



Middle School Course Catalog



2008-2009



**Weston Christian Academy
Elective Registration Form
Middle School
2008-2009**

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| Office Use Only | |
| _____ | Received |
| _____ | Date |
| _____ | Time |

Registration involves making decisions that will greatly influence the life of each student. This guide is provided to help students and parents understand the requirements for WCA Middle School students and to make the best choices possible regarding elective courses. We encourage you to read this carefully and spend time together in prayer as you make your choices for the new school year. **List your 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for each semester.**

WCA provides a Christ-centered environment, which will enable our students to flourish in their academic endeavors, development of talents, and Christian walk as God intends for their lives. The academic program at WCA is designed to promote the development of knowledge, wisdom, and critical thinking skills. Strong academics, taught from a Biblical perspective and worldview, will provide students with the competence and inner strength necessary for future success. Providing a strong academic program and Biblically based worldview training will build the foundation that Paul refers to in Colossians 2:6-8. In order to develop students who are not only fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ, but are also spiritual leaders, all students take a daily Bible class that provides spiritual development. The academic program in the Middle School includes seven teaching blocks as follows:

6th grade

Language Arts I
Middle School Math I
Life Science
Our Human Heritage
Bible
Wheel (Spanish/Etiquette/
Computer)
Elective

7th grade

Language Arts II
Pre-Algebra
Earth Science
Geography
Bible
Wheel (Spanish/Web Design)
Elective

8th grade

Language Arts III
Algebra I
Physical Science
American History
Bible
Spanish I
Elective

Middle School Elective Registration Form

Student Name _____

Grade _____

Elective Choice (course descriptions on pages 8 - 12)

Fall

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Spring

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Band (All year course): Intermediate or Advanced

Please Note:

- ❖ Students may not sign up for a course number they have already taken.
- ❖ Intermediate/Advanced Band is an after school elective. Students who are opting to take this 1.0 credit hour elective will also be required to take another 1.0 credit hour elective.
- ❖ **Registration deadline is no later than July 30th.** Students will be assigned an elective on a first come, first served basis.
- ❖ **All courses are subject to change.**

LANGUAGE ARTS

Language Arts is a 3-year requirement for all middle school students at WCA.

Title: Language Arts I (required)
Course #: LAN06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: **Language Arts I** provides instruction in the Language Arts strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, language, and literature. It offers instruction in reading and vocabulary strategies necessary for comprehension of printed materials, research the writing of effective papers with emphasis on all stages of the writing process, and instruction in grammar. This course includes exposure to universal themes found in world literature as well as the critical analysis of various genres. **Language Arts I** promotes excellence in oral presentations and public speaking as well as emphasis on multimedia instruction. As students analyze literature, they learn the value of a strong Biblically based faith in dealing with trials. They also learn to express their beliefs in a clear, direct manner that enables them to communicate the gospel truths to others.

Title: Language Arts II (required)
Course #: LAN07A **Grade: 7** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Language Arts I

Description: **Language Arts II** is a continuation of instruction in the Language Arts strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, language, and literature. It offers instruction in reading and vocabulary strategies necessary for comprehension of printed materials, research the writing of effective papers with emphasis on all stages of the writing process, and instruction in grammar. This course includes exposure to universal themes found in world literature as well as the critical analysis of various genres. **Language Arts II** promotes excellence in oral presentations and public speaking as well as emphasis on multimedia instruction. As students analyze literature, they learn the value of a strong Biblically based faith in dealing with trials. They also learn to express their beliefs in a clear, direct manner that enables them to communicate the gospel truths to others.

Title: Language Arts III (required)
Course #: LAN08A **Grade: 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Language Arts I and Language Arts II

Description: **Language Arts III** continues to provide instruction in the Language Arts strands of reading, writing, speaking, listening, viewing, language, and literature. It offers instruction in reading and vocabulary strategies necessary for comprehension of printed materials, research the writing of effective papers with emphasis on all stages of the writing process, and instruction in grammar. This course includes exposure to universal themes found in world literature as well as the critical analysis of various genres. **Language Arts III** promotes excellence in oral presentations and public speaking as well as emphasis on multimedia instruction. As students analyze literature, they learn the value of a strong Biblically based faith in dealing with trials. They also learn to express their beliefs in a clear, direct manner that enables them to communicate the gospel truths to others.

