



Middle School Academic Handbook 2026-2027

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MCA Mission and Vision

Mission Statement

We are an influential school of collaborators, innovators, and explorers grounded in Christian faith, empowering co-creators of tomorrow.

Our Culture in Action

Maranatha is not just a school, it's a community with a heartbeat and a soul. Each student and staff member breathe life into and contributes to what makes up the school's culture. Together, we commit to becoming:

- Spirit-Driven Leaders
- Courageous Change Agents
- Compassionate Problem Solvers
- Impactful Innovators
- Critical Thinkers
- Kingdom Community Builders

Accreditations and Memberships

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Association of College Counselors in Independent Schools
Cognia
College Board
Independent School Management (ISM)
International Christian Accrediting Association (ICAA)
Minnesota Association of College Admission Counseling
Minneapolis
Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL)
National Association of College Admission Counseling
National Association of Student Councils
National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)
National Honor Society (NHS)
Oral Roberts University Educational Fellowship (ORUEF)

Service Hours

The Service Hours program provides Maranatha students, Grades 5-8, the opportunity to experience Acts 1:8 in ministering to the community through local, national, and international level service projects

Areas of Ministry

- Direct community service (e.g., hospital visitation, working at a food shelf, shoveling neighbors driveway, etc.)
- Church involvement (e.g., assisting Youth Group, teaching Sunday School class, Worship Team, etc.)
- In-school ministry (e.g., sports team concessions, special project for teacher/staff not for extra credit/grade)
- Missions

Requirements

Grades 5–6 Requirements

- Students must complete and log 15 hours for the year and may continue to log hours even after completing the required hours.
- At the end of quarter one—a minimum of five hours must be completed. This requirement may include summer hours.
- At the end of quarter two—five additional hours for a minimum of 10 hours must be completed.
- At the end of quarter three—five more hours for a minimum of 15 hours must be completed and logged.
- At the end of quarter four—log any additional hours completed during this quarter.

Grades 7–8 Requirements

- Students must complete and log 25 hours for the year and may continue to log hours even after completing the required hours.
- At the end of quarter one—a minimum of 10 hours must be completed. This may include summer hours.
- At the end of quarter two—five additional hours for a minimum of 15 hours must be completed.
- At the end of quarter three—five more hours for a minimum of 20 hours must be completed.
- At the end of quarter four—five more hours for a minimum of 25 hours must be completed.
- ISP students attending MCA during their first year are not required to log more than 10 hours annually.

Academic Calendar, Grading, GPA

Maranatha Christian Academy Middle School operates on a semester-based academic calendar. The school year is divided into two semesters, with each semester consisting of approximately eighteen weeks of instruction. Within each semester, students also receive quarterly grades that reflect their progress during the marking period. Progress reports and report cards are made available to families through the FACTS Family Portal at designated reporting periods throughout the year.

Student achievement is reported using the MCA Grading Scale (see below). Grade Point Average (GPA), is calculated using the corresponding point values assigned to each letter grade. GPA is based on final grades and is used to recognize academic achievement through honors distinctions, academic awards, National Honor Society eligibility, and other academic recognition programs.

Final semester grades are calculated using the following formula, Bell Work accounts for 5% of the total semester grade, and Homework and Assessments account for 95% of the total semester grade. The specific breakdown within Homework and Assessments may vary by department and will be outlined in the course syllabus.

To calculate GPA, the point values earned in all courses are totaled and divided by the number of courses completed. Families may refer to the MCA Grading Scale for the percentage ranges, letter grades, and GPA values associated with each course grade. As students progress through middle school, GPA serves as an important indicator of academic performance and helps prepare students for the increased academic expectations of high school.

Students in Grade 8 who take a high school-level course, such as Spanish 1, ASL 1, or Geometry 8, will have the semester grades earned in those courses entered on their official school transcript at the conclusion of the semester. Final grades for high school-level courses will follow the policies outlined in the High School Handbook.

Grade	Percentage	GPA Value
A	92.5-100	4.0
A-	89.5-92.49	3.67
B+	86.5-89.49	3.33
B	82.5-86.49	3.0
B-	79.5-82.49	2.67
C+	76.5-79.49	2.33

Grade	Percentage	GPA Value
C	72.5-76.49	2.0
C-	69.5-72.49	1.67
D+	66.5-69.49	1.33
D	62.5-66.49	1.0
D-	59.5-62.49	0.67
F	0.00-59.49	0

Late Work Policy

Late Work Policy

Homework and any unfinished classwork should be completed at home or during designated class time. Assignments are expected to be submitted by the end of the class period on the due date. Work not submitted at that time will be considered late.

Grades 5-6

Students in Grades 5 and 6 may be assigned Mandatory Tutoring when one or more of the following occur:

- A student has two or more missing or late assignments in one class.
- A student is two or more class periods late on an assignment.
- A student has an incomplete test or assessment.
- A student is earning poor or failing grades or demonstrates a need for additional academic support based on teacher discretion.

Mandatory Tutoring for Grades 5 and 6 will take place in coordination with the student's specific teacher and the teacher's scheduled help sessions. Mandatory Tutoring may last up to one hour after school or until the assigned work is completed, whichever comes first. If the work remains unfinished, an additional session may be scheduled. Students are expected to submit all completed assignments before leaving the session.

Grades 7-8

Late assignments will be penalized 10 percent for one day late and up through the conclusion of the current unit of study. If the assignment is not turned in by the end of the unit, the assignment will turn to a zero in the gradebook.

High School courses will follow the late policy for Grades 9-12 (see *High School Handbook*).

