

PHCA Middle School Course Catalog



*To teach biblical truth in an environment of academic excellence
that prepares students to impact the world for Christ.*

Plaza Heights Christian Academy
1500 SW Clark Road
Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816)228-0670

School Information

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www.plazaheightschristianacademy.org

Mission Statement

The mission of PHCA is to teach Biblical truth in an environment of academic excellence that prepares students to impact the world for Christ.

School Sponsorship and Affiliation

Plaza Heights Christian Academy is a non-denominational, independent Christian school. PHCA is accredited through the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Cognia, and is a member of the Great Plains Alliance of Christian Schools (GPACS).

Identifying Information

Plaza Heights Christian Academy is an independent, non-denominational, private Christian school that serves the Blue Springs and surrounding areas. We are dedicated to striving toward academic excellence as we teach from a Christ-centered perspective.

We believe the promises and commands God gives us in His Word. We believe “children are a heritage from the Lord” as it says in Psalm 1:27. We believe you should impress God’s commandments and values on your children and Plaza Heights Christian Academy desires to come alongside with parents to fulfill the instruction of “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it.”

(Discrimination clause: Since God’s love extends to all people, Plaza Heights Christian Academy welcomes and encourages all children regardless of sex, race, color, nationality or ethnic origin to apply for admission, financial aid, and any/all programs of the school and does not discriminate on the basis of sex, race, color, nationality, or ethnic origin in the administration of any program of the school.)

Schedule Changes

All changes in student schedules are to be made within the first two days after the start of each semester. Students need parent, teacher, counselor, and administrator approval to change classes. The required form can be found in the counselor's office.

Course Offerings

Not all courses listed in this handbook are offered each year. Courses that are marked with an asterisk () denote courses that MAY NOT be offered each year.*

Additional Course Offerings

In the event a course is not offered or a student is unable to take a course at its offer time, additional courses are offered via Bob Jones University & Ignitia. These courses come at an additional cost of \$150 to the student and will be taken as an online course.

English Language Arts

Students will glorify God by reading and writing fluently with expression to demonstrate an understanding of God's word in order to apply it to their lives.

English 7

Length: 1 year

Text: *Explorations in Literature* (4th Ed) - Bob Jones Press

English 7 consists of an overview of grammar skills, the writing process, and other focused writing activities. Writing assignments include a biographical sketch, in-class essay, a letter to the editor, and a book report. Reading various genres of literature helps to develop critical thinking skills while focusing on comprehension, interpretation, analysis, and appreciation.

English 8

Length: 1 year

Text: *Excursions in Literature* (3rd Ed) - Bob Jones Press

English 8 reviews the grammatical concepts introduced earlier. The writing process is practiced through assignments such as a news report, character profile, fable, and an in-class essay. Students will develop an appreciation and understanding of literary techniques as well as develop and apply critical thinking skills through various reading selections of various authors and genres. Literature will be analyzed through the light of a Christian worldview.

Science

Students will reason from a scientific standpoint recognizing that God is the ultimate truth who reveals Himself through His creation.

Life Science

Length: 1 year

Text: *Life Science (5th Ed)* - Bob Jones Press

Life Science will introduce the major areas of life science. Students will look at the nature of science, biochemistry, cell biology, genetics, biotechnology, origins, classification, and ecology. Students will also work on gathering data in a laboratory setting, analyzing that data and drawing conclusions.

Earth Science

Length: 1 year

Text: *Earth Science 5th Ed)* - Bob Jones Press

Earth Science covers the aspect of God's handiwork through creation of both the earth and space. Topics such as matter, forces, and energy are covered as well as various topics in geology, meteorology, hydrology, and astronomy. These topics will be discussed to help the students better understand and eventually analyze the world around them in order that they may be equipped to defend their Christian worldview.

Social Studies

Students will see God's sovereignty and providence through people and events in history.

World Culture 7

Length: 1 year

Text: *World Studies* (4th Ed) - Bob Jones Press

World Culture is a review from ancient times to post-World War II. It is a story of people and their relationship to God. History, geography, and culture are combined in studying various peoples. Students will examine the lives of individuals and peoples in light of Scripture. Special emphasis is given to the relationship of the ancient Hebrews to their surrounding neighbors. Islam is introduced. A comparison of Catholicism is made with evangelicalism.

American History

Length: 1 year

Text: *The American Republic* (4th Ed) - Bob Jones Press

American History is a comprehensive survey of United States history from pre-Columbus to Donald Trump. Students will see how God specially prepared America and protected America in its development. Important events and movements in the history of the church in America are followed such as the Great Awakenings, the Scopes Trial, and the development of city missions.

