



CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Junior High Course Offerings

2019-2020



MISSION STATEMENT

Cincinnati Christian Schools, partnering with Christian families, provides a Bible-centered, 21st-century, quality educational program to equip, train, and disciple students to follow Christ and impact culture.

VISION STATEMENT

Cincinnati Christian Schools will be a shining example of excellent Christian education in our region, defined by a commitment to authentic biblical truth, a thorough academic program, and students who are striving to be unashamed disciples of Christ.

ACCREDITATIONS

Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)
Ohio Department of Education
AdvancED (formerly: North Central Association)

AFFILIATIONS

National Association of Secondary School Principals
Ohio High School Athletic Association
Miami Valley Conference (Athletic)



Table of Contents

Junior High Courses	4
Biblical Studies Courses	5
Biblical Studies	5
English Courses	6
English 7 and 8	6
Advanced English 7	6
Advanced English 8	7
Math Courses	8
Math 7	8
Advanced Math 7	8
Math 8	9
Algebra I	9
Science Courses	10
Science 7 and 8	10
Social Studies Courses	11
World History	11
American History	11
Electives	12
Art	12
Band	12
Chapel Leadership	12
Choir	13

Computer Science Discoveries I	13
Computer Science Discoveries II	13
Health/Physical Education	14
Introduction to Physical Computing	14
Introduction to Technology and Problem-Solving	14
Life Skills	15
Spanish	15
Academic Policies	16
Junior High Testing	17
ACT Aspire	17
Ohio Department of Education Graduation Testing Requirements	17
Honor Roll	18
Grading Scale	18
Extracurricular Eligibility	19
Exam Procedures	19
Classes for Senior High Credit	19
National Junior Honor Society	20

Junior High Courses

Biblical Studies Courses

Department Chair: Kevin Miller
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Biblical Studies

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 year

This class is gender-specific and consists of 7th and 8th grades combined into one class. *Character Quest: Volume One* and *Survival Quest: Volume One* are two separate series designed for junior high students over a two-year period. *Character Quest* covers up to seventeen character traits from a biblical perspective. By studying the lives of Old and New Testament characters in *Survival Quest*, students learn how to thrive, not merely survive, in the face of everyday challenges. Both series aim to engage students through a variety of creative activities.

English Courses

Department Chair: Rachel Porter
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English

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 year

Language arts is more than just words; it is the art of reading, writing, speaking, and communicating. These courses include a general overview of standard grammatical structures (with application to written work), extensive vocabulary studies, short stories, non-fiction selections, poetry, and novels. The courses will also challenge the students to exercise and develop comprehension, analytical and critical thinking skills while reading various-leveled texts. Writing skills during these courses will include paragraph development, essay structures, narrative/descriptive papers, and informative writing. A research paper will be required during one of the junior high years.

Advanced English 7

Intended grade: 7

Length: 1 year

Prerequisites: Teacher approval, 6th-grade language arts MAP scores, meets *English Department Honors Guidelines*- see a member of the English department for placement guidelines.

Advanced English 7 provides a more in-depth coverage of classic literature at the middle school level. Other differences between Advanced English 7 and English 7 include a required level of expertise needed to independently fulfill assignment requirements and the inclusion of more complex reading assignments than that of the regular English 7 course. The class will revolve around discussing universal questions. Therefore, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills are also required.

Advanced English 8

Intended grade: 8

Length: 1 year

Prerequisites: Teacher approval, exceeds ACT Aspire readiness benchmark, meets *English Department Honors Guidelines*- see a member of the English department for placement guidelines.

Advanced English 8 provides a more in-depth coverage of classic literature at the middle school level. Other differences between Advanced English 8 and English 8 include a required level of expertise needed to independently fulfill assignment requirements and the inclusion of more difficult or complex reading assignments. The class will revolve around discussing universal questions. Therefore, speaking, listening, and critical thinking skills are also required.

Math Courses

Department Chair: Gary Rice
gary.rice@cincinnatiachristian.org

Math 7

Intended grade: 7

Length: 1 year

Prerequisite: 6th-grade math

This course will focus on algebraic thinking, decimals and data, fractions and integers, algebra, proportions and percents, geometry and measurement surface area and volume, and probability. The students are given daily homework assignments, weekly quizzes, and chapter tests. A final exam is given at the end of each semester.

