



**MIDDLE SCHOOL**  
**Course Catalog**  
**2023 – 2024**

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### *School Information*

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#### **Plaza Heights Christian Academy**

1500 SW Clark Road

Blue Springs, MO 64015

(816)228-0670

[www.plazaheightschristianacademy.org](http://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 7**

**Length: 1 year**

**Text: *Writing & Grammar 7; Explorations in Literature* (4<sup>th</sup> 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* (3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

### **Life Science**

**Length: 1 year**

**Text: *Life Science* (5<sup>th</sup> 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* (5<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **World Culture 7**

**Length: 1 year**

**Text: *World Studies* (4<sup>th</sup> 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* (4<sup>th</sup> 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 7**

**Length: 1 year**

**Text: *Fundamentals of Math (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)* – Bob Jones Press**

*Fundamentals of Math* presents a balanced study of the foundations of mathematics with practical, real-life applications. Striking chapter openers and thought-provoking cartoons draw students into the content and get them thinking and talking about how math can be used to solve problems and serve others. Quarterly STEM projects give students more direct opportunities to apply math concepts to solving real-world problems. Teaching materials include a variety of teaching strategies including differentiated instruction, instruction for mathematical modeling, suggestions for cooperative learning activities.

### **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, ratios, 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.

### **7th Grade Bible – Kings of Israel**

**Length: 1 year**

**Text: *Kings of Israel (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition)* – 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.

### **8th Grade 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 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.

## **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: *Total Health: Talking About Life's Changes***

*Total Health: Talking About Life's Changes* 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 scriptures and personal testimonies that help teens understand the value of opening up to their parent(s) and to God as they face their 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**

Chapel Band is a daily class responsible for leading worship during weekly chapel services. This class is open to any 7<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 Theater****Length: 1 year**

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.

**\*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 Debate****Length: 1 Semester**

This course introduces students to the art and skill of debate. Students enter at varying levels of ability and experience, and their techniques and skills are honed throughout the year through a variety of exercises and study. Additionally, students are taught a number of rhetorical devices, logical argument, and fallacies. Students will also participate in certain “real-life” projects that involve learning and practicing the rudiments of parliamentary procedure, and courtroom trial procedure.

**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 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.

### **\*STEM**

**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.

### **\*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. Master the skill you can't do without in today's world where the keyboard is the primary means of communication and technology input.

### **\*Coding**

**Length: 1 Semester**

This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

### **\*Computers**

**Length: 1 Semester**

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as problem solving, programming, physical computing, user-centered design, and data, while inspiring students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices.

### **\*FACS**

**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.

*\*There may be an additional fee for this course.*