Math

Students will recognize the precision of God's creation language through mathematical discovery acknowledging God as the source of Absolute Truth.

Math 6

Length: 1 year

Text: *Math 6* (4th Ed) - Bob Jones Press

Math 6 extends pre-algebra skills by introducing students to ratios, percentages, rates, and integers; also encourages students to think statistically and explore STEM applications.

Fundamentals of Math

Length: 1 year

Text: *Fundamentals of Math* (2nd Ed) - Bob Jones Press

Fundamentals of Math focuses on problem solving and real-life uses of math through STEM activities with special emphasis on reinforcing computational skills and building a solid math foundation. This course is a foundational course for pre-algebra.

Bible

Students will know what they believe about God's truth and why they believe in order to discern and personally apply Scripture.

7 Bible - Kings of Israel

Length: 1 year

Text: *Kings of Israel* (3rd Ed) - Abeka Book

Students will delve into Israel's fascinating history through this course. In the first half of the semester, students will study Israel's United Kingdom from the suffering under King Saul to the blessings under Kings David and Solomon. The second half of the course covers the Divided Kingdoms of Israel and Judah, the Assyrian and Babylonian captivities, and the return of the Jewish people to Jerusalem. Two major themes sprinkled throughout this course are the blessings of repentance and obedience and the consequences of defiance and disobedience.

8 Bible - Old Testament Survey

Length: 1 year

Text: *Route 66 (Travel Through the Bible)* - Positive Action

This course is an exciting and comprehensive look at the story, characters, and main themes of the Old Testament. This course aims to give students a "big picture" view of Old Testament history. Understanding the history and themes of the Old Testament is essential to understanding the sovereignty, grace, and provision of God in the New Testament. The goal of this course is to help students grasp a basic timeline of the Old Testament. While exploring Old Testament history, this course will emphasize God's provision and sovereignty throughout history to carry out his plan for the redemption of His creation through His Son.

Physical Education

Students will receive opportunities to help develop a passion for lifelong fitness.

Middle School Physical Education

Length: 1 semester

Text: Based off of the Missouri State Learning Standards

Physical Education courses in middle school and high school provide students with opportunities to incorporate physical activity and life-long leisure experiences into their lifestyle through game play and practice. Focus units include, but are not limited to: badminton, pickleball, volleyball, floor hockey, and kickball. Other team sports will be incorporated as non-competitive activities. Skills and common concepts of each lifelong activity will be presented and developed through practice and match play.

*** Middle School Health**

Length: 1 semester

Text: *Total Health: Talking about Life's Changes* (2nd Ed) - Purposeful Design

Middle school health focuses on the early teen years. Included in the student text are quotes from Junior High students from Christian schools expressing their questions and concerns about life. The author integrates Scripture and personal testimonies that help teens understand the value of opening up to their parent(s) and to God as they face unique challenges.

Fine Arts

Students will discover the unique expression and application of their gifts, mirroring God's creativity and empowering ambassadors who are artistically prepared to be salt and light in their generation.

Middle School Choir

Length: 1 year

Middle School Choir is designed to enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of all students. Vocal opportunities are provided for every child to learn the basic skills of singing and reading music, developing song repertoire, broadening listening skills, and experiencing the interrelated nature of music with other cultures and content areas. A variety of styles will be used at a level of difficulty designed to challenge students. This course is performance based. Students will have many opportunities to excel in musical performances during annual concerts, various special events, music festivals, and contests. All music will be chosen for its age-appropriate educational value and its historical, cultural, and artistic significance.

Worship Team

Length: 1 year

Worship team is a daily class responsible for leading worship during weekly chapel services. This class is open to any 7th - 12th grade student. The focus of this course is to teach students how to use their gifts for the glory of God in their school and surrounding community. Students will be taught a variety of styles of praise and worship music as well as leadership development skills to be used during student-led worship.

*** Middle School Band**

Length: 1 year

Middle School Band emphasizes the study and performance of quality band music. Class activities emphasize the development of instrument technique, tone production, tuning, fundamentals of music theory, music reading, and listening skills.

*** Music Appreciation**

Length: 1 semester

Music appreciation is an introductory course to music. Students will explore music's various functionalities in order to gain a deeper understanding and appreciation for all types of music. The course begins by examining basic music literacy and core musical elements such as melody, rhythm, harmony, form, and texture.