Academic Support & Intervention

Learning Support Services

Learning Support Services (LSS) is committed to identifying and meeting the distinctive educational needs of students through individualized educational programming by partnering with students and teachers.

The following are services provided by LSS:

- Write and manage student academic plans for students needing extra academic support
- Liaison between Osseo and Maranatha for students receiving special education services through the Osseo school district
- Assist students needing organizational support
- Special class placement in math for small group or one-on-one instruction based on student's need
- Dyslexia mini-screening and tutoring

Academic Support & Intervention

Maranatha Christian Academy Middle School is committed to helping students grow in academic responsibility, work completion, and ownership of learning. Students are expected to complete assignments on time, seek help when needed, and participate in assigned academic support.

Teacher office hours are an important resource for students who need additional help. Office hours are held outside of the regular school day, and students are strongly encouraged to attend when extra support is needed.

Grades 5 and 6, Mandatory Tutoring

Students in Grades 5 and 6 may be assigned Mandatory Tutoring when they have missing or late assignments, incomplete assessments, poor or failing grades, or when a teacher determines additional support is needed. Mandatory Tutoring will take place in coordination with the student's teacher and scheduled help sessions. Sessions may last up to one hour after school or until the assigned work is completed, whichever comes first. Students are expected to attend assigned sessions and submit completed work before leaving.

Grades 7 and 8, W.I.N. Time

Students in Grades 7 and 8 participate in W.I.N., What I Need, Time during the school day. W.I.N. Time provides structured support, enrichment, and personal development opportunities based on student need. Students may be assigned to academic intervention, mandatory study hall, social-emotional support, peer tutoring, clubs, gym time, or choice time.

Gym Time and Choice Time are privileges based on academic standing and student need. Students must maintain a minimum grade of C, or above, in all classes to be eligible. Administration may also determine eligibility based on intervention needs or academic probation status.

Academic Probation

Students in Grades 5 through 8 who require frequent academic support may be placed on Academic Probation. Academic Probation is a nine-week period of close monitoring, structured support, and increased accountability.

Within a quarter, parents may be notified after repeated required support sessions. Continued academic concerns may result in a formal Academic Probation contract, which may include required support sessions, assignment completion expectations, parent communication requirements, and other accountability measures. If concerns continue, the student's enrollment status may be reviewed.

The goal of Academic Probation is to provide support and accountability while helping students restore consistent academic habits, meet grade-level expectations, and take increasing ownership of their learning.

Recommended Grade-Level Courses

Grade 5	Semester 1	Semester 2	Total Semester
Core Classes			
Bible	X	X	1
Reading	X	X	1
Writing/Grammar	X	X	1
Math	X	X	1
Science	X	X	1
Social Studies	X	X	1
Specialists			
Foundations of Tech I	X	X	1
Art	X	X	1
Physical Education	X	X	1
STEAM	X	X	1
Spanish	X	X	1
Elective			
Band/Choir/Orchestra	X	X	1

Grade 6	Semester 1	Semester 2	Total Semester
Core Classes			
Bible	X	X	1
English & Honors English	X	X	1
Foundations of Math & Pre-Algebra	X	X	1
Science	X	X	1
Ancient Civilization	X	X	1
Specialists			
Foundations of Tech I	X	X	1
Art	X	X	1
Physical Education	X	X	1
Design & Modeling	X	X	1
Spanish	X	X	1
Elective			
Band/Choir/Orchestra	X	X	1

Grade 7	Semester 1	Semester 2	Total Semester
Core Classes			
Bible	X	X	1
English & Honors English	X	X	1
Math	X	X	1
Science 7	X	X	1
Social Studies 7	X	X	1
PE/Health 7	X	X	1
Electives (choose a combination of courses to equal 2 credits)			
Band/Choir/Orchestra	X	X	1
MS Art			0.5
MS Design Lab			0.5
MS Robotics			0.5
MS Theater			0.5
Spanish 7			0.5
MS Rocketry	X		0.5
MS Textile Arts		X	0.5
MS Study Lab	X	X	1.0

Grade 8	Semester 1	Semester 2	Total Semester
Core Classes			
Bible	X	X	1
English & Honors English	X	X	1
Math	X	X	1
Science 8	X	X	1
Social Studies 8	X	X	1
PE/Health 8	X	X	1
Electives (choose a combination of courses to equal 2 credits)			
Band/Choir/Orchestra	X	X	1
MS Art			0.5
MS Design Lab			0.5
MS Robotics			0.5
MS Theater			0.5
Spanish 1	X	X	1.0
ASL 1	X	X	1.0
MS Rocketry	X		0.5
MS Textile Arts		X	0.5
MS Study Lab	X	X	1.0

Weekly Schedules

Grade 5

Time	Activity	Description
8:15–8:20	Homeroom	Students prepare for the day, receive announcements, and connect with their teacher and classmates.
8:20–9:05	Core Academic Block	Focused instruction in core content areas such as math, science, Bible, or English language arts.
9:05–9:50	Music / Core Academic Block*	Students participate in music instruction or continue academic coursework based on their schedule.
9:55–10:35	Chapel (Wednesday) / Academic Instruction	Weekly worship and biblical teaching or continued academic learning on non-chapel days.
10:35–11:20	Core Academic Block	Continued instruction designed to strengthen critical thinking and content mastery.
11:20–11:40	Lunch	Students enjoy a meal and connect socially with peers.
11:45–12:10	Writing & Grammar	Students develop written communication skills through composition, grammar, and language study.
12:10–12:40	Recess	Outdoor activity and social interaction that supports student wellness and development.
12:40–1:40	Core Academic Block	Extended learning time for academic instruction and application of concepts.
1:40–2:20	Advisory & Leadership Development	Students build executive functioning skills, leadership habits, character, and community through Advisory and House activities.
2:20–3:10	Specialist Rotation	Students participate in PE, STEM, Spanish, Library, Art, or Foundations of Technology.
3:10	Dismissal	Students prepare for departure and conclude the school day.