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics is a 3-year requirement for all middle school students at WCA.

Title: Middle School Math (required)
Course #: MA06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: **Middle School Math** integrates pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, and probability with a goal to help each student see that math can be widely applied in the real world. Students become aware that God is a God of order, not chaos, and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world.

Title: Pre-Algebra (required)
Course #: MA07A **Grade: 7** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Middle School Math

Description: **Pre-Algebra** integrates pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, and probability with a goal to help each student see that math can be widely applied in the real world. Concepts are taught through their applications emphasizing the reading and writing of mathematics, providing a wide variety of meaningful problem-solving opportunities and incorporating the latest technology. Students become aware that God is a God of order, not chaos, and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world.

Title: Algebra I (required)
Course #: MA08A **Grade: 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Middle School Math and Pre-Algebra

Description: **Algebra I** introduces the student to variables, algebraic expressions, equations, functions, inequalities and their graphical representation. The student will develop the ability to explore and solve mathematical problems, think critically, work cooperatively with others, and communicate mathematical ideas clearly. Students become aware that God is a God of order, not chaos, and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. Successful completion of this course fulfills the High School **Algebra I** requirement at most high schools.

SCIENCE

Science is a 3-year requirement for all middle school students at WCA.

Title: Life Science (required)

Course #: SC06A

Grade: 6

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: None

Description: Life Science is an inquiry-based introduction to Life Science. Opportunities will be provided for the students to explore experiences and activities dealing with the fundamental concepts of life. Topics will include, but are not limited to: the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus usage and safety, cell biology and cell reproduction, principles of genetics, classification, and structure and function of the human body. The end result is to think critically, solve problems, and gain competence in laboratory techniques. Students are also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things, and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science.

Title: Earth Science (required)

Course #: SC07A

Grade: 7

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Life Science

Description: Earth Science is an inquiry-based introduction to Earth Science. The end result is to think critically, solve problems, gain competence in laboratory techniques, and understand the relationship between earth, water, air, and space. The student is also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science.

Title: Physical Science (required)

Course #: SC08A

Grade: 8

Credit: 1.0

Prerequisite: Life Science and Earth Science

Description: Physical Science is an inquiry-based introduction to the concepts of physics and chemistry. Topics will include, but not be limited to: dynamics classification, interaction of matter, the periodic table, forms of energy, electricity and magnetism, chemical interactions, nuclear reactions, and career opportunities. The end result is to think critically, solve problems, and gain competence in laboratory techniques. Laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus and safety are an integral part of this course. The student is also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science.

HISTORY

History is a 3-year requirement for all middle school students at WCA.

Title: Our Human Heritage (required)
Course #: HI06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: **Our Human Heritage** is a survey of world history beginning with ancient times and moving forward through the present day. The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of civilizations by examining the past, to prepare for their future as participating members of the global community, and to see the hand of God throughout history. Topics will include, but are not limited to: an exploration of ancient civilizations and their contributions to our current world, a multimedia expression of the Barbarians, a biographical journey through the Middle Ages, adventure and exploration on the high seas, and an intimate study of Modern World Leaders. Map skills, geographical themes, and current events will also be emphasized.

Title: Geography, the World and its People (required)
Course #: HI07A **Grade: 7** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Our Human Heritage

Description: **Geography, the World and its People** is a course designed to help students learn their place in the world, physically as well as spiritually. Students will explore the continents, countries, and cultures of the whole world with an emphasis on map skills, research techniques, reading and interpreting data from graphs and diagrams, and understanding cultural differences as well as how the hand of God is visible in the creation and sustaining of the countries, continents, landforms, and bodies of water all around us. Topics will include but are not limited to Hispanic Heritage month with a focus on Central and South America, A European Adventure, A Caribbean Cruise; an African Safari; A trip through the Asian Jungle; Our Neighbors in North America, and a South Pacific Exploration.