Advanced Math 7

Intended grade: 7

Length: 1 year

Prerequisites: 6th-grade math teacher approval, MAP score corresponding to ACT Aspire readiness benchmark, JH math department placement test score, and meets *Math Department Honors Guidelines*- see a member of the math department for placement guidelines.

This is a transitional course between basic math and algebra intended for the student who works at a faster pace. Students are admitted into this class based on test scores and teacher recommendations. In this course, the student works with integers, equations and inequalities, rational numbers and proportions, linear functions, geometry and measurements, data analysis and probability, polynomials, and transformations. The students are given daily homework assignments, weekly quizzes, and chapter tests. A final exam is given at the end of each semester.

Math 8

Intended grade: 8

Length: 1 year

Prerequisite: Math 7

This is a transitional course between basic math and algebra. In this course, the student works with integers, equations and inequalities, rational numbers and proportions, linear functions, geometry and measurements, data analysis and probability, polynomials, and transformations. The students are given daily homework assignments, weekly quizzes, and chapter tests. A final exam is given at the end of each semester.

Algebra I

Intended grade: 8

Length: 1 year

Prerequisites: Advanced Math 7, teacher approval, exceeds ACT Aspire readiness benchmark, and meets *Math Department Honors Guidelines*- see a member of the math department for placement guidelines.

Algebra I is a basic Algebra course. Topics covered include properties of real numbers, emphasis on linear equations and inequalities to include graphing, writing equations, solving and graphing systems, and linear modeling to include scatter plots. Exponential and quadratic functions will be introduced. Simplifying and factoring of polynomials will be studied in depth. Also introduced, are problems involving addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of rational functions. Simplification of radicals and solving radical equations are explored. Counts as a high school credit. "B" or better required. This class does not get calculated into the high school GPA.

Science Courses

Department Chair: Gina Smearsoll
gina.smearsoll@cincinnatiachristian.org

Science

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 year

These introductory science courses will teach the student basic scientific principles, terminology, and procedures that will prepare them for future college-prep science courses. Students will learn to become effective listeners as well as note-takers while following detailed directions in performing lab exercises. These courses are geared toward stimulating the student's critical thinking skills as it covers the topics of earth science, life science, and physical science.

Social Studies Courses

Department Chair: Jesse Holthus
jesse.holthus@cincinnatichristian.org

World History

Intended grade: 7

Length: 1 year

In the first semester, students will learn about ancient societies and cultures in Egypt, India, China, Greece, and Rome. The second semester will focus on the spread of Christianity in Europe, a study of the early American civilizations, medieval times in Europe, Asia, and Africa, the Crusades, The Renaissance and Reformation.

American History

Intended grade: 8

Length: 1 year

This class traces the development of North America from ancient civilizations to exploration and colonization, followed by the founding of America through the Civil War era.

Electives

Art

Intended grade: 7 & 8

Length: 1 semester

Fee: \$20

This course is designed to provide opportunities to explore a wide variety of mediums, styles, and processes. Students taking this class have a desire to make something out of nothing. Studio activities give the students opportunities to create works of art and use various mediums, tools, and techniques. Students will be designing 2D and 3D works of art. Students will be using creative thinking skills to complete various projects. Students will formulate an awareness of God the Creator as they learn to appreciate art.

Band

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 year

Fee: TBD

A continuation of Elementary Band, JH Band music provides more of a challenge to students who want to improve on their instrument. Throughout the course of each year, students are provided with individualized feedback and resources for individual student growth. Students learn to work on the finer elements of music and put them to practice. Students will be provided with performance opportunities, such as Solo/Ensemble and joining and playing with the HS Pep Band.

Chapel Leadership

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 semester

Chapel Leadership is an introductory course in religious assembly and management. Students will discover how to draw a theme from scripture, and then translate it into a series or chapel service. Students will gain a basic knowledge of sound and audio equipment

operation as well as methods of including theme-focused elements in a worship assembly. These elements include skits, videos, song choice, sermon illustrations, staging, etc. Upon completion of this course each student will have gained an understanding of his/her gift/role in the Kingdom of God, and have the knowledge to carry it out.

