 2:15).

ABeka

GEOGRAPHY

Seventh-grade students are introduced to basic geography and then complete region studies of the Eastern Hemisphere. The class emphasizes a Biblical worldview and incorporates a mission focus to these countries. Students will study regions and nations of Africa, Asia, and the Southwest Pacific, including historical, geographical, economic, political, and cultural relationships.

*Resource: Indiana Academic Standards Grade Seven
The World and Its People, McGraw Hill*

GRADE 7

SCIENCE

The middle school science curriculum is a spiraling curriculum which explores the life sciences, earth and space science, and the physical sciences in grades 6-8. The courses are enhanced by laboratory exercises and hands-on activities which include the use of the 40 acres of woodlands on campus. The material is designed to create curiosity, wonder, and appreciation of God's creation. The students develop knowledge of God as our Creator and Sustainer and understand that in order for science to be true, it must align with the Word of God. Seventh-grade students study stars, climates, the rock cycle, changes in earth's surface, light and sound, chemical reaction rates, energy transformation, Newton's Laws of Motion, cell structure, function and reproduction, viruses and the human immune system.

Science 7, McGraw Hill

EXPLORATORY COURSES

Home Economics (1 semester)

Students continue the development of skills needed in life such as values, goal setting and priorities. They also learn communication skills and discuss how to use communication to improve relationships. Students review kitchen tools and sanitation and participate in several cooking labs. The course ends with a unit on basic sewing skills.

Physical Education (1 semester)

This class provides an introduction to physical fitness through maintaining and developing healthy lifestyle habits. Students are challenged to participate in a wide variety of athletic activities and sports. Additionally, students keep a personal fitness log in order to assess personal progress throughout the semester. Physical fitness testing emphasizes cardio-respiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

Health (1 semester)

The curriculum helps students develop a foundation for knowledge of the body systems, how external factors influence health, causes of diseases and treatments, healthy diets, strategies to promote personal and family health, self-management skills to handle different emotions, and lifelong choices that improve health.

Computer (1 semester)

This is an intermediate course covering computer parts and terms; operating systems; word processing; spreadsheets; presentations; and Internet ethics, safety, and security. Students develop a personal budget based on Biblical principles for money management and financial stewardship.

GRADE 7

ELECTIVES

Band

Seventh and eighth grade band is the middle school's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year continue to be refined, as do individual performance skills. Greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills are expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. This band performs at least two concerts a year. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

Ministry Drama

This course teaches basic drama skills and allows students to participate in learning, creating, and presenting songs through creative expression. Drama, movement, sticks, and fabric are some of the methods used to express the message of Christian music. Students also learn to create and present skits to portray a Biblical message.

Choir

Middle school choir is comprised of seventh and eighth grade students. The choir rehearses warm-ups, does sight singing, practices breathing techniques and completes other exercises designed for group performance. The students sing sacred and secular literature written for three-part choirs. The middle school choir participates in school concerts as well as community events, field trips and local and state festivals. Grading is based on in-class participation and concert attendance. Concert attire and attendance is required.

Art

Students discover the seven elements (color, line, space, value, texture, form, and shape) and principles (rhythm, balance, movement, unity, emphasis, pattern, contrast) of artwork in unison to create art. Style, theme, art movements, media, technique, and culture are learned as students examine the work of famous artists. As students develop an appreciation of art, they learn skills of critical analysis. Students create two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art.

GRADE 8

BIBLE

Eighth-grade students study the great Christian allegory *The Pilgrim's Progress* by John Bunyan. The novel acts as a bridge that links Biblical truth and life application. Based on Biblical truth, the book offers many generic case studies for students to actively connect God's Word to real life situations as Christian journeys from the City of Destruction to the Celestial City. Many of the characters that Christian meets on his journey present challenges that are similar to the challenges that secular culture presents to our youth today. Students clearly see the stark contrast between following God's precepts and following worldly doctrine; they also clearly see the results of following God or following this world. *Resource: The Christian Adventure (Positive Action) and NIV Bible (Zondervan)*

HISTORY

United States History offers the chronological history of the United States from the discovery of the Americas through Reconstruction. Important themes emphasized are planting colonies from a diverse population, religious and social freedoms, creating and strengthening a government based on Biblical principles, and broadening and expanding our nation. Integrated Biblical studies help students understand the principles on which the United States was founded, as well as a working knowledge of what it means to be an American. *America Land I Love, ABeka*

ENGLISH

Eighth grade English focuses primarily on reading comprehension and the writing process, building upon previous language studies. Students learn how to compose formal essays, including emphasis on introductory paragraphs, thesis statements, how to develop their thoughts in paragraphs, and how to write effective conclusions. Students also practice writing paragraphs and essays in response to the literature they read. In reading, students encounter fiction and non-fiction as well as grade-level/appropriate historic and culturally significant works of literature. The language content is given against a backdrop of Christian world view to present language as an ability that God has given His people to accomplish His purposes and to bring glory to Himself. *ABeka*

GRADE 8

MATH

Pre-Algebra

This course is designed to prepare students for the study of Algebra I. Students work individually, in pairs, and in cooperative groups in order to master addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division using whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and rational numbers. Basic operation with algebraic expressions are introduced and utilized when solving equations and inequalities. Other topics explored include: factors, exponents, and simplifying fractions; linear functions and graphing; and probability; and nonlinear functions and polynomials.

Resource: Pre-Algebra (Prentice Hall Mathematics)

Algebra I

Algebra I develops one's thinking in areas such as logic, patterns, problem solving, and deductive and inductive reasoning. This course studies the effects of adding and multiplying numbers, variables, and polynomials, along with their factorization and determining their roots. In addition to working directly with numbers, algebra also covers symbols, variables, and set elements. Other areas of study include algebraic fractions and applications, linear and nonlinear equations, graphing, absolute value, inequalities, rational and irrational numbers, and quadratic relations and functions.