Weekly Schedules

Grade 6

Time	Activity	Description
8:15–8:20	Homeroom	Students begin the day with announcements, organization, and preparation for learning.
8:20–9:05	Core Academic Block	Focused instruction in core academic content areas.
9:05–9:50	Core Academic Block	Continued academic learning and skill development.
9:55–10:35	Chapel (Wednesday) / Academic Instruction	Worship, biblical teaching, and community gathering or academic instruction on non-chapel days.
10:35–11:20	Music / Core Academic Block*	Students participate in music instruction or continue core coursework.
11:20–11:40	Lunch	Time for students to eat, recharge, and socialize with peers.
11:40–12:20	Core Academic Block	Instruction designed to deepen understanding and reinforce key concepts.
12:20–1:00	Recess	Physical activity and social interaction that supports healthy development.
1:05–1:50	Core Academic Block	Continued engagement in academic coursework and collaborative learning.
1:50–2:20	Advisory & Leadership Development	Students focus on leadership skills, executive functioning, goal setting, and community building.
2:20–3:10	Specialist Rotation	Students rotate through PE, Design & Modeling, Spanish, Library, Art, or Foundations of Technology.
3:10	Dismissal	Students conclude the day and prepare for departure.

Weekly Schedules

Grades 7-8

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Period A 8:15–9:35	Period B 8:15–9:35	Period A 8:15–9:35	Period B 8:15–9:35	Period A 8:15–9:00
Period C 9:40–10:55	Period D 9:40–10:55	Period C 9:40–10:55	Period D 9:40–10:55	Period B 9:05–9:50
W.I.N. Time 11:00–12:00	Chapel 11:00–12:00	W.I.N. Time 11:00–12:00	Advisory 11:00–11:25 Character Hour 11:30–12:00	Period C 9:55–10:40
Period E 12:05–12:30	Period F 12:05–12:30	Period E 12:05–12:30	Period F 12:05–12:30	Period D 10:45–11:25
Lunch 12:30–1:00	Lunch 12:30–1:00	Lunch 12:30–1:00	Lunch 12:30–1:00	Period E 11:30–12:10
Period E 1:05–1:50	Period F 1:05–1:50	Period E 1:05–1:50	Period F 1:05–1:50	Period F 12:15–1:00
Period G 1:55–3:10	Period H 1:55–3:10	Period G 1:55–3:10	Period H 1:55–3:10	Lunch 1:00–1:30
				Period G 1:35–2:20
				Period H 2:25–3:10

Course Descriptions

The following pages provide families with course descriptions that outline the academic focus, learning expectations, and key skills addressed in each Middle School course. These descriptions offer a general overview of what students will study throughout the year and help families support their child's academic growth, course readiness, and transition through the Middle School program.

Bible Grade 5

Required

Available to: Grade 5
Length: Year

Building on the Rock: Stewardship introduces students to a biblical worldview by exploring what Scripture teaches about God, creation, humanity, truth, and value. Through the study of God's Word, students learn to distinguish between biblical and unbiblical beliefs and develop a deeper understanding of Biblical Christianity as the true foundation for life and faith.

Students engage in Scripture memorization, class discussions, personal reflection, creative application activities, and worship experiences that encourage spiritual growth and biblical understanding. The course is designed to help students build confidence in their knowledge of Scripture, strengthen their personal relationship with Christ, and develop a Christ-centered perspective on the world around them.

Bible Grade 6

Required

Available to: Grade 6
Length: Year

Building on the Rock: World of Worldviews builds upon the biblical worldview foundation established in Grade 5. Students explore and evaluate various worldviews while learning to compare and contrast them with a Christian worldview grounded in Scripture. Through the study and memorization of God's Word, thoughtful discussion, and personal reflection, students develop a deeper understanding of Biblical Christianity as the true lens through which to view God, themselves, and the world around them. This course encourages students to think critically about culture, beliefs, and truth while strengthening their personal relationship with Christ and their confidence in defending and articulating their faith.

Bible Grade 7

Required

Available to: Grade 7
Length: Year

Light Bearers: A Biblical Worldview is a curriculum that surveys the Biblical evidence to show students a Christian view on every discipline. The disciplines that constitute the class are as follows: Theology, Philosophy, Ethics, Psychology, Sociology, Law, Politics, Economics, and History. Students learn the Christian view, discover the Biblical evidence, and compare competing worldviews in each discipline. The goal is to train students to actively live out the truth of Christianity in a culture of relativism and confusion and to keep students from being deceived by anti-Christian worldviews.

Bible Grade 8

Required

Available to: Grade 8
Length: Year

Walking in Truth: Christianity in Action helps students understand how to live out their Christian worldview in a post-Christian culture. This three-part course begins with a focus on the application of our Christian worldview within the disciplines of theology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, biology, and history. Part two of this course focuses on the New Testament Epistles and the application of God's Word to students' daily lives. Part three is a study of John Bunyan's novel "Pilgrim's Progress", one of the most famous Christian allegories in print.

English Language Arts

English Department Vision Statement:
Revealing God's character and truth to
communicate with influence.

