



**LEGACY  
CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY**

**7TH & 8TH GRADE  
CURRICULUM  
OVERVIEW  
2018-2019**

## **Welcome to the Great Adventure of Life with Christ Legacy Christian Academy Middle School 7<sup>th</sup> and 8th Grades**

The Great Adventure is not just the one-time event of accepting Christ for salvation, but it is learning to follow where Jesus leads with the understanding that He has a Great Adventure in store for those who love and follow Him.

As a part of “The Great Adventure”, we commit to the following promises:

- We will **KNOW** your child
- We will **LOVE** your child
- We will **PREPARE** your child

Your children have loving and experienced guides in the 7/8th Grade teaching team; they are committed to helping your children build both the important academic skills they need for their futures AND the character they need to succeed in life. Below are some of the ways we engage with students to make that happen.

### **Does your child have GRIT?**

Research is now showing that the most successful adults have something called **GRIT** - that ability to withstand difficulties and use those experiences help them forge ahead when future difficulties arise. Middle School at Legacy provides a valuable opportunity for students to begin to develop **GRIT**.

**Growth** (seeing difficulties as growth opportunities)

**Resilience** (being able to get up after a setback)

**Intuition** (knowing when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em)

**Tenacity** (the ability to push forward through difficulty into the future)

### **Strengths**

God has made each of us uniquely, with our individual strengths. Middle School introduces students to the concept of Strengths by taking an individual assessment. Once the strengths are identified, over the course of time in Middle School, we take opportunities to recognize and develop strengths in the students.

### **Trail Life**

All 7th and 8th students are part of small group, gender specific discipleship. *Trail Life* is designed to provide a place for Christian community with other students, where each student can be connected to a caring adult leader. Character development is valued as an essential life skill.

### **Eagle Elective**

All 7th and 8th students get to participate in Fall, Winter and Spring Eagle Electives which provide the opportunities to learn new skills, interact with students of similar interests and have fun. All students participate in a Personal Financial Management seminar as an Eagle Elective.

## 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Curriculum and Resources

### LANGUAGE ARTS

7th Grade English

8th Grade English (Regular and Honors)

In the lower grades, students learn to read; however, in 7th and 8th grade English, students begin reading to learn. For this reason, we focus heavily on developing close readers who can go beyond reading comprehension and read critically between and beyond the lines. In literature, we heavily focus on literary analysis writing with an opinion-based assertion, textual evidence, and commentary.

### GRAMMAR

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

**Focus:** The 7th grade grammar curriculum builds on the 6th grade curriculum, focusing on phrases and clauses and their functions. While sentence diagramming is a focus of the 7<sup>th</sup> grade grammar curriculum, we use that method to accomplish the overarching goal of developing effective writers who can manipulate language.

**Resources:**

*Jane Schaffer Writing Program, Analytical Grammar 7<sup>th</sup>, MLA Format Research Based Writing*

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

**Focus:** In the 8th grade year, students begin to see the direct link between grammar and writing as they implement punctuation and usage knowledge along with language mechanics.

#### Honors English

**Focus:** Honors English is offered to those 8th graders who have shown a natural passion for thinking critically about literature and humanities, as well as upper-level writing skills. It moves at a faster pace, jumps immediately into deeper analysis, and involves expectations in writing that will prepare students for future pre-AP curriculum. Students in Honors English can also work more independently than the average 8th grader.

**Resources:**

*Jane Schaffer Writing Program, Analytical Grammar 8<sup>th</sup>, MLA Format Research Based Writing*

**Jane Schaffer Writing Program:**

The Jane Schaffer Writing Program® is the premier academic writing system for students and teachers. The program includes an initial structured, organized, and logical method for novice and struggling writers K-12. That same method transforms into sophisticated weaving and syntactical techniques as students evolve in their writing abilities. Writing styles include Expository, Argumentation, Response to Literature, Narrative, and Style Analysis. This program aligns seamlessly with state and national standards. The program is currently implemented in districts across the United States and around the world. **"All Students Can Think; All Students Can Write."**

## **MATHEMATICS**

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Pre-Algebra**

#### **Focus:**

Pre-Algebra begins with algebraic expressions and integers, and then moves from one-step equations into two-step equations and inequalities. Students should have a solid foundation of fractions and decimals using all four operations of math. Some Algebra topics, which will be introduced throughout the year in addition to some Pre-Geometry concepts.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Algebra I, Transitional Algebra, Algebra I Honors**

#### **Algebra I**

**Focus:** Algebra I develops a deeper understanding of equations and inequalities by applying skills with everyday word problems. Students will learn methods of solving systems of equations, graphing, and functions and develop skills using exponents. Students are introduced to polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions, equations and simplifying radicals; along with finding the distance and midpoint in preparation for Geometry.

#### **Transitional Algebra**

**Focus:** Transitional Algebra covers similar material as Algebra I, but at a slower pace filling in gaps from Pre-Algebra where necessary. The primary difference is that Transitional Algebra is targeted for the students who have either gaps in their prerequisite knowledge, require more individualized instruction, or both. The goal of this course is to prepare students for Algebra I without it affecting their high school GPA.

#### **Algebra I Honors**

**Focus:** Algebra I Honors incorporates all of Algebra I, but applies the learning at a deeper level with more application of word problems and is taught at a rigorous pace. Students in honors will also research a famous mathematician.

#### **Resources:**

*Algebra Readiness 7<sup>th</sup> Grade*, Prentice Hall, *Algebra I*, Prentice Hall

- Each textbook has an online resource which coincides with the student text. However, it is not an online book so it cannot be used for homework. It is a resource for reinforcing learning and preparing for quizzes and tests.
- Students will be required to work in ALEKS, our online math curriculum, which supports the textbooks, as reinforcement of what is taught in class.