Choir

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 year

This course is designed to develop the individual and group singing voice. Within the vocal classroom, the student will be exposed to note-reading skills, basic music theory, music history, and technique to build vocal strength. Music theater is also incorporated in the repertoire.

Computer Science Discoveries I

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 semester

Computer Science Discoveries I (CS Discoveries) is an introductory computer science course designed to be an accessible and engaging course for all students, regardless of background or prior experience. It provides students with opportunities to engage with culturally and personally relevant topics in a wide variety of contexts. Specifically, students will explore the problem-solving process and the different ways humans and computers solve problems, discover languages powering the web, and build interactive animations and games in JavaScript using Game Lab.

Computer Science Discoveries II

Intended grade: 7, 8

Length: 1 semester

Prerequisite: CS Discoveries I

Computer Science Discoveries II is a continuation of CS Discoveries I, focusing on the skills that enable students to create and express themselves in a variety of contexts and media. There are three main focuses in CS Discoveries II: the design process, data and society, and physical computing. Students will follow a design process and engage with problems faced by a target audience; learn

Electives

how information is represented, collected, analyzed, and visualized by computers; and explore the relationship between hardware and software.

Health/Physical Education

Intended grade: Required in 7, elective in 8 Length: 1 semester
This course is a combination of a study of the health of the human body and the development of coordination and core motor skills through physical exercise. The health curriculum is a study of a student's physical, spiritual, emotional, mental, and social well-being. The main goals of the course are to develop a knowledge of God as the Creator, to develop a knowledge of health as it pertains to the human body, to develop an attitude of respect for others as well as ourselves, and to develop healthy lifestyle habits. Through the physical education component of the class, students are taught to display Christ-like sportsmanship as they learn basic rules of play in team and individual sports. This class is a combination of 7th and 8th graders and is gender-specific.

Introduction to Physical Computing

Intended grade: 7, 8 Length: 1 semester
In this class, students will learn the necessary skills to start doing their own electronic projects. Students will learn about electronics, Linux, the command line, and programming. They will also learn to control and program various sensors using Circuit Playground Express, Arduino, and Raspberry Pi. Most assignments in the class will be project-based and collaborative. This class is designed to be a well-rounded introduction to the physical computing aspects of computer science.

Introduction to Technology and Problem-Solving

Intended grade: 7, 8 Length: 1 semester
This inquiry-based laboratory course is designed to spark students' future interest in the exploration of science, technology, and engineering. Students will acquire knowledge and skills in problem solving, teamwork, and innovation as well as explore STEM

careers. Students will be introduced to the design process to solve problems and understand the influence that creative and innovative design has on their lives. They will learn the value of an engineering notebook to document and capture their ideas. Students will be exposed to several computer applications and robotics. The course will include several group projects to teach teamwork and group problem solving.

Life Skills

Intended grade: 8
Fee: TBD

Length: 1 year

This course is designed to give practical experience in a variety of basic life skills and to provide a broad platform for self-sufficiency and home/household management. Included in this study will be topics and hands-on experience in cooking, sewing, family life, home maintenance, and repurposing. In addition to purchasing personal sewing notions, there will be a cooking-supplies fee for this course.

Spanish

Intended grade: 7
Intended grade: 8

Length: 1 semester (Part one of course)

Length: 1 year (Part two of course)

This is a level-one course designed to study the Spanish language in written and oral form in a course equivalent to the senior high Spanish I course. Students who complete this course satisfactorily and pass a comprehensive exam at the end of 8th grade with a C or better will receive one senior-high credit for completion of Spanish I (part one of this course will be completed in 7th grade). The grade reflected on the high-school transcript will be calculated from grades earned over the three semesters in addition to the comprehensive final. Students must understand that because they earn a senior-high credit, this class maintains the rigor of an honors course. This class does not get calculated into the high-school GPA.

Academic Policies

This listing of academic policies are to assist parents and students with course decision making. Please see the Cincinnati Christian Schools (CCS) *Student & Parent Handbook* for the complete listing of academic policies.