Grade 5

Required

Available to: Grade 5

Length: Year

English Language Arts Grade 5 develops students' skills in reading, writing, speaking, listening, and language conventions through a variety of engaging literary and informational texts. Using the Purposeful Design curriculum and a selection of novels, students strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary, word study, and critical-thinking skills while exploring a variety of genres and literary devices. Core literary works may include Hatchet, Number the Stars, Derwood, Inc., and Maniac Magee.

Students learn to analyze literature, respond thoughtfully to texts, and communicate ideas effectively through discussion, writing, and presentation. Instruction includes expository, narrative, creative, and research-based writing, with an emphasis on the writing process, organization, grammar, spelling, vocabulary development, and proper language mechanics.

A highlight of the course is an MLA-style research project that culminates in a Wax Museum experience, where students bring a historical figure to life through research, presentation, and character portrayal. Through reading, writing, research, and discussion, students develop the literacy skills necessary for academic success while cultivating a lifelong appreciation for language and literature.

Grade 6

Required

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Year

English Language Arts Grade 6 builds upon the reading, writing, and communication skills developed in Grade 5 while preparing students for the increased rigor of upper middle school. Through the study of literature, informational texts, and a variety of writing genres, students strengthen their ability to think critically, communicate effectively, and engage thoughtfully with the world around them.

Students continue developing skills in literary analysis, vocabulary, grammar, and written expression through expository, narrative, creative, and argumentative writing. Emphasis is placed on reading comprehension, discussion, research, and the effective use of language. Students learn to analyze and evaluate information, construct evidence-based arguments, and complete an MLA-style argumentative research paper.

Literature studies expose students to a variety of genres, themes, and perspectives while encouraging meaningful discussion and reflection through a Christian worldview. Core literary works may include Found, A Wrinkle in Time, The City of Ember, and Where the Red Fern Grows. Through reading, writing, collaboration, and discussion, students develop the skills necessary to become thoughtful readers, effective communicators, and confident learners.

English Language Arts

Honors English Grade 6

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Year

Honors English Grade 6 is designed for students who demonstrate strong reading, writing, and critical-thinking skills and are prepared for increased academic rigor. Building upon the objectives of Grade 6 English Language Arts, this course provides an accelerated and more challenging study of literature, composition, vocabulary, and language conventions.

Students engage in advanced literary analysis, expository, creative, analytical, and argumentative writing while strengthening their ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate information from a variety of sources. Through close reading, evidence-based discussion, and the writing process, students develop the skills necessary to communicate clearly, think critically, and support ideas with textual evidence. Students also complete an MLA-style argumentative research paper that emphasizes research, organization, and academic writing.

Literature studies may include works such as *Found*, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *The City of Ember*, *Where the Red Fern Grows*, and additional novels and texts that encourage students to explore complex themes, evaluate multiple perspectives, and engage with literature through a biblical worldview. While honors students may study some of the same core texts as the standard English course, they are expected to engage in deeper textual analysis, expanded discussion, additional reading, and more sophisticated written responses.

Honors students should expect increased reading requirements, greater independence, higher expectations for class participation, and more rigorous writing assignments. The course is designed to challenge students to become thoughtful readers, skilled writers, effective communicators, and discerning Christian thinkers who are prepared for advanced coursework in the years ahead.

English Grade 7

Required

Available to: Grade 7

Length: Year

English 7 builds on literary analysis, expository writing, and creative writing skills, and vocabulary development through the study of Greek and Latin word roots. Students write an MLA research paper for *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* unit. By reading and discussing *The Giver*, students develop a deeper understanding of Christian worldview. In-class reading of Charles Dickens' *A Christmas Carol* and William Gibson's *The Miracle Worker* also introduces students to the genre of plays.

Honors English Grade 7

Available to: Grade 7

Length: Year

Honors English 7 covers literary analysis, expository writing, creative writing, and vocabulary development through the study of Greek and Latin word roots. Students will write an in-depth MLA research paper in conjunction with *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. Students will also develop a deeper understanding of a Christian worldview by reading and discussing *The Giver*. An in-class reading of both Charles Dickens' "A Christmas Carol" and William Gibson's "The Miracle Worker" will introduce students to the genre of plays. Honors English 7 assignments will be more complex and thought-provoking to challenge students.

English Language Arts

English Grade 8

Required

Available to: Grade 8

Length: Year

Incorporating literature and grammar, English 8 continues to build upon the basics of literary analysis and expository, creative, and persuasive writing while strengthening vocabulary development. Students will be introduced to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* and write an MLA research paper in conjunction with Christopher Paul Curtis' *Bud, Not Buddy*. Students will also collaborate with a classmate to create a Biography of that person and then present it to the class. Additional works read: *The Hobbit*, *The Outsiders*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*.

Honors English Grade 8

Available to: Grade 8

Length: Year

Honors English 8 incorporates an extensive study of literature, grammar, and vocab, while continuing to build upon skills taught in previous years. Students will be introduced to Shakespeare through "*Twelfth Night*," and write an MLA research paper in conjunction with Christopher Paul Curtis' *Bud, Not Buddy*. Students will also collaborate with a classmate to create a Biography of that person and then present it to the class using proper public speaking techniques. Additional works read are *The Hobbit*, *The Outsiders*, and *The Old Man and the Sea*. Honors English 8 assignments will be more complex and thought-provoking to challenge students.

Fine Arts: Music

Fine Arts Department Vision Statement:
Expressing God's glory and creativity through
visual and performing arts.

