

Westbury Christian School

Middle School Course Guide

Preparing Students for Here and Eternity



Westbury Christian School

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Executive Administrator: Robert O. McCloy
Upper School Administrator and Principal: Dr. David M. Lacey

Upper School Assistant Principal: Oscar Perez

Counselor: Mike White

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Middle School Teaching Faculty

	Courses	Graduated from:	Degree:	Year
Bontrager, Joshua	Bible 7	Harding University	BS	2004
Glenn, Greg	Algebra I	David Lipscomb University	BA	1986
Goode, Denise	Language Arts 8	Abilene Christian University	BBA	1976
Hawley, Steve	Bible 8	Harding University	M Ed.	1979
Keese, Karen	MS Art	Oklahoma Christian University	BA	1981
Larry, Jyusef	Computer 7 Computer 8	Harding University	MBA BBA	2002 2000
McKenzie, Marie	Language Arts 7 Writing 7 Language Arts 8 Texas History 7	University of Houston	M Ed BS	1972 1956
Parker, Ruby	American History 8	University of Houston Texas State University	MS BS	1989 1965
Ruiz, Sam	Spanish I	Lubbock Christian University	BS	2003
Rochell, Jamie	Math 7 Math 8	Harding University	BA	2005
Sutton, Reed	Health Physical Education	Grand Valley State University	BS	2000
Turner, Melacyn	Science 7&8 IPC	Purdue University	BS	1997
Wiggains, Tyler	Band	Harding University Harding University	BS BME	2001 2003

Course Descriptions

2005-2006

English Language Arts

Language Arts 7

Students in this course will define and utilize vocabulary words in context; study and analyze a vast array of genres including: Adventure, Realism, Folk, Tales, and Fantasy; and read and analyze a minimum of three full-length novels. They will explore and utilize the complex English grammar system through looking at the parts of speech, learning the parts of a complete sentence, learning correct capitalization and punctuation, and diagramming sentences; develop writing skills by covering the necessary elements needed to write a proper paragraph and a three to five paragraph essay.

Finally, students will read and write various types of poetry and create a poetry notebook containing the biography of a poet, original poems, favorite poems and illustrations for poems.

Writing 7

(Required for all WCS 7th grade students; one semester only)

This one semester class is designed to develop the students' writing skills. To bring about the development of these composition skills students will write in many different modes and on widely varied topics; practice techniques for developing effective body paragraphs; practice organization and transition skills; practice creative manipulation of independent and dependent clauses; and learn how to use quotations as evidence.

The students will also learn to add new literary devices and techniques to their writing toolboxes and continue to use the ones they already know with increasing skill and complexity; revise, rework, and restructure their writing by developing several drafts of long-term essays; and use techniques of persuasion and argument in their writing.

Language Arts 8

The student will define and utilize vocabulary words in context; study and analyze a vast array of genres including: Mythology, Realism, Science Fiction, and Humor; and read and analyze a minimum of two full-length novels. They will explore and utilize the complex English grammar system through looking at the parts of speech, learning the parts of a complete sentence, learning correct capitalization and punctuation, and diagramming sentences; study and put to use the writing process to write for a variety of audiences and purposes including to inform, entertain, describe, and persuade; develop writing skills by covering the necessary elements needed to write a proper paragraph and three to five paragraph essay.

Students will also read and write various types of poetry and create a poetry notebook containing the biography of a poet, original poems, favorite poems and illustrations for poems.

Speech

A survey of the speech communication field. Students will be introduced to the basic principles, concepts, and modes of human communication in the contemporary world through class activities, projects and lectures.

Oral Interpretation

The study of literary materials through the mode of interpretive performance. Emphasis is on the interaction of performer, text, and audience.

Foreign Language

Spanish I

Credit: 1, 36 weeks

Grade: 8-11 **(HS credit is awarded to 8th grade students who successfully complete this course)**

The purpose of this foreign language course is to help each student attain proficiency in the four skills of listening, speaking, reading and writing. Students will also develop an insight into the contemporary Spanish-speaking world and the various cultures that it includes.

Social Studies

Texas History

Students study the geography and history of Texas beginning with the prehistoric period to the present. During this course, students will learn about native Americans in Texas; early explorers in Texas; the geography of Texas, including regions, natural landforms, and latitude/longitude; the Spanish influence on Texas, both past and present; the Texas Revolution, including an insight on what led up to it and its aftermath; Texas becoming a part of the United States; Texas' involvement in the Civil War and the aftermath; and an insight into Texas politics, government, and constitution.

American History

Students study the geography and history of the United States beginning with the prehistoric period to the present. During this course students will learn about native Americans and how they got here; early exploration and significant explorers; Colonial America and its growth; causes of the Revolution; the American Revolution and its aftermath; the type of government the new nation was set up as; political parties and their affect on the United States; and the basic principles of important documents such as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. Students will also study the Christian principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution; how our government operates and the three branches of government; the Jackson era and the growth of our nation; the Civil War and Reconstruction; and the reshaping the nation including the growth of industry and the growth of urban America.

Science

Science 7

The seventh grade student continues to learn about the natural world. As the concepts increase in depth and complexity, the student develops problem-solving skills to think critically and make informed decisions. The student uses models of objects and events as tools for understanding the natural world and systems. The emphasis of study continues to be life science.

Science 8

The eighth grade student further develops knowledge about the natural world. The student analyzes and communicates knowledge gained from scientific investigations. Building on prior knowledge, the student uses patterns to make predictions about the natural world and the effects of change over time. The emphasis will be on earth science.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry (I.P.C.)