Algebra I, Prentice Hall

SCIENCE

The middle school science curriculum is a spiraling curriculum which explores the life sciences, earth and space science, and the physical sciences in grades 6-8. The courses are enhanced by laboratory exercises and hands-on activities which include the use of the 40 acres of woodlands on campus. The material is designed to create curiosity, wonder, and appreciation of God's creation. The students develop knowledge of God as our Creator and Sustainer and understand that in order for science to be true, it must align with the Word of God. Eighth-grade students study Plate Tectonics, earthquakes and volcanoes, gravity, the atomic model, properties of elements, basic reactions, energy conservation, electricity and magnetism, circuits, genetics, and environmental issues. In addition to these topics, students compete in a bridge-building competition designed to encourage use of the scientific method to solve practical problems.

Science 8, McGraw Hill

GRADE 8

EXPLORATORY COURSES

Physical Education *(1 semester)*

This class provides an introduction to physical fitness through maintaining and developing healthy lifestyle habits. Students are challenged to participate in a wide variety of athletic activities and sports. Additionally, students keep a personal fitness log in order to assess personal progress throughout the semester. Physical fitness testing emphasizes cardio-respiratory endurance, muscular strength and endurance, flexibility, and body composition.

Computer *(1 semester)*

This is an advanced course covering computer parts and terms; operating systems; word processing; spreadsheets; presentations; and Internet ethics, safety, and security concepts. In this course, students develop a “virtual business” using Biblical principles for service and entrepreneurship.

Speech *(1 semester)*

This class focuses on oral communication, including persuasive speeches, “chalk talk”/PowerPoint demonstrations, oral interpretations of literature, and audience feedback. Skills include usage of precise language (such as metaphors, sensory language, etc.), organizational structure of presentations, and choice of delivery to fit the audience.

Finance *(1 semester)*

This course prepares students in the area of budgeting and finance. Using curriculum prepared by Junior Achievement., students are taught Biblical principles concerning money management. Three levels of economics will be studied: personal, business, and international. Hands-on activities as well as a trip to Finance Park in Louisville are a part of this course’s curriculum.

GRADE 8

ELECTIVES

Band

Seventh and eighth grade band is the middle school's most advanced performing ensemble for wind and percussion instrumentalists. This course introduces "comprehensive musicianship" through music performance of challenging and varied literature. Skills and concepts from the previous year continue to be refined, as do individual performance skills. Greater emphasis is placed on ensemble performance skills. Students will continue to develop knowledge of music theory, begin to analyze and evaluate music, and use critical thinking skills to make refinements in performance. Individual and ensemble performance skills are expanded through musical expression and technical accuracy. This band performs at least two concerts a year. Individual growth and achievement are encouraged through participation in adjudicated solo and ensemble contests, honor bands, and private lessons.

Ministry Drama

This course teaches basic drama skills and allows students to participate in learning, creating, and presenting songs through creative expression. Drama, movement, sticks, and fabric are some of the methods used to express the message of Christian music. Students also learn to create and present skits to portray a Biblical message.

Choir

Middle school choir is comprised of seventh and eighth grade students. The choir rehearses warm-ups, does sight singing, practices breathing techniques and completes other exercises designed for group performance. The students sing sacred and secular literature written for three-part choirs. The middle school choir participates in school concerts as well as community events, field trips and local and state festivals. Grading is based on in-class participation and concert attendance. Concert attire and attendance is required.

Art

Students discover the seven elements (color, line, space, value, texture, form, and shape) and principles (rhythm, balance, movement, unity, emphasis, pattern, contrast) of artwork in unison to create art. Style, theme, art movements, media, technique, and culture are learned as students examine that work of famous artists. As students develop an appreciation of art, they learn skills of critical analysis. Students create two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art.

Introduction to Spanish

This course introduces students to a wide variety of Spanish vocabulary, simple grammar structures, correct pronunciation, and introductory questions and responses.

To help eighth-grade students prepare for high school course selections, below you will find the diploma requirements for Core 40 and Core 40 with Academic Honors.

Core 40 Diploma - 48 credits

Bible	1 credit/sem. attending
Language Arts	8
Mathematics	6
2 credits: Algebra I	
2 credits: Geometry	
2 credits: Algebra II	
*All students are required to take a math or physics course during their junior or senior year.	
Science	6
2 credits: Biology I	
2 credits: Chemistry I or Physics or Integrated Chem./Phys.	
2 credits: any Core 40 science	
Social Studies	6
2 credits: US History	
1 credit: U.S. Government	
1 credit: Economics	
2 credits: World History/Civilization	
Directed Electives	5
World Languages	
Fine Arts	
Career/Technical	
Health & Wellness	1
PE	2
Electives	6

Core 40 with Academic Honors Diploma - 55 credits

- ◆ Complete all requirements for Core 40
- ◆ Earn 2 additional Core 40 math credits
- ◆ Earn 6-8 Core 40 world language credits
- ◆ Earn 2 Core 40 fine arts credits
- ◆ Must earn a grade of “C” or above in courses that will count toward diploma
- ◆ Have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or above
- ◆ Complete one of the following:
 - A. Two AP courses and corresponding AP exams
 - B. Academic, transferrable dual high school/college courses resulting in 6 college credits
 - C. One AP course and corresponding AP exam and academic transferrable dual high school/college course(s) resulting in 3 college credits.
 - D. Score 1200 or higher combined SAT math and critical reading
 - E. Score a 26 composite ACT
 - F. An International Baccalaureate Diploma