Beginning Band

Beginning Band introduces students to the foundational skills needed to play an instrument both individually and as part of an ensemble. Throughout the year, students develop basic musicianship, instrument technique, rehearsal habits, and performance skills. Beginning Band students participate in the Christmas Concert and Experience Maranatha.

Students interested in Beginning Band are invited to attend the Summer Band Open House, where they may explore instrument options and select the instrument they would like to play. Schmitt Music will also be available to assist families with instrument rental or purchase information.

Available to: Grade 5/6

Length: Year

Required: 1 Music course in
Grade 5

Grade 5 Choir

Grade 5 Choir helps students develop vocal skills, confidence, and musicianship through singing and performance. Students will learn foundational vocal techniques, stage presence, basic music theory, musical terms, and beginning sight-reading skills. They will also explore music from a variety of cultures and begin learning to sing in two-part harmony.

Grade 5 Choir students participate in the Christmas Concert and the spring concert at Experience Maranatha.

Available to: Grade 5

Length: Year

Required: 1 Music course in
Grade 5

Intermediate Band

Intermediate Band allows students to continue developing their musicianship and performance skills on their chosen instrument. Students will strengthen instrument technique, music reading, rehearsal habits, and ensemble skills as they perform both individually and as part of a group.

Intermediate Band students are expected to participate in scheduled performances throughout the year, including the Christmas Concert and the spring concert at Experience Maranatha.

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Year

Required: 1 Music course in
Grade 6

Grade 6 Choir

Grade 6 Choir helps students continue developing vocal skills, confidence, and musicianship through singing and performance. Students will strengthen vocal technique, stage presence, sight-reading skills, musical terminology, and basic music theory. Students will also continue learning to sing in two-part harmony.

Grade 6 Choir students participate in the Christmas Concert and Experience Maranatha.

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Year

Required: 1 Music course
in Grade 6

Fine Arts: Music

Fine Arts Department Vision Statement:
Expressing God's glory and creativity through
visual and performing arts.

Orchestra

Available to: Grade 5-8
Length: Year

Orchestra provides students with the opportunity to develop performance skills in a large group ensemble setting. Students will continue refining instrument technique, music reading, rehearsal habits, and overall musicianship while working to improve both individual and ensemble sound.

Throughout the year, students will perform a variety of musical selections with different instrumentation and arrangements. Orchestra students are expected to participate in scheduled performances, including the MCA Christmas Concert and Experience Maranatha.

Middle School Band

Available to: Grade 7/8
Length: Year

Students continue to develop performance skills in a large group setting, emphasizing instrumental performance techniques and the development of a good overall band sound. Students are expected to participate in performances during the year, including the Christmas Concert and Experience Maranatha concerts.

Middle School Choir

Available to: Grade 7/8
Length: Year

Students will develop their singing skills while preparing for performances. Vocal technique, stage presence, solfège (sight-reading), musical terms, and beginning theory will be taught. Students will learn to sing in two- or three-part harmony. Performances include the Christmas Concert and the spring concert during Experience Maranatha.

Fine Arts: Art & Theater

Fine Arts Department Vision Statement:
Expressing God's glory and creativity through
visual and performing arts.

Art History

Available to: Grades 7-8
Length: Semester

In this hands-on art class, students will focus on art and cultures from Pre-historic to Baroque periods. Students will analyze each time period's historical significance and worldviews of each time-period, creating their art to reflect each culture. Students will create art with different mediums, such as drawing, painting, pottery, and calligraphy.
Offered alternating years with MS Art Design.

Art Design

This is a hands-on art class in which students will learn about the different elements of design: line, shape, color, space/ form, and texture. The students will learn about each of these design elements in depth and will complete projects using each of these elements. Students will work with drawing, painting, sculpture, and many other creative materials.
Offered alternating years with MS Art History

Available to: Grades 7-8
Length: Semester

Textile Arts

Using the medium of textiles: threads, strings, cloth, etc., along with the possibility of dyes, paper, paint, and other media, students will create two- and three-dimensional works of art such as collages, soft sculptures, and functional pieces like backpacks, ties, vests, bracelets, string bags, weaves, Macramé hangings, bags, aprons, and totes. Students will also learn simple hand stitches and practical sewing skills. In addition, students may incorporate used articles of clothing and other recyclables and upcycle them into new works of art for decoration or function. Students will also learn simple "fix it" projects to repair rips, holes, hems, etc.

Available to: Grades 7-8
Length: Semester

Middle School Theater

Students learn the basics of acting through improvisation, acting games, exercises, sketches, short lessons, and scripts. The goal for students is to experience a learning process that enhances lives and develops skills used in the world beyond. Theatre contributes to developing 21st Century learning skills such as critical thinking, problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and other life skills that will serve students well in school and beyond. Students participate in a one-act play or variety show to showcase their new skills at the end of the semester. Also required is attending a theatrical production within the semester (Maranatha productions do count).

Available to: Grades 7-8
Length: Semester

Mathematics

Mathematics Department Vision Statement:
Demonstrating orderliness, precision and the
consistency of God through mathematics.

Standard Math course track

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Math Grade 5	Foundations of Math	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1

Advanced Math course track

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Math Grade 5	Pre-Algebra	Algebra 1	Geometry

Math Grade 5

Required

Available to: Grade 5
Length: Year

Math Grade 5 builds upon students' foundational mathematical understanding while introducing key pre-algebraic concepts that prepare them for future success in middle school and high school mathematics. Using the HMH Into Math curriculum, students develop conceptual understanding, procedural fluency, and problem-solving skills through engaging lessons, real-world applications, and mathematical discourse.