*** Ukulele**

Length: 1 semester

Everyone can be a ukulele player! This course serves as an introduction to the instrument and will provide students with instant access to making music on the ukulele. Focus points will be strumming and rhythms, reading music, improvising, and beginning songwriting.

*** Middle School Theater**

Length: 1 semester

In middle school theater, students begin to examine scripts, learn basic acting techniques, and explore aspects of technical theater. Reading scripted materials, students analyze characters, study dialogue, and design stage movements to solve theatrical problems. Through research, creative thinking, problem solving, and improvisation, middle school students not only acquire the knowledge and skills to be successful in theater, but also begin to develop the self-discipline required to accomplish long-and short-term goals.

*** Middle School Speech**

Length: 1 semester

This course will develop and improve public speaking and critical thinking skills in communication settings. Students will prepare and deliver speeches on current topics. Techniques will be taught to control speech anxiety. Students will also learn how to structure and organize information to present to a variety of audiences. As such, the fundamentals of physical and vocal delivery skills, use of language and gesturing, as well as listening skills will be learned.

Middle School Art

Length: 1 semester

Art classes within the middle grades expand on the elementary foundation in the visual arts in an exploratory manner. Through the middle school visual arts curriculum, students will develop increasingly sophisticated creative strategies, skills, and habits of mind through artistic practices, apply design literacy to a wide variety of traditional and new media, acquire increasingly complex procedural knowledge, skill, and craftsmanship in art-making while exploring an expanded range of media, develop the more sophisticated aesthetic judgment that supports the making and understanding of rich meaning in art, explore a wide range of notions about the meaning and purpose of visual art, form a border knowledge and understanding of our rich and diverse historical and cultural heritage through art.

Art 7: In seventh grade art, students focus on further developing art skills, vocabulary, creativity, and concepts of design. Two-dimensional lessons may include: painting, collage, drawing, and printmaking. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural ceramic experiences. Three-dimensional projects may include functional or sculptural ceramic experiences. Art history, art appreciation, and art criticism are integrated into the lessons as framework of the curriculum.

Art 8: In eighth grade art, students express themselves creatively through drawing, graphics, sculpting, painting, and 3D ceramic sculpture to develop art skills and concepts. Composition, technique, the elements and principles of design, and attention to detail are explored. Art history, art appreciation, problem solving, and critical thinking are integrated into lessons.

Practical Arts

Students will develop the Biblical application of wise stewardship in real-world situations and choices such as life skills, problem solving, and communication technologies.

*** STEAM**

Length: 1 semester

Students will use curriculum from the University of COlorado's Engineering Department to study Newton's Laws of Motion and forces like: friction, weight, gravity, mass, momentum, stress, and strain.

*** Middle School Typing**

Length: 1 semester

Students will master touch keyboarding and improve their proofreading, editing, and writing skills while formatting letters, reports, tables, and other documents. Students will master the skills they can't do without in today's world where the keyboard is the primary means of communication and technology input.

*** Computer Apps**

Length: 1 semester

Students will learn to use Google apps such as Docs, Slides, Forms, Sheets, Sites, and Apps Script. Students will also explore digital design with Canva.

Coding 1 - Websites and Games

Length: 1 semester

Students will design and develop basic web pages and multi-page websites using HTML to structure the content and CSS to style the look of their pages. Moving on to programming games, students will start off with simple, primitive shapes and build up to more sophisticated sprite-based games as they become familiar with the programming concepts and the design process computer scientists use daily.

Coding 2 - Apps and Devices

Length: 1 semester

Using code.org's online platform, students will learn to design and code multi-screen apps. Students will also use App Lab and Adafruit's Circuit Playground to develop programs that utilize the same hardware inputs and outputs that are seen in smart devices.

Coding 3 - Data, AI, and Machine Learning

Length: 1 semester

Students will explore the importance of using data to solve problems and how computers can help in this process by looking at different systems used to represent information in a computer and how collections of data are used to solve problems. Students will then explore how computers learn from data to make decisions and develop machine learning projects around real-world data.

*** Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences**

Length: 1 year

Students apply cooking techniques to creating recipes that will help them maintain their physical well-being. They will learn about childcare and the importance of maintaining their clothing and personal environment. Students will explore careers while developing their leadership and responsibility skills. Students will practice the appropriate communication skills needed to maintain their personal safety and help them succeed in their lifetime.

*** 8th Grade Spanish**

Length: 1 year

Spanish for 8th grade is a course designed to prepare students for success in high school Spanish courses. Basic vocabulary and grammar structures will be taught. Students will be able to formulate and answer questions as well as compose basic dialogues in Spanish to demonstrate basic communication skills.