## **SCIENCE**

Science at Legacy Christian Academy Middle School provides “evidence that demands a verdict” or data which points one to Christ. Our curriculum is based on data which has never been disproved; the Truth of the Bible. LCA Science is current, interactive, lab based, problem based and taught with a Biblical worldview so student are prepared for a “Great Adventure” in applying it to their lives.

### **7th Grade – General & Life Science**

**Focus:** Seventh Grade covers general scientific problem solving as well as a focus on life from genetics to large body systems with about 40 labs and activities to reinforce all topics studied. In addition, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math), is intertwined throughout the year to give students unique problem solving opportunities using a corporate model. Students will have fun learning about how and why things work in labs like “Raw Egg Car Crashes”, “Oxygen and Fire”, “Rube Goldberg Contraptions”, “Junkyard Digestion”, “Cell City”, and “Slow Go Ramp Race”.

**Resources:** *Apologia Science, Red Herring, Brain Games, ACT Standards*

### **8th Grade - Physical Science (Regular and Honors)**

Eighth Grade covers the basics of physics, chemistry, and biology with about 40 labs and activities to reinforce each topic.

Honors Science is offered to those eighth grade students who have shown a natural passion and inclination for being self-motivated in the field of science. It moves at a faster pace, includes the application of higher math skills, and offers students more opportunities to venture into the analysis of figuring out why things work. Traits like engagement in class, attitude, aptitude, grades, work ethic, and writing ability are all considered when being placed in Honors Science.

Both of these dynamic courses provide an environment with teachers who love what they teach and have a lot of fun learning alongside the students.

**Resources:** *Apologia Science, Red Herring, Brain Games, ACT Standards*

## **UNITED STATES HISTORY**

### **7th Grade History, 8th Grade History (Regular and Honors)**

The 7th and 8th grade courses are designed to provide students with a basic account of the history of the United States from the migration of its first native people to the present time. Primary and secondary sources will be used throughout the school year.

Students will learn how God was, and is, an integral part of the founding and continued success of our great nation. While there is value in learning the ‘facts of history’, our greater desire is that every student would develop a love for history.

Throughout the year, we will work on developing critical thinking through higher level questioning which challenges the students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the events of history to gain a better understanding of how and why events unfold as they do.

## **BIBLE**

### **7th Grade**

**Focus:** Jesus in the Old and New Testament: the first semester we explore all timeline as well as the major characters of the Old Testament, learning about the shadows, types, and prophecies that lead to the appearing of our Savior in the New Testament. We spend the entirety of the second semester studying how Christ fulfills the expectations of the Old Testament in the 4 Gospels.

### **8th Grade**

**Focus:** New Testament Survey

Students analyze the New Testament scriptures on how we are to live in light of this great hope. Throughout the two years, the students will memorize 30 verses/passages. These classes combine a rigorous academic approach combined with a focus on personal application. Our goal is for our graduating 8th graders to have a deeper understanding of what they believe, and why they believe it.

**Resources:** *The Holy Bible, CSB Apologetics Study Bible for Students*

## **SPANISH**

### **7th Grade Spanish**

**Focus:** Seventh grade Spanish is a continuation of beginning Spanish. It lasts half a semester and is designed to help students with fluency while they learn to love the Spanish language and culture. Students learn basic grammar and vocabulary skills. Students create their own Spanish learning notebook in order to take ownership of their Spanish skills. Songs, skits, and games are used to get students out of their seats and moving. Students explore ways to use Spanish in their daily lives, see how it can be valuable for them in their future professions, and how they can better serve others by speaking and understanding the language.

### **8th Grade: Spanish I**

**Focus:** Spanish Level 1 will introduce the basic foundational language skills required to learn Spanish. Students will practice listening, speaking, writing and reading in Spanish. In addition, the study of the cultures of other Spanish-speaking countries will create a greater appreciation for the language. Biblical concepts are interwoven and emphasized throughout the curriculum. Spanish I is a high school credit class and will be included on the student's high school transcript.

**Resources:**

"Supersite" can be accessed at [www.vhlschool.com](http://www.vhlschool.com).

## **ENRICHMENT COURSES FOR 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> GRADES**

### **Art 78: The Studio Group**

The Studio Group is a mixed ability class for 7th and 8th grade students with a strong desire to improve their visual skills in viewing and creating art. Both beginners and two-year veterans will create original compositions using a variety of drawing media, watercolor and tempera paints, paper construction, graphic design, printmaking, photography, and ceramics.

### **7th & 8th Grade Drama**

In Drama, students will bond as a group and develop focusing, listening and speaking skills. Students will learn how relaxation, breath work and acting warm-ups help prepare actors for performance. They will use sensory awareness and imagination to portray characters and environments. Students will convey story through imagination, movement and vocalization. They will learn theater terminology and history. Students will perform in front of an audience at the end of the year.

### **Boys and Girls Choir**

These courses are designed to provide students with the tools that will encourage a love of singing. Students will sing two and three part choral literature and work to establish the best possible ensemble sound. Students will learn music theory, sight-reading, and music history. Students will perform in school, community, festival, and competition events throughout the school year.

### **7th and 8th Grade Band**

Throughout the year students will continue to expand their knowledge of music theory, sight reading, music history, and advance their instrumental skills. Students will perform in multiple parts in an ensemble setting at concerts and festivals at various times during the year. Students will also have the opportunity to take private lessons, audition for honor bands, and perform at solo competitions.

### **Latin I**

This course will introduce students to the Latin Language and the Romans who used it, as well as provide a better understanding of our own language and social system through examining vocabulary, characters and situations in the context of reading passages.