Students strengthen their understanding of whole numbers, fractions, decimals, ratios, rates, and numerical operations while learning to apply mathematical reasoning to increasingly complex problems. Emphasis is placed on critical thinking, perseverance, and the ability to analyze and solve both routine and multi-step word problems. Students are encouraged to explain their thinking, justify solutions, and make connections between mathematical concepts.

Through a biblical worldview, students recognize that mathematics reflects the order, consistency, and design of God's creation. As they grow in confidence and competence, students develop the analytical skills necessary for higher-level mathematics and future academic success.

Foundations of Math Grade 6

Required

Available to: Grade 6
Length: Year

Foundations of Math Grade 6 builds upon students' existing mathematical knowledge while developing the foundational skills necessary for success in Pre-Algebra and future mathematics coursework. Using the enVision Mathematics curriculum, students strengthen their understanding of mathematical concepts through problem solving, critical thinking, and real-world applications.

Students explore positive rational numbers, ratios and rates, percentages, numerical and algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities, geometry, measurement, area and volume, and data analysis. Emphasis is placed on developing mathematical reasoning, computational fluency, and the ability to apply concepts in a variety of contexts. Students are encouraged to communicate their mathematical thinking, analyze multiple solution strategies, and persevere through challenging problems.

Through a biblical worldview, students recognize that mathematics reflects the order, consistency, and design of God's creation. As students grow in confidence and mathematical understanding, they develop the critical-thinking skills and problem-solving abilities necessary for success in Pre-Algebra and higher-level mathematics.

Mathematics

Mathematics Department Vision Statement:
Demonstrating orderliness, precision and the
consistency of God through mathematics.

Pre-Algebra

Required

Available to: Grade 6-7

Length: Year

Students will develop a strong foundation in mathematics by studying rational and real numbers, proportional relationships, percentages, equivalent expressions, equations, inequalities, linear equations, probability, and basic geometry. Through the enVision Mathematics curriculum, students will engage in collaborative learning experiences and make meaningful connections as concepts are explored throughout the year. Instruction emphasizes problem-solving, critical thinking, and real-world application. Students will also examine mathematical concepts through a biblical worldview, recognizing the order and consistency of God's creation and learning principles of wise financial stewardship.

Algebra 1

Required

Available to: Grades 7-8

Length: Year

Students will collaborate and connect in the "enVision" Curriculum as they go through concepts by topics taught throughout the year to ensure success. Topics include solving linear equations; solving power properties; writing, factoring, and graphing linear functions; writing and graphing exponential functions; writing, factoring, and graphing quadratic functions and polynomials; and simplifying rational expressions. These concepts are related to how God's creation integrates math and the biblical worldview on numbers.

Geometry

Required

Available to: Grade 8

Length: Year

Credit: 1 HS Math Credit

This course will introduce students to the foundations of Geometry, followed by instruction on postulates and theorems in a formal proof setting, with particular attention devoted to critical thinking skills. Other concepts include parallel and perpendicular lines, transformations, congruence and similarity in triangles, quadrilaterals, introduction to trigonometry, circles, and two- and three-dimensional models. Many innovative projects, such as Design-A-City, are incorporated throughout the year to enhance learning.

Physical Education & Health

PE Grade 5 and 6

Required

Available to: Grades 5-6

Length: Year

Physical Education emphasizes lifetime fitness, sports education, teamwork, and sportsmanship. Students engage in activities that support overall health and wellness while developing skills in a variety of individual and team sports. Instruction also highlights positive character, respectful conduct, and responsible participation in all activities. Units may include volleyball, badminton, pickleball, playground games, golf, softball/baseball, tennis, hockey, soccer, basketball, tchoukball, and others.

Classes are organized by grade level. The required uniform is a gym shirt purchased through Branding Wearhouse. Please see the “Physical Education Uniforms” section below for additional details.

PE/Health 7 and PE/Health 8

Required

Available to: Grades 7-8

Length: Year

Physical Education focuses on lifetime sports, sports education, fitness, and sportsmanship. It involves strategic learning relating to overall lifetime health, fitness, sports, sports competitions, and conduct, keeping in mind to be Christ-minded in all activities. Units that may be covered include volleyball, badminton, pickleball, playground games, golf, softball/baseball, tennis, hockey, soccer, basketball, tchoukball, etc. Classes are divided by grade; the uniform is a gym shirt purchased from Branding Wearhouse.

See Physical Education Uniforms below for further details.

This class alternates curriculum every other year. Year one focuses on health and wellness, taking charge of your health, achieving mental and emotional health, and managing stress. This class will also emphasize relationships; family, peer, and dating relationships resolving conflict; Project Alert (drug, alcohol, vaping, and cigarettes); and preventing violence. Year two focuses on living a healthy life through proper nutrition, managing weight, eating behaviors, physical activity, and fitness. Other units covered include personal care and body systems, drugs and alcohol, and growth and development. This class also includes a dating/abstinence unit.

Physical Education Uniforms

The expectation for all Physical Education classes is that students are dressed in Maranatha Physical Education attire, including a Maranatha gym performance T-shirt, athletic bottoms, and athletic shoes. This expectation will be part of the participation grade. Students not wearing correct Physical Education attire will lose participation points. Consequences will be issued if students continue to attend class without the required clothing.

Physical Education attire is available for purchase through Branding Wearhouse (maranatha.brandingwearhouse.com). Students may wear black, dark blue, or grey athletic pants (no yoga-type pants) with red, gray, or white trim—no other colors are allowed. Pants and shorts may be obtained independent of the school clothing store, Branding Wearhouse.

