

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.

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. These courses come at an additional cost 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.

Exploring Themes in Literature

Text: *Explorations in Literature* - 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.

Making Connections in Literature

Text: *Excursions in Literature* - 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

Text: *Life Science* - 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

Text: *Earth Science* - 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

Text: *World Studies* - 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

Text: *The American Republic* - 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.

Fundamentals of Math

Text: *Fundamentals of Math* - 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.

Pre-Algebra

Text: *Pre-Algebra* - Bob Jones Press

Pre-Algebra gives middle-school students a strong foundation for success in Algebra while connecting their studies to real-world applications and helping them understand the implications of math study from a biblical worldview. Pre-Algebra equips students to progress from foundational to advanced mathematical skills and strategies with expanded opportunities for abstract reasoning and real-world problem-solving involving the number system, expressions and equations, functions, geometry, and statistics and probability.

Bible

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

Old Testament Survey

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.

New Testament Survey

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

This New Testament Survey course for middle school introduces students to the 27 books of the New Testament, focusing on the life of Jesus, the early church, and key teachings. The course bridges the gap from the Old Testament, exploring historical context, key figures, and practical life applications to encourage spiritual growth.

Physical Education

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

Middle School Physical Education

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

Text: *Total Health: Talking about Life's Changes - 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.

Electives

Middle School Choir

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 perform at end-of-semester concerts and festivals. Students are expected to wear a nice black long-sleeved button up shirt and black dress slacks for performances.

Middle School General Music

Middle School Music is an introductory music course for grades 7-8. The course begins by examining basic music literacy and core musical elements such as major and minor key signatures, scales, chord formations & progressions, time signatures, melody, harmony, rhythm, form, and texture. Students will be expected to learn basic proper hand positions and scale fingerings on piano and guitar. Students will also practice audiation, transcribing and transposing with popular songs. There will be a cumulative written and performed final exam. *This course is a pre-requisite for songwriting.*

Middle School Music Appreciation

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. Students will then be introduced to notation, songwriting, and music production. Students will be expected to learn basic proper hand positions and scale fingerings on piano and guitar. The students will also watch a few classic musicals and listen to some of the great composers. There will be a cumulative final exam.

Middle School Composition & Songwriting

Prerequisite: General Music

The course begins with a review of basic music literacy including major and minor key signatures, scales, chord formations, time signatures, and rhythm. Students will then be introduced to lyric writing, music notation, and music production. Each student will complete a reharmonization of a classic hymn and also write a pop song using I, V, iv, and IV chords. Students will share their songs in class. Students will produce one original composition in music notation and audio format as a final project. This composition may be submitted to various music composition contests.

Intermediate Band

Intermediate band is a musical instrumental ensemble designed for students with prior band experience to build upon foundational skills and introduce more complex musical concepts and repertoire. Intermediate band focuses on developing and refining musical skills beyond the basics, including sight-reading, articulation, harmonies, and performance techniques. The music played in intermediate band is typically more challenging than that of beginner band, often including a wider range of musical styles and genres. The instructor will be responsible for making recommendations for advancement from beginner to intermediate band.

7th Grade Art

The 7th Grade curriculum will focus on further developing the skills, vocabulary, creativity, and principles of design that were looked at in the previous years. The class will continue a vast array of projects but now getting more in depth and individualized. The class will also look closer into certain artists and or history pertaining to each project. Some projects will include but are not limited to shading in pencil and colored pencil, painting, chalk pastel, printmaking, sculpture using clay or paper mache, and cardboard. We will also continue looking at different styles of art including realistic art and abstract art.

8th Grade Art

The 8th Grade curriculum will be similar to 7th grade in that it will continue to develop skills, vocabulary, and principles of design; It will be new in that the students will use more critical thinking, problem solving, and be prepared to take their art to a more advanced level than elementary and early middle school. The students will use their creativity and knowledge base to work on projects such as drawing, an array of painting techniques, sculpture using clay and/or other recycled materials, and graphic design. 8th Grade Art will also continue looking into different artists as well as art history pertaining to the projects we are working on. Students will need to have their computers at each class for research, references, or written work.

Middle School Theater

This dynamic, year-long theatre course invites middle school students to explore the exciting world of acting, storytelling, and stage production in a fun and supportive environment. Through improvisation, scene work, and full-class productions, students will develop confidence, creativity, and collaboration skills while learning the fundamentals of theatre performance. With an emphasis on using their talents to glorify God, students will engage in faith-based storytelling and explore how drama can be a powerful tool for communication and ministry. Whether stepping onstage for the first time or honing their performance skills, students will grow as expressive, thoughtful, and ethical performers while building a strong sense of community.

Middle School Speech & Debate

This exciting and interactive elective invites middle school students to explore the world of speech and debate in a fun, supportive environment. Designed to build confidence and strengthen communication skills, this course offers a variety of engaging speech events, including storytelling, duo interpretation, impromptu speaking, and persuasive speeches. Students will also get a taste of debate, learning to form logical arguments, think critically, and engage in respectful discussions.

Middle School Family and Consumer Sciences

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.

Book Club

In this course, students will read different genres of literature, participate in book discussions, and complete projects on the chosen books.

Middle School Introduction to STEM

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.

Hands on Geography

This hands-on geography class offers an engaging and interactive exploration of our world, moving beyond textbooks to actively investigate geographical concepts through maps, simulations, and real-world applications, fostering a deeper understanding of places and their relationships.

Middle School Civics & Law

Middle school law and civics class focuses on building active, informed citizens by teaching the U.S. Constitution, the three branches of government, the Bill of Rights, and the election process. Students engage in hands-on learning through case studies, mock trials, and debates regarding law and society. Key topics often include local/federal government structures, rights and responsibilities, and civic engagement.

Historical Figures

This course is a research based course in which students will research important people throughout history. The course will consist of scaffolded projects to gather information before culminating in a project (poster, PowerPoint, etc.) to present.

Stage Craft

This class focuses on the “unseen” part of theater. This “back stage” class also teaches theater safety and the various jobs involved in theater.