

PHCA 6th Grade Family Handbook



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

Plaza Heights Christian Academy
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Dear Students and Families,

Welcome to 6th grade at Plaza Heights! We are so thankful that you have chosen to continue your post-elementary education with us!

Our 6th grade program is a hybrid of elementary and middle school. Students will spend the majority of their day with a classroom teacher. The classroom teacher will teach English Language Arts, Science, and Social Studies as well as spending time working to prepare students for Middle School. This preparation will include skills in organization, studying, time management, and a variety of other skills needed for the transition to junior high (i.e.: how to navigate using lockers and planners, changing courses, etc.)

As a part of the hybrid program, students will also have the opportunity to change classes for their elective courses during the day. PHCA's school counselor will work with students and families in setting up individual student schedules as students are able to make some choices in their elective courses.

Please use this handbook and familiarize yourself with the procedures that have been put in place for the upcoming school year. Also, feel free to contact the school with any questions that you may have now and throughout the school year!

As always, we are thankful and honored to partner with you and your student(s) to provide a superior, Christian education!

Blessings,

PHCA Administration

Arrival/Dismissal

School begins at 8:30am. Students may start arriving at 8:00am. If students need to be dropped off earlier, parents should sign up for Before Care. Information on this can be found in the student handbook or in the office.

At the end of the day (3:30pm), students will be dismissed from their classroom to the middle school pick up on the west side of the building. Their classroom teacher will accompany them to their dismissal location. Parents can pick up their 6th-8th grade student(s) here every day. If a family has students in different grade levels, those students will need to be picked up from their respective locations as well. If students are going to an after-school activity (i.e.: sports practices or aftercare), they will be dismissed from this location after pick up time is over.

CORE CLASSES

Bible

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

Text: *Route 66 - Travel Through the Bible*

This one-year, 70-lesson survey introduces middle-schoolers to the structure and themes of the Word of God. Students will briefly examine each book in Scripture, learning how God uses imperfect men and women to reflect His grace.

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.

Text: *Writing & Grammar 6; As Full as the World (2nd Ed) – Bob Jones Press*

English 6 spends time reviewing traditional grammar skills, essential reference skills, and a step-by-step review of the writing process. Various writing assignments such as a personal narrative, editorial, limerick, etc. will also be evaluated. Students will read character building stories through a selection of classic literature and analyze literary elements within. A focus is made on higher-level thinking so as to provide a bridge to other middle school literature courses.

Math

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

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

Math 6 transitions students from elementary school into middle school math by providing consistent review of concepts taught in the program with an emphasis on learning math to solve real-world problems. Students will learn not only how math principles work but also how to think critically about those principles and construct arguments so they can use the principles in real-world situations. Teaching materials include a variety of teaching strategies including differentiated instruction, instruction for mathematical modeling, and suggestions for collaborative learning activities.

Science

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

Text: *Science 6 (4th Ed) – Bob Jones Press*

6th grade science teaches foundational science facts in a wide array of subjects. Students are taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. The students will learn an appreciation for the planned order observed in creation and will grow to appreciate the wonders of God's universe.

Social Studies

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

Text: *Heritage Studies 6 (4th Ed) – Bob Jones Press*

Social Studies 6 covers the history and geography of North and South America from a Christian worldview including important people, plants, and animals in an area. There is an emphasis on learning how to take notes, study, and understand maps. Students will learn the continents as well as states and capitals.

ELECTIVE CLASSES

Fine Art Options

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.

Art (6th Grade)

The curriculum for 6th Grade focuses on the elements and principles of design as well as exploring art appreciation and history with a biblical view. The elements that are explored in class will help to build the basic skills needed to continue in the middle school art experience. Line, space, value, color, texture and form are all investigated through the various projects made in class. There will be art discussions, technique demonstrations, projects, critiques, and terminology that will need to be known.

Some projects will include drawing and shading in pencil and color, oil pastel work, painting, sculpture, origami, and fibers. The drawing and painting will include realistic art as well as abstract.

General Music (6th Grade)

This course serves as a refresher of the music theory concepts learned in elementary music class and an introduction to the instruments and know-how of playing contemporary church music with a band. Students will also learn stage etiquette and soundbooth basics.

Choir (Middle School)

Middle School Choir is designed to enhance the musical, creative, and expressive qualities of any student. Students will learn proper vocal techniques, posture, breathing, and tone quality. Students learn solfège and sight singing, vocal blending, harmony, and rhythm. A variety of styles will be used at a level of difficulty designed to challenge students. Students will perform during annual concerts, music festivals, and contests. Students are expected to wear a nice black long-sleeved button up shirt and black dress slacks for performances.

Beginning Band (6th Grade)

Beginning band is a class designed for students new to playing band instruments, focusing on fundamental skills like proper technique, reading music, ensemble playing, with the goal of preparing students for intermediate and advanced band programs.

Theater (Middle School)

In middle school, 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.

Physical Education

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

PE (6th Grade) 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.

Electives

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

FACS (Middle School)

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.

Computers (6th Grade)

This course aims to build foundational computer skills, covering topics like keyboarding, digital citizenship, basic computer concepts, and introduction to software applications, all while fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. Students who choose this course will spend time working in Google Suites to familiarize themselves with programs such as Canva, Google Classroom, etc.

Public Speaking (6th Grade)

In this course, students will develop foundational public speaking skills while growing in confidence. Designed for sixth graders, this semester-long class introduces students to the art of effective communication through various games and speeches, including personal storytelling, informative presentations, and Scripture-based oratory. This course offers 6th graders the opportunity to have fun in an uplifting environment surrounded by their peers, while conquering the #1 most common fear...public speaking.

Introduction to STEM (Middle School)

This course is designed to introduce middle school students to the fundamental concepts and applications of STEM disciplines. Students will be introduced to complex engineering, robotics, prototyping, intermediate mathematics, computer science, and more.

General Information

Chapel

6th grade students will attend chapel with the secondary students. During the first quarter, their classroom teacher will bring them into the sanctuary at their designated chapel time.

Dress Code

6th grade students will follow the MS/HS dress code as listed in the Student/Parent Handbook.

Lockers

In order to familiarize themselves with the use of a combination lock/locker, a set of lockers will be provided for students to keep their belongings in. Each student will be provided with a locker and a lock that they will need to keep track of and return at the end of the year. The classroom teacher and the office will keep a record of their lock and combination in case a student forgets his or her combination. Students will return to the classroom at the end of the day to collect their belongings from their classroom and lockers.

Lunch

6th grade students will eat lunch during the middle school lunch period. They will be dismissed from their classroom to the lunchroom. The first few weeks of the school year, their classroom teacher will take them to the lunchroom.