General Science 5 Required

Available to: Grade 5
Length: Year

Students will study the physical and natural processes of our planet and the universe, including geology, meteorology, astronomy, and oceanography, while considering the Creator's design and purpose for the natural world. Topics include Earth's systems, the complexity of life on our planet, the marvels of the cosmos, and humanity's role in stewardship and care for God's creation. Through hands-on activities, scientific inquiry, and biblical reflection, students will recognize connections between scientific discovery and Scripture.

General Science 6 Required

Available to: Grade 6
Length: Year

In this course, students will explore the study of living organisms through the lens of God's creation. Topics include genetics, cell structure, ecology, origins, human anatomy and physiology, and the complexity of life systems. Students will examine the intricate design of living things, the interdependence of ecosystems, and the beauty of biodiversity while reflecting on the wisdom and purpose of the Creator. Through hands-on experiments, observations, and discussions, students will develop critical thinking skills and recognize connections between scientific discovery and Scripture.

Life Science 7 Required

Available to: Grade 7
Length: Year

Cells, heredity, diversity of living things, the human body, ecology, and the environment—Students study different types, parts, and functions of cells. Students will explore heredity and the characteristics of bacteria, viruses, and animals. Students will also study population dynamics in communities, Earth's ecosystems and resources, and the human impact on our environment. Structures and functions of each body system and how systems work together are detailed in the unit on the human body. Students will complete hands-on laboratory experiments to explore these topics more deeply.

Physical Science 8 Required

Available to: Grade 8
Length: Year

Substances, matter, motion, energy and work, sound and light, electricity and magnetism – Students study different types of matter and what it's made of. Through hands-on labs, they explore how different substances interact, are created, and change. They investigate forces and motion, learning how energy is transferred and transformed in different systems. The course also covers waves, including the properties and behavior of sound and light, as well as the fundamentals of electricity and magnetism. Students will engage in experiments, data analysis, and problem-solving activities that promote critical thinking and a deeper understanding of the physical world.

Social Sciences

Social Sciences Department Vision Statement:
Discovering God's divine redemptive plan
throughout history and the social sciences.

History Grade 5

Required

Available to: Grade 5
Length: Year

This course introduces students to the physical and human characteristics of regions around the world. Students will explore topics such as landforms, climate, culture, and global interconnections while developing an understanding of how geography shapes the lives of people and influences global events. Through this course, students will build geographic literacy and a deeper appreciation for God's creation.

Ancient Civilization

Required

Available to: Grade 6
Length: Year

Grade 6 Social Studies introduces students to ancient civilizations through a biblical worldview. Using the BJU Press Social Studies curriculum, students will study early cultures, geography, government, religion, daily life, and major achievements of ancient societies.

Students will develop historical thinking skills by analyzing maps, timelines, informational text, and primary and secondary sources. Throughout the course, students will consider how civilizations developed, how people interacted with their environment, and how history reflects God's sovereign work in the world.

Global Studies

Required

Available to: Grade 7
Length: Year

This course covers world regions, cultures, and global issues. Students will use skills such as civic participation, economic reasoning, geographic inquiry, and historical inquiry while exploring the world around them. Students explore the relationships between diverse cultures and the world in which they live. Students will become empathetic problem solvers as they use various print and non-print sources to analyze and suggest solutions to real-world problems and analyze global and societal issues. The course aims to provide students with an understanding and appreciation of the world's different geographical and cultural areas.

United States Studies

Required

Available to: Grade 8
Length: Year

This class offers an interactive and comprehensive overview of the history of the United States. Students will begin reviewing the history of the European settlers in North America and will conclude with World War 1. Students will become empathetic problem solvers as they explore the content by annotating primary and secondary sources, reading historical literature, creating hands-on projects, and participating in class discussions. This course also gives a glimpse of how all of us are part of God's redemptive plan and how He wants us to be co-creators of the future. An optional summer trip to Washington D.C. will happen every other year for 7th and 8th grade students.

STEM 5

Available to: Grade 5

Length: Year

Fifth Grade STEM builds upon the coding skills and foundational knowledge students have developed in previous STEM courses. Students will apply these skills through engaging, hands-on projects in areas such as LEGO robotics and animation programming. The course also introduces 3D modeling, an essential skill that prepares students for future upper school STEM opportunities. Through problem-solving, design challenges, and creative projects, students will strengthen their critical thinking, innovation, and technology skills while exploring real-world applications of STEM concepts.

Design and Modeling

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Year

This hands-on STEM course challenges students to develop innovative solutions to design and engineering problems through creative, project-based learning. Students will design and create a tabletop game, use computer-aided design, CAD, software to develop 3D models, and apply the engineering design process to invent and improve products using everyday materials. Throughout the course, students will strengthen communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills while working independently and as part of a team.

Foundations of Technology I

Available to: Grade 5

Length: Year

This course introduces foundational technology skills students need for success in middle school and beyond at Maranatha. Students will learn to use technology as an effective learning tool while developing proficiency in digital organization, word processing, presentation software, and other educational applications. The course also provides instruction in Schoology as a learning management system to support academic success. In addition, students will explore digital citizenship by learning to use technology and social media responsibly, ethically, and in ways that reflect Christian values and honor God.

Foundations of Technology II

Available to: Grade 6

Length: Semester

This course builds on the foundational technology skills developed in Grade 5 and helps students use technology with greater independence, responsibility, and purpose. Students will continue strengthening skills in digital organization, word processing, presentations, research, keyboarding, and the use of educational applications, including Schoology. The course also emphasizes responsible digital citizenship, online safety, media awareness, and ethical technology use through a biblical worldview. Students will learn to use technology as a tool for learning, communication, creativity, and problem-solving in ways that reflect Christian values and honor God.