Title: The American Journey (required)
Course #: HI08A **Grade: 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Our Human Heritage and Geography, the World and its People

Description: **The American Journey** is a trip through the history of the United States beginning with the earliest settlers and concluding with current events. This course will provide students with the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the chronological development of the American people by examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have affected the rise and growth of our nation. Strong emphasis is placed on the uniquely Christian heritage revealed in the concept, formation, structure, and function of our form of government. Topics include but are not limited to Native American Civilizations, Colonization, The American revolution, American Government and the Presidency, The Civil War and Reconstruction, The Industrial Revolution, and other events that have affected the shaping of The United States.

BIBLE

Bible is a 3-year requirement for all middle school students at WCA.

Title: Route 66 (required)
Course #: BI06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: **Route 66** gives students the big picture of the Bible with a road map designed to introduce them to the whole Bible from Genesis to Revelation. By becoming acquainted with every book in the Bible, students will know where to return for deeper truths and more extensive study. They will learn basic principles that are repeated throughout Scripture, understand the Bible as a whole document, and discover passages that invite them to search for more. This survey course also encourages students to discover the continuity of the Bible.

Title: Dynamic Christian Living
Course #: BI08A **Grade: 7** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: Students will explore the Christian life from the perspective of physical life. The five characteristics of physical life – birth, growth, breath, communication, and behavior – are applied to the students’ spiritual lives as they are guided to a deeper understanding of what it means to be a fully devoted follower of Christ. Through this study, students are encouraged to take their place as spiritual leaders in our society.

Title: Lightbearers
Course #: BI08A **Grade: 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: *Lightbearers* is a video-based curriculum designed to help students clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview, and how they compare to the tenets of the leading humanistic worldviews of our day. Students will learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life: theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, law, politics, economics, and history.

THE WHEEL

All students at WCA are required to take a wheel elective consisting of the following courses:

Title: Computer Applications (required)
Course #: CA06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to allow students to develop knowledge and skills in computer applications. Emphasis is placed on developing proficiency in touch keyboarding, fundamental applications using databases, spreadsheets, and presentation applications, and Internet research. Our Biblical worldview includes ethical computer usage and telecommunications.

Title: Everyday Etiquette (required)
Course #: CEW06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: .25**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to help students to develop the skills necessary to interact confidently and professionally in both social and business settings. Opportunities are offered for students to learn the basic rules of treating others with respect as well as business, community, dining, and sports etiquette. By relying on God's Word for direction in all things, students can become adults who can lead confidently and follow respectfully. This will prepare them to face the many situations they will encounter as the spiritual leaders of their generation.

Title: Beginning/Intermediate Spanish (required)
Course #: SPA06A **Grade: 6** **Credit: .25**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to increase proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, and writing skills and on a beginning acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar.

Title: Intermediate/Advanced Spanish (required)
Course #: SPA07A **Grade: 7** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: Beg./Into. Spanish

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to increase proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, speaking, and writing skills, on a further acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar, and on beginning reading skills. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course.

Title: Webmaster/Game Programming and Design (required)
Course #: CO07A **Grade:** 7 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to plan, develop, and publish well-designed websites that combine effective navigation with the appropriate use of graphics, text, color, and sound. Students will create a web page based on a Biblical worldview. Students will also design a computer game, also based on a Biblical worldview, from concept to final product. The production process includes writing the proposal, hand-sketching screen compositions, and using basic programming concepts in the final steps. Collaboration with other students, idea sharing, and team efforts enhance the design process.

Title: Spanish I (required)
Course #: SPA08 **Grade:** 8 **Credit:** 1.0
Prerequisite: Beg/Into Spanish and Int./Adv Spanish

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to increase proficiency in Spanish through a linguistic, communicative, and cultural approach to language learning. Emphasis is placed on the development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills and on acquisition of the fundamentals of applied grammar. Cross-cultural understanding is fostered and real-life applications are emphasized throughout the course. A key focus is placed on witnessing and spiritual development in preparation for our mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

ELECTIVES

All middle school students at WCA are allowed to choose from the following electives. A total of 1.0 credit hour must be chosen.

