



MIDDLE SCHOOL
Course Catalog
2020 – 2021

School Information

Plaza Heights Christian Academy

1500 SW Clark Road

Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816)228-0670

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 with the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI), Advanced Ed, and is a member of the Southern Baptist Association of Christian Schools and the Great Plains Alliance of Christian Schools.

Identifying Information

Plaza Heights Christian Academy is open to anyone interested in securing a Christian education, from preschool through twelfth grade, whom the school finds qualified for admission and who agrees (and whose parents or guardians agree) that he or she shall abide by PHCA's rules. It must always be understood that attendance at PHCA is a privilege and not a right. Any student who does not conform to the school's standards of conduct and/or who is unwilling to adjust to the environment at PHCA may forfeit this privilege.

All students must be unwaveringly committed to attend Plaza Heights Christian Academy and agree to honestly and wholeheartedly apply themselves to "study to show [themselves] approved unto God" (2 Timothy 2:15). They must agree to be courteous and respectful to their peers, staff, faculty, and others.

Plaza Heights Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, national, or ethnic origins to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in admissions policies, scholarship programs, and athletic or other school-administered programs. PHCA reserves the right to select students on the basis of academic performance, religious commitment, lifestyle choices, and personal qualifications including a willingness to cooperate with PHCA administration and to abide by its policies.

Schedule Changes

All changes in student schedules must be made one week after the start of each semester.

Course Offerings

Not all courses 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 offered time, additional courses are offered via Bob Jones University & Ignitia. These courses come at an additional cost of \$100 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 6

Length: 1 year

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.

English 7

Length: 1 year

Text: *Writing & Grammar 7; 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: *Writing & Grammar 8; Excursions in Literature* (3rd Ed) – Bob Jones Press

English 8 reviews the grammatical concepts introduced earlier in middle school. 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 ultimate truth who reveals Himself through His creation.

Science 6

Length: 1 year

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

6th grade science teaches foundational science facts in a wide array of subjects. Students are taught the 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.

Life Science

Length: 1 year

Text: *Life Science* (5th Edition) – 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 marine science. 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.

Social Studies 6

Length: 1 year

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.

World Culture 7

Length: 1 year

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

World Culture is a review from ancient time 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 8

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 – All Things Algebra*

Math 6 will introduce students to new material in a challenging but exciting way. Students can expect a follow-up of the basic mathematical skills they have learned in their elementary grades. Material presented in math 6 will enhance the basic math skills, number sense & operations, using formulas, and problem solving. Topics will include: whole numbers & operations, integer operations, rational numbers, algebraic expressions, equations & inequalities, ration & proportion, area & volume, and data & statistics.

Math 7

Length: 1 year

Text: *Math 7 – All Things Algebra*

Math 7 begins with a solid foundation in working with decimals, fractions, and negative numbers. Topics will include: integers and rational numbers, expressions, equations and inequalities, rations and proportional relationships, percent and proportional relationships, geometry, and statistics and probability. The course introduces algebraic concepts such as variables and solving algebraic equations.

Pre-Algebra

Length: 1 year

Text: *Pre-Algebra – All Things Algebra*

Pre-Algebra will review the basic operations of arithmetic with whole numbers, fractions, and decimals. These operations will be used in dealing with ratio, proportions, percent, geometry, and algebra. Students will explore algebraic expressions and integers, solve multi-step equations and inequalities, exponents, operations with fractions, rations, proportions, percents, linear functions and graphing, area and volume, right triangles and the Pythagorean Theorem, data analysis and probability, and operations with polynomials.

Bible

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

Bible 6

Length: 1 year

Text: *The Christian Worldview – Summit Ministries*

The worldview portion of this curriculum covers Christian answers to the “big questions” about God, the universe, human beings, truth, and morality. The Bible survey component focuses on the book of Acts. Key topics covered include:

- Creation and the Fall
- Covenants
- Monotheism
- Omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience
- Revelation, theism, truth, and worldview

Bible 7

Length: 1 year

Text: *Competing Worldviews – Summit Ministries*

The worldview portion of this curriculum compares and contrasts the key tenets of Christianity to Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality. The Bible survey component reviews Romans and 1 & 2 Corinthians. Key topics covered include:

- Atheism, evolution, materialism
- Islam, five pillars of Islam
- Pantheism, reincarnation, karma
- Righteousness, justification
- Redemption, reconciliation, edification

Bible 8

Length: 1 year

Text: *Light Bearers – Summit Ministries*

Bible 8 is an apologetics course enables middle school students to clearly understand the tenets of the Christian worldview. Students will be equipped to understand how Christianity compares to the leading non-Christian worldviews of our day and learn how to apply their Christian faith to every area of life. Categories include theology, philosophy, ethics, biology, sociology, psychology, law, politics, economics, and history.

Health

Students will gain knowledge about God's design and creation of the human body as well as how He designed it to grow and properly develop physically, mentally, spiritually, and emotionally.

