



WYLIE PREPARATORY ACADEMY

Middle School Course Descriptions

Revised 2/2024

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English

English 6:

Proficiency in reading and writing is expanded in this course. Students read novels and literature selections utilizing higher-order thinking skills from a biblical worldview. The fundamentals of literary analysis are introduced, and the author's and reader's crafts are emphasized. Students will continue to grow in confidence as writers and in using the tools needed to add style and structure to their writing. They will create many compositions, including a multi-source research report and argumentative essay. Vocabulary development is continued, and students work toward mastery of more complex grammar concepts.

English 7:

Students will read a variety of novels and literary works. Critical thinking will be developed as literature and poetry are analyzed and discussed. The program focuses on the evaluation of literature and writing, using biblical principles as the standard by which they are evaluated. Students will write five-paragraph compositions, including a thesis statement, an outline, and introductory and concluding paragraphs. An emphasis will be placed on the writing process – planning, writing, editing, revising, and publishing compositions. They will select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes, such as to inform, persuade, or entertain, and incorporate stylistic techniques within each form. Students continue to read widely in classic and contemporary selections and informational texts. Students will be given the opportunity to communicate their views both orally and in writing. Vocabulary development will be emphasized through writing and literature. Grammar skills will be reinforced, and new concepts will be introduced and utilized within the context of the writing program, along with additional practice.

English 8:

Students will continue to refine their ability to write a standard five-paragraph essay using evidence to support thesis statements. The students will select and use different forms of writing for specific purposes, such as to inform, persuade, or entertain. They will edit and revise drafts using basic knowledge of grammar usage, spelling, and conventions. Students will produce final, error-free compositions that use varied sentence lengths and structure and are strengthened by visuals and media. They will continue to read a wide range of literature, intermixing contemporary and classical stories and novels. Students will be introduced to concepts and terms used in literary analysis. They will evaluate literature using biblical standards and principles and apply associated concepts in their analysis. Grammar skills will continue to be honed, with review and introduction of new concepts.

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History

History 6:

This sixth-grade course begins Wylie Prep's second cyclical study of history. Students use a biblical worldview to study the physical geography, people groups, and cultures of the world with an emphasis on the ways this influences society. The chronological study begins in the 1100s and continues through the 1900s. This course provides many opportunities for students to think critically and evaluate history from a biblical worldview in preparation for upper-level courses.

History 7:

Seventh grade history will include the study of two core subjects:

Fall: This semester will be devoted to the study of Texas from the state's earliest civilizations to statehood. Themes in Texas History will include Geography; Economics; Government; Citizenship; Culture; Science; Technology and Society; Constitutional Heritage, and Global Relations. A unit of state government and TX industries will also be included.

Spring: During this semester, the students will begin the study of American history. The subject of history is a living, meaningful, relevant subject to our everyday lives and will be taught as such. Areas to be taught are the discovery of the "New World;" settlement of the original thirteen colonies; the daily life of the colonists; challenges with the British; the War for Independence; the establishment of the Confederation; and the writing of the United States Constitution.

History 8:

In eighth grade, the students continue studying American History, beginning with President Washington's inauguration and the establishment of the new government up through World War II. Topics will include but are not limited to Westward Expansion, Civil War, Reconstruction, Industrialism, Progressivism, WWI, the Roaring Twenties, the Great Depression, and WW2. Additionally, highlights from the 1950s-Present Day will be covered. Students will study the influence of Christianity on American history and the interaction of people, ideas, and culture in America by evaluating primary and secondary sources.

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Math

Math 6:

This course reviews and builds upon the four basic math operations and problem-solving skills using all the real number categories. Concepts covered in 6th grade include word numbers through hundred billion, scientific notation, 3-digit multiplication, division with up to 3-digit decimal divisors, proportions and ratios, geometric concepts (angles, perimeter, circumference, volume, area, and surface area), one-and-two-step algebraic equations, statistics with graphing, and an introduction to pre-algebra calculations with negative numbers (integers).

Math 7:

This 7th-grade course is designed for students who will benefit from a slightly slower pace and more repetition than Pre-Algebra allows. A structured approach for a variety of topics such as integers, fractions, decimals, negative numbers, equations, inequalities, basic geometry, graphing, probability, and problem-solving skills will help students prepare for similar more in-depth concepts they will face in Pre-Algebra. Checkpoint quizzes assess student understanding after every few lessons to ensure comprehension before major tests.

Pre-Algebra:

This course is designed for advanced 7th-grade math students and on-grade-level 8th-grade math students. This is a transitional course moving students from arithmetic to algebra. Students will enhance their knowledge of topics such as the order of operations, integers, exponents, fractions, decimals, and factoring. Students will be introduced to the Distributive Property, solving for a variable, scale, area, ratios & proportions, probability, and percents. The concepts of linear equations and graphing will be introduced.