Fall Semester Electives

Title: Fall Sports and Recreation
Course #: PED01 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop knowledge and skills in selected sports (Football, Volleyball, & Soccer) and recreational activities to maintain and improve general health and fitness. Content includes but is not limited to: safety rules, terminology, skill building, officiating, and sportsmanship. Selected health related topics will be introduced throughout the semester focusing on the concept of lifetime wellness. Students will learn to glorify God by developing health and fitness knowledge and skills that can be utilized throughout their lifetime.

Title: Drama I, II or III
Course #: DRA01, DRA02 or DRA03 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to develop in the student an interest in drama and the theatre. Students will learn to become more aware of their senses, observe people and places more closely, and move expressively. Students will learn to use their gifts and talents to communicate the message of the gospel and other Scriptural truths through drama. They will be introduced to basic acting skills such as improvisation, characterization, role preparation, and stage movement and will be guided through the production process from casting to performance. Students in this class will be allowed to audition for the key roles in the WCA Christmas Program.

Title: Speech I, II or III
Course #: SD01, SD02, or SD03 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to provide instruction in the fundamentals of argumentation and problem solving, and of formal and informal oral communication. Students will participate in debate activities, regional speech meet, and other public speaking opportunities as well as learn the techniques of effective listening, analysis of audience, critical thinking, and research skills. Emphasis will be placed on sharing the gospel message effectively and using their gifts of speaking and reasoning to defend their faith. Participation in Regional Speech Meet required.

Title: Multimedia Technologies I, II, III or IV
Course #: MT01, MT02, MT03 or MT04 **Grade:** 7 and 8 only **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: Required course for Chapel Tech Team
Faculty recommendation required
Students must be proficient in PowerPoint (demonstrated through the completion of a predetermined assignment given by the instructor)

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic knowledge of visual and non-visual communication using multimedia production process and event planning. Students will also develop the knowledge and competency to conceive and create moving images (video) on a pre-professional level, learn the basics of running both sound and lighting consoles as well as the mechanics of running a multimedia visual presentation. Students also learn the basics of digital photography and editing, and clay animation. Students taking this class will be responsible for preparing and facilitating chapels, programs, and other special events. An emphasis will be placed on fostering excellence and doing all things to glorify God.

Title: Portfolio I
Course #: PORT1 **Grade:** 6 - 8 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to create a portfolio of artworks. A portfolio should contain a variety of works in different media that represent the student's creative abilities and interests. Not only will students be required to study, know and use the elements of art, they will also be exploring the elements of design and will be encouraged to incorporate them in their artwork. This course will culminate in the production of a computer CD containing the students' artwork. The different media students will explore include but are not limited to pencil, paper art, pastels, chalk, and tempera paint. It is important that each student see himself as a creator of art made in the image of God with the ability to glorify God through the process of making art.

Title: Chorus I, II, III or IV
Course #: CHO01, CHO02, CHO03 or CHO04 **Grade:** 5-8 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to offer students an opportunity to develop skills in vocal music while using their God-given gifts to honor and glorify Him. This course will introduce students to the basic fundamentals of choral singing. The repertoire includes choral literature of various styles, cultures, and periods. Students will participate in assorted chapels as well as at least one fine arts performance.

Title: Office Assistant
Course #: OA01 **Grade:** 6 - 8 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to teach students the Biblical truths of serving others by allowing them to spend a semester assisting in the school office. This course will be limited to 1 student per semester and will be based on teacher referral.

Spring Semester Electives

Title: Spring Sports and Recreation
Course #: PED02 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: 0.5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop knowledge and skills in selected sports (basketball, hockey, & softball) and recreational activities to maintain and improve general health and fitness. Content includes but is not limited to: safety rules, terminology, skill building, officiating, and sportsmanship. Selected health related topics will be introduced throughout the semester focusing on the concept of lifetime wellness; through this students will learn to glorify God by developing health and fitness knowledge and skills that can be utilized throughout their lifetime.

Title: Portfolio III
Course #: PORT3 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: 0.5**
Prerequisite: Portfolio I and II

Description: This course is an extension of Portfolio II and will also culminate in the creation of a computer CD containing examples of the student's artwork. Students will continue study on the elements of art and principles of design and will continue to explore a broad range of media. Each student will see himself as a creator of art made in the image of God with the ability to glorify God through the process of making art.