Middle School Health

Length: 1 semester

Text: MS: *Health for Christian Schools* – Bob Jones Press

Health provides students with a general overview of the physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual aspects of health in order to better understand how each section relates to and affects the whole. Students engage with educational videos from Ted Ed as well as clips from sermons, spoken word, testimonials, and research. Students participate in group projects as well as group presentations. Throughout the duration of the class, students will write several research papers to better understand the material covered.

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 the 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, pickle ball, 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.

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.

6th Grade Choir

Length: 1 year

6th Grade Choir meets during the school day and regularly performs and participates in during- and after-school activities, concerts, and festivals. Rehearsals include work on development of proper vocal tone production, sight-reading, rhythmic and technical studies, and music theory. Students will gain basic musical and historical knowledge related to music that is learned in class. The course is performance based and all music will be chosen for age-appropriate educational value and historical, cultural, and artistic significance.

7th and 8th Grade Choir

Length: 1 year

7th and 8th grades combined, mixed 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.

Chapel Band

Length: 1 year

Chapel Band is a daily class responsible for leading worship during weekly chapel services. This class is open to any 7th-12th grade student who wishes to audition. Auditions are held at both the beginning and end of the school year. 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 during weekly chapel services.

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

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

Middle School Drama

Length: 1 year

Middle School Drama is an introductory course which incorporates artistic perception, creative expression, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relationships, and applications. The class includes: team work, concentration, movement, voice, play analysis, acting, improvisation, character analysis, performance, scene work, monologues, duet acts, audition/interview skills, theatre vocabulary, theatre history, and play reviews. The course encourages students to discover biblical themes in theatre, Christian modesty, and portrayal of moral awareness. Students will take part in the spring musical as cast or tech crew, and will develop their own one act play for end of the year performance. There is a \$100 course fee, and students will be given an opportunity to attend a professional production as a field trip.

Middle School Art

Art classes within the middle grades expand on the elementary foundation in understand and skills 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 judgement 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 broader knowledge and understanding of our rich and diverse historical and cultural heritage through art.

Art 6: In sixth-grade art, students explore a variety of media as they continue to build their skills in drawing, painting, graphics, calligraphy, and sculpture. The theory is introduced to further elaborate upon ideas about color, perspective, and design. Teachers discuss artists, artwork, and provide technique demonstrations to develop the four strands of art education: art appreciation, art history, art production, and art criticism; as well as problem-solving and critical thinking skills.

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. 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.

Explo 6,7,8

Digital Skills

Length: 12 Weeks

In Digital Skills students will practice their keyboarding skills. They will also explore aspects of digital citizenship such as achieving media balance, maintaining online privacy, managing digital footprints, refraining from oversharing, responding to cyberbullying, and reacting to the flood of breaking news. Finally, students will build on their digital skills by using the various features of Google Workspace apps such as Docs, Drive, Sheets, Slides, and Gmail.

STEAM

Length: 12 Weeks

STEAM tries to go beyond memorization and understanding. It tries to hit higher levels of thinking, specifically analysis and synthesis. Analysis involves comparing 2 or more ideas. For example, in the bridge building week, during the first few days, several types of bridges are looked at and the pros and cons of each are identified. The students then need to judge which bridge they think is best at holding weight with the materials provided. They need to go beyond understanding what a specific bridge is and compare its qualities to another bridge. Synthesis involves using previous knowledge to create new. In the bridge building process, students will test their bridges for sturdiness and load capacity. If they want to improve their bridges, they might need to add parts to it. This challenges synthesis. They need to use their knowledge of bridges to create a part that will help the bridge carry more weight. Analysis and synthesis are challenged every week in a variety of contexts.

Study Skills

Length: 12 Weeks

Study Skills is designed to teach students to become more independent and resourceful learners. Students will learn habits of successful students, including time management and planning, effective note taking, organizational skills, self-reflection, and how to access school facilities and resources. Students will also practice various communication skills for working in groups, listening and following directions. Study Skills is a pass/fail course.

Middle School Computer Science Discoveries**Length: 1 year****Text: Material taken from code.org**

Middle Science Discoveries is an introductory course that empowers students to engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem-solving, and fun. This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. The course inspires students as they build their websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. The learning experience includes a variety of teaching and learning strategies to construct an engaging learning environment. The lessons are active, relevant, and provide students a choice with creativity and personal expressions. Methods of teaching include discussion, presentations, peer feedback, and shared reflection.

World Languages

Students will acquire communication skills and valuable cultural perspectives to enhance their usefulness in God's service both in their own community and abroad.

Spanish I

Length: 1 year

Text: *Avancemos!* Level 1 – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

Spanish I utilizes multiple oral and written language acquisition techniques to introduce students to the language. Basic grammar structures will be taught. Students will be able to formulate and answer questions and compose original dialogues in Spanish. Students will learn about opportunities they have to broaden their ministries for the Lord beyond their own culture while they learn about the culture of Spanish speaking countries.