Course Prerequisite: Math Placement Exam

Algebra 1:

In this course, students will continue their study of algebra, learning linear equations in one variable, algebraic numbers, graphs, formulas, positive and negative numbers, fundamental operations, special products and factoring, fractions, ratios, and proportions. Additionally, the students will be exposed to variation, linear systems of equations, powers and roots, exponents and radicals, quadratic equations, and numerical trigonometry.

Course Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

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Science

Science 6:

God's design in nature is presented through this sixth-grade science course where students are encouraged to use investigative techniques to explore a range of topics. Studies include chemistry, cells and organisms, electricity, weathering and erosion, magnetism, energy, simple machines, earthquakes, volcanoes, introduction to genetics, solar system, and natural resources. Students are involved in STEM activities that apply to these concepts and learn about real-world STEM careers and the importance of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math in them.

Life Science 7:

Life Science is the study of living things. Students will engage in hands-on activities to examine the attributes of life, classification, cells, and creation. The text deals with life processes of organisms, genetics, and comparing & contrasting the theory of evolution versus Creation from a Biblical perspective. It also presents concepts in microbiology, zoology, and ecosystems.

Earth Science 8:

Students will receive an overview of earth and space science that is the study of God's inorganic creations. The four main areas of study include: the atmosphere, meteorology, geology, and the hydrosphere. This class will include labs that will enforce the understanding of the concepts being taught. Students will also extend their understanding of the scientific method and the experimental design by conducting individual science experiments for the school's annual science fair. Teach the Scientific Method; students learn to write scientifically in a lab notebook.

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Bible

During the middle school years, the goal is to move students through the chronological storyline of the Scriptures and see how God's plan of redemption unfolds throughout Scripture and today.

Bible & Study Skills 7:

This class will focus on both the Bible and building strong study skills. The teacher will vary the instruction, with some days being focused on continuing the Old Testament study begun in Bible 6. Students will study the metanarrative of Scripture and how to positively contribute to life and culture through the Biblical worldview lens of Creation, Fall, and Redemption. Other days will be a focus on overall time management and study skills. Students will explore a wide range of learning tools and strategies that will be helpful throughout their academic years. As students discover options, they apply what they are learning to their current coursework and make fully informed decisions regarding which strategies and tools will be most effective for them based on the gifts and talents given to them by our Creator.

Bible 8:

By examining the Old and New Testament storylines, eighth-grade Bible provides students with a safe environment to walk through the Scriptures and ask the hard questions. Students will study and recognize the big story of Creation, Fall, and Redemption throughout the New Testament narrative and understand the Bible as the true story of what God is doing to glorify Himself by redeeming His fallen creation. Additionally, students will be challenged to build critical thinking skills by tackling some of today's complex issues. They will explore how to seek out what the Bible says about these issues and how to respond with both the love of Christ and Biblical truth.

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Middle School Electives

Art:

This course reinforces a simplified artistic vocabulary and builds a greater understanding of how to compose a successful piece of art. Students will be exposed to a variety of media and techniques, including drawing, painting, and three-dimensional art. Students are challenged to grow and develop their individual artistic abilities. History is introduced through artists and art period studies relating to the art elements being taught. Through this class, students begin to discover their unique talents and interests and how to use them to glorify the Master Creator.

Theatre:

Theatre Arts focuses on students using their creativity and performances to glorify God. Students learn how God's word relates to the material, to our development as individuals, and how to work with others. The course is designed for the student who is interested in learning basic acting and technical concepts, basic production concepts, voice, movement, and characterization. Students will explore the production process through the performance of classroom scenes, monologues, and skits emphasizing learned skills in concentration, creativity, improvisation, and pantomime.

The course culminates with applying the technical and acting skills to perform a showcase selection for a live audience. The course culminates with applying acting and technical skills to perform a showcase selection for a live audience.

Music:

Middle School Music is designed for students who want to explore both vocal and instrumental music. Students will also learn basic music theory, music history, and composition. These skills are learned through games, written exercises, and auditory exercises. They will have opportunities to perform in various settings. The first semester will focus on rhythms and will include drumming. The second semester will focus on note reading and will include learning the ukulele. The class focuses on using our creativity and performances to glorify God and how God's Word relates to the music, to our development as individuals, and how we work together.

Forge:

This course is designed to enhance overall physical endurance, agility, and functional strength training. This is accomplished through coach-led and developed physical training workouts. It will also concentrate on building leadership skills as well as Christ-centered character development through classroom instruction. This course can be taken by middle school students and high school students wanting it to fulfill an athletics obligation needed for graduation.

Study Hall:

Each day during regular school hours, a study hall area will be open for students remaining on campus but not enrolled in a class. Students may register for any hour of study hall during this time frame but may not register for more than two periods on the same day. Registration in a study hall is

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required for any 6th – 8th grade student expecting to be on campus but not in class during school hours.