Credit: 1, 36 weeks

Grade: 8-9 (**HS credit is awarded to 8th grade students who successfully complete this course**)

An Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) student studies the natural world. The student conducts field and laboratory investigations and uses critical thinking, in addition to problem-solving skills, to make informed decisions. This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry. Topics include motion, waves, energy transformations, properties of matter, changes in matter, and solution chemistry.

Mathematics

Math 7

This math course is designed to prepare students for their high school mathematics courses. It emphasizes a development of a solid background in the following areas: whole numbers, decimals, number theory, simple equations, fractions, measurements, geometry, ratios, proportions, percents, statistics, and integers.

Math 8

This mathematics course has been designed as a preparatory for Algebra I. It reviews many of the topics from the 7th grade year, and introduces problems which are more detailed and complex. New topics include: equations, inequalities, graphing, rational numbers, and polynomials.

Algebra I

Credit: 1, 36 weeks

Grade: 8-9 (**HS credit is awarded to 8th grade students who successfully complete this course**)

The goals for this course are to develop proficiency with mathematical skills, to expand understanding of mathematical concepts, to improve logical thinking, and to promote success. Basic topics include linear equations and systems of equations, integer exponents, polynomial products, and factoring, as well as the analysis and solution of word problems.

Bible

Bible 7

The seventh grade Bible curriculum teaches students that the basis for true character is God's Word. During the year students participate in a study entitled "Character Quest." The students use a workbook of that title to study different topics in the Bible related to building character.

Bible 8

Eighth grade Bible is divided into two semester courses. During the first semester, students work on "Communication and Relationships." The purpose of this course is the emphasis of skills and methods of relating with God, Jesus, and people of the Christian faith. The focus of the second semester is "Creationism vs. Evolution." Students compare and contrast evolutionary science to the Biblical account to see clearly that God created the Heavens, Earth and all living creatures. The primary text for both semesters is the Bible.

Technology Applications

Computer 7

(Required for all WCS 7th grade students; one semester only)

Computer 7 focuses on two programs in the Microsoft Office Suite. The first section of the class deals with Microsoft Word, an industry standard word processing program. This section focuses on familiarizing students with the program and teaches them how to use its features throughout their academic careers. Microsoft PowerPoint, is a presentation program that allows students to build presentations that can benefit them in the throughout their lifetime.

Computer 8

(Required for all WCS 8th grade students; one semester only)

Computer 8 focuses on two programs in the Microsoft Office Suite. The first section of the class is devoted to Microsoft Excel. During this section we focus on the basic functions found in this spreadsheet program. During the second part of the course, we focus our attention on Microsoft Access. Access is the most powerful program in the suite and our main goal with the program is to understand the benefits of a database program. We will also perform simple queries and create reports to show just how powerful the program is.

Health and Physical Education

Health

Credit: 1/2, 18 weeks

Grade: 8-12(**All 8th grade students at WCS are required to take this course. HS credit is awarded to students who successfully complete this course**)

In Health education, students acquire the health information and skills necessary to become healthy adults. To achieve that goal, students will understand the following: students are responsible for their own health decisions and personal behavior; personal behaviors can increase or reduce health risks throughout the life span; health is influenced by a variety of factors; students can recognize and utilize health information and products; and personal/interpersonal skills are needed to promote physical, social, mental, and spiritual health.

Physical Education

This course represents a new approach in physical education and the concept of personal fitness. The basic purpose of this course is to motivate students to strive for lifetime personal fitness with an emphasis on the health-related components of physical fitness. The knowledge and skills taught in this course include teaching students about the process of becoming fit as well as achieving some degree of fitness within the class. The concept of wellness, or striving to reach optimal levels of health, is the cornerstone of this course and is exemplified by one of the course objectives—students designing their own personal fitness program.

Students will also participate in team sports. Team sports activities may include basketball, flag football, soccer, ultimate Frisbee, and team handball.

Basketball (Girls)

This course prepares girls for competitive basketball. Participants work to develop fundamentals of dribbling, passing, shooting and defense. The first semester covers fundamentals, strategy and competitive play. The competitive season begins in November and lasts through February. During the off-season students participate in weight lifting, running, agility and skill development.

Basketball (Boys)

Basketball is taught in two parts, with the first part taking place before and after the basketball season. First, the basic fundamentals of basketball are taught - shooting, dribbling, rebounding, and defense. Special individual skill attainment is emphasized at this time. A secondary program of conditioning, consisting of weight lifting, running and other exercises that will benefit and strengthen the individual is implemented. The second phase (during the basketball season) places emphasis on competitive team play. Team offense and defense, as well as strategy and specific situation work, are emphasized.

Fine Arts

Art

This course encompasses a wide variety of experiences, from elements and principles of art to art history. Students are exposed to a variety of media both two and three dimensional, pencil, ink, charcoal, pastel, tempera, watercolor, clay and printmaking. Some media may vary. The goal is for students to gain an understanding and appreciation of art.

Drama

This course will focus on performance. Special emphasis will be given to character development, voice and diction and body control. This course will begin the study of theatre history and acting styles. Directing will be studied. All aspects of production from a technical standpoint (set design, lights, sound, etc.) will be explored.

Band

This course is designed to build the musicianship of the student. Emphasis will be placed on playing an instrument with correct technique; developing an understanding of quality tone and pitch; counting and playing rhythms in varying tempos and time signatures; and the demonstration of proper posture, breathing, and behavioral techniques in both rehearsal and performance settings.

Chorus

Developing choir that emphasizes the basics of music. Students will learn and apply techniques for posture, breath support, vowel and consonant formation, and vocal placement to improve tone quality; be able to understand and read basic music notation, including rhythmic, melodic, form, and dynamic notation; and perform 2,3, & 4 part harmony in such styles as classical, spiritual, and pop/jazz.

***Elective Courses may vary from year to year.**