Design Lab

Available to: Grades 7-8

Length: Semester

Students will learn, design, and create different moving mechanisms in this hands-on course. Students will explore mechanical systems, energy transfer, and machine automation, use CAD software, explore computer programming, and build toys. Problem-solving, tinkering, and teamwork are a part of this course. Students will learn how to design using CAD software, do introductory coding with Python, practice entrepreneurship, as well as develop their engineering and problem-solving skills through hands-on activities.

Lego Programming/Robotics

Available to: Grades 7-8

Length: Semester

Students in this course build and program Lego EV3 Mindstorm, starting with constructing a robot vehicle and programming its movements to navigate a maze. Students are challenged to build and program robots or machines to solve problems through different missions and objectives. In this hands-on course, students work together, use the design process, solve problems, and explore physical computing.

Rocketry

Available to: Grades 7-8

Length: Semester

Students will be challenged to think critically and creatively by building and launching model 'air' rockets in order to test nose cone and fin designs. Next we will move on to a model rocket kit and investigate the history of rockets, Newton's Laws of Motion, rocket and fin design, and much more. Students will collaborate to design, build, and launch a rocket they have engineered using the knowledge and skills they have acquired. We will read the novel, Rocket Boys, by author and rocket scientist Homer Hickam. This book was the inspiration for the movie October Sky. Students may have an opportunity to meet with Mr. Hickam to ask questions and learn more about his and the other Rocket Boys' lives today.

World Languages

Introduction to Spanish - 5th Grade

Available to: Grade 5
Length: Year

In this introductory Spanish course, students begin exploring the Spanish language and the diverse cultures of the Spanish-speaking world. Through engaging lessons and activities, students develop foundational vocabulary and communication skills while learning topics such as colors, days of the week, telling time, family relationships, and the geography of Central America. By the end of the course, students will be able to understand and use basic Spanish in everyday situations, building confidence as they take their first steps toward language proficiency and cultural awareness.

Middle School Spanish - 6th Grade

Available to: Grade 6
Length: Year

In this Spanish course, students build upon previous language studies as they expand their vocabulary and communication skills. Topics include the Spanish alphabet, animals, emotions, food, and other practical language concepts that support everyday conversation. Students will also explore influential figures from Latin American history and contemporary society, gaining appreciation for their contributions and cultural impact. Through interactive learning experiences, students will strengthen their ability to understand, interpret, and use new and previously learned vocabulary in meaningful contexts while continuing to grow in confidence as Spanish language learners.

Middle School Spanish - 7th Grade

Available to: Grade 7
Length: Year

In this final middle school Spanish course, students will learn about Latin American and Spanish cultures, countries, histories and celebrations and holidays, along with expanding conversational vocab. They will work on simple every-day phrases and use them in context, talking about the calendar, weather, time, and learning how to navigate with simple phrases in another country, including purchasing items, asking for directions, or ordering food.

World Languages

American Sign Language 1

Available to: Grade 8
Length: Year
Credit: 1 HS World
Language Credit

This class is designed to introduce students to the basics of American Sign Language and the culture of the American Deaf community. The focus is mainly on vocabulary and the mechanics of communicating manually instead of verbally, including fingerspelling, numbers, verbs, greetings, and introductions in ASL and basic grammar sentences. The environment of the class is designed to be both fun and educational. Songs and games will be incorporated into the curriculum to help students constantly review and practice what was learned.

Spanish 1

Available to: Grade 8
Length: Year
Credit: 1 HS World
Language Credit

This Introductory course features the integration of language skills with the culture of Spanish-speaking people in a situational context. Course emphasis is on establishing the natural input and output of the Spanish language using consistent comprehension-based strategies. Students in this course will primarily learn through Spanish input, reading and listening to familiarize themselves with the language, this will progress to speaking with each other in full phrases about more complex topics by the end of the school year.

Honors & Awards

Honor Roll Recognition

Academic Honor Roll recognition is awarded each quarter. Students receiving a “D” or “F” in any course, become ineligible for the honor roll during that quarter. Honor roll is marked on a student’s report card each quarter. There are two honors categories for middle school students:

- High Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.5–4.0
- Honor Roll: grade point average of 3.0–3.49

Student Academic Awards

Each year academic trophies are awarded to one middle school and one high school student to honor and recognize the top performer in that category. Trophies are awarded in the subjects of Math, Science, English, Social Sciences, Bible, Foreign Language, Fine Arts, and STEM.

Community Service Lettering

Community Service letters are awarded to students in grades 5-12 who have completed an impressive 300 or more service hours during the school year.

Service Awards

- Students may earn a certificate by accruing at least 200 Service Hours in a single year.
- A school letter may be earned by contributing at least 300 hours to the Community Service Program in a single year.

MCA Christian Ambassador

This trophy is presented to one boy and one girl from the middle school Grades 5-6 and Grades 7-8 who demonstrate Christ-like behavior by encouraging and including others, having a servant's heart, showing respect to others, and being kind and forgiving. The students and faculty vote on which students should receive this award.

National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)

The National Junior Honor Society (Grades 6-9) is the nation’s premier organization recognizing outstanding middle-level students. NJHS serves to honor students who have demonstrated excellence in scholarship, service, leadership, character, and citizenship. Students must have a 3.5 or higher GPA and demonstrate strength in service, leadership, and character.



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