Title: Journalism I
Course #: JOU01 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: Faculty recommendation required
Proficient written communication demonstrated through an A or B in their current or most recent language arts class

Description: This course will teach practical skills from the professional newsroom. Students will learn the different parts of a newspaper production as well as the skill of interviewing, reporting and writing the news. Furthermore, they will also review techniques involved with the graphic design or layout of a newspaper, how photography affects the reader and how the internet has impacted the newspaper process. This course will help students use their God given gift of writing to glorify Him and to communicate effectively.

Title: Drama I, II, III or IV
Course #: DRA01, DRA02, DRA03 or DRA04 **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: .5**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to develop in the student an interest in drama and the theatre. Students will learn to become more aware of their senses, observe people and places more closely, and move expressively. Students will learn to use their gifts and talents to communicate the message of the gospel and other Scriptural truths through drama. They will be introduced to basic acting skills such as improvisation, characterization, role preparation, and stage movement and will be guided through the production process from casting to performance. Students in this class will be allowed to audition for the key roles in the WCA Christmas Program. Students will have the opportunity to audition for WCA'S performances.

Title: Multimedia Technologies I, II, III or IV
Course #: MT01, MT02, MT03 or MT04 **Grade:** 7 and 8 only **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: Required course for Chapel Tech Team
Faculty recommendation required
Students must be proficient in PowerPoint (demonstrated through the completion of a predetermined assignment given by the instructor)

Description: The purpose of this course is to enable students to develop basic knowledge of visual and non-visual communication using multimedia production process and event planning. Students will also develop the knowledge and competency to conceive and create moving images (video) on a pre-professional level, learn the basics of running both sound and lighting consoles as well as the mechanics of running a multimedia visual presentation. Students also learn the basics of digital photography and editing, and clay animation. Students taking this class will be responsible for preparing and facilitating chapels, programs, and other special events. An emphasis will be placed on fostering excellence and doing all things to glorify God.

Title: Chorus I, II, III, or IV
Course #: CHO01, CHO02, CHO03, or CHO04 **Grade:** 5-8 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to offer students an opportunity to develop skills in vocal music while using their God-given gifts to honor and glorify Him. This course will introduce students to the basic fundamentals of choral singing. The repertoire includes choral literature of various styles, cultures, and periods. Students will participate in assorted chapels as well as at least one fine arts performance.

Title: Office Assistant
Course #: OA02 **Grade:** 6 - 8 **Credit:** .5
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to teach students the Biblical truths of serving others by allowing them to spend a semester assisting in the school office. This course will be limited to 1 student per semester and will be based on teacher referral.

Year Long Electives

Title: Beginning Band
Course #: BEGBND **Grade: 5 - 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: None

Description: The purpose of this course is to develop musicianship skills in band and instrumental ensembles. Emphasis will be placed on development of skills in reading music notation, music theory and composition, and performance techniques. The students will become worshippers and with their musical instruments they will Praise and Glorify God. Note: Instrument required (rentals available through Music Tech Studios*)

Title: Intermediate Band
Course #: INTBND **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Beginning Band **Offered: This is a yearlong course**
From 2:45-3:45 Mon., Tues., Th., F.

Description: The purpose of this course is to continue to develop musicianship skills in band and instrumental ensembles. Emphasis will be placed on development of skills in reading music notation, music theory and composition, and performance techniques. "The students will become worshippers and with their musical instruments they will Praise and Glorify God." Note: Instrument required (rentals available through Music Tech Studios*)

Title: Advanced Band
Course #: ADVBND **Grade: 6 - 8** **Credit: 1.0**
Prerequisite: Intermediate Band **Offered: This is a yearlong course**
From 2:45-3:45 Mon., Tues., Th., F.

Description: The purpose of this course is to continue to develop musicianship skills in band and instrumental ensembles. Emphasis will be placed on development of skills in reading music notation, music theory and composition, and performance techniques. "The students will become worshippers and with their musical instruments they will Praise and Glorify God." Note: Instrument required (rentals available through Music Tech Studios*)

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