Junior High Testing

ACT Aspire

The ACT Aspire is a standardized test given to students in the spring of 7th and 8th grades covering the core subjects: English, math, reading, science, and writing. It is a practice ACT assessment directly connected to the ACT, which is the most used college entrance exam. It is also an excellent predictor of future ACT scores. The ACT Aspire scores can be used to assess whether a student will need ACT remediation to meet the following ACT readiness scores to fulfill the assessment pathway to The Ohio Department of Education Graduation Requirements. These requirements are outlined below for your reference. In addition, the Aspire tests taken in 7th, 8th, and 9th grades help prepare students to attain scores needed for entrance to various colleges as well as for potential scholarships.

Ohio Department of Education Graduation Testing Requirements

Students must earn remediation-free scores of the college and career readiness tests* in each of the three subscore areas, two in English language arts and one in mathematics.

ACT*

English - 18 or higher

Mathematics - 22 or higher

Reading - 22 or higher

SAT*

Writing - 430 or higher

Mathematics - 520 or higher

Reading - 450 or higher

CCS will be administering the ACT for all juniors to take for free during a one-time statewide spring test.

Honor Roll

The honor roll is posted approximately two weeks after the end of the quarter. Number grades are not rounded up.

High Honors*

4.0 GPA

A/B Honors*

3.1-3.9 GPA with no C's or D's

*Satellite and menu students are not eligible for honor roll.

Grading Scale

Cincinnati Christian Schools (CCS) has adopted the following grading scale (number grades are not rounded up).

Grade	Numerical Average
A+	98-100
A	94-97
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	68-69
D	66-67
D-	65
F	0-64

Extracurricular Eligibility

All students must maintain a minimum 2.0 GPA with no F's, in order to participate in a sport or extracurricular activity. Grades will be checked at the end of each quarter to determine eligibility for the next quarter.

Exam Procedures

Semester exams are administered in core classes during exam week at the end of each semester. The exams will be comprehensive covering material for the entire semester and will count as 20 percent of the total semester grade. Exams for 7th grade students will not be comprehensive, but will be a unit exam based on the final unit of study for that semester. In the event of emergency, the exam schedule will be delayed in direct proportion to the number of days missed. All final exams must be completed within two weeks of the end of the semester.

Classes for Senior-High Credit

CCS offers two classes that can be taken for senior-high credit during junior high. Spanish I credit can be earned if the student takes the three-semester, junior high Spanish course, and passes a comprehensive exam at the end of the 8th-grade year with a "C" or better. Algebra I credit can be earned by taking Advanced Math 7, and then the algebra course during the 8th-grade year.

Note that while students do receive credit for the completion of these courses, they will not be calculated into their senior high GPA. Senior high GPA is solely based on those courses a student completes during the 9th through 12th grades.

National Junior Honor Society

Qualifications:

Induction into the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) is based upon the following four qualifying categories:

Scholarship

Students are nominated to the NJHS based upon their cumulative GPA. In order to be considered for nomination, the student must have a 3.5 GPA (90% average) and quarter grades of all A's and B's. Percentages are not rounded up.

Leadership

Defined as roles of leadership in both the school and community organizations, and/or less formal leadership roles.

Service

Defined as positive and helpful contributions to school, classmates, and community; going above and beyond the opportunities for service provided at school and having a positive attitude and spirit of giving toward others. Students will be involved in a school service project in addition to quarterly community service projects. The twelve required service hours for NJHS do not count toward biblical studies service hours.

Character

Defined as possessing the qualities or traits that distinguish the student as one of high integrity and good reputation.

Selection Process

Student grades will be reviewed during the second semester of the school year. All students who meet the scholarship requirement will receive a letter notifying them of their candidacy for NJHS membership along with a questionnaire (application). This questionnaire must be completed electronically and the signature page must be printed, signed, and given to the NJHS Chapter Advisor by the given due date in order for a student to be considered for induction into NJHS. There are no exceptions to the deadline.

Late entries will not be considered.

All students who desire consideration for membership will then be evaluated by a faculty committee. This committee will evaluate the candidates on the basis of service, leadership, and character. The evaluation will be based not only on the information provided by the student, but also on input given by the staff regarding how well the student demonstrates the aforementioned characteristics. The committee's decision is final. All applicants, selected and non-selected, will receive a letter by mail stating the committee's decision.

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CINCINNATI CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

Junior/Senior High Campus

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