

Los Altos Christian Middle School

Course Catalog

2010

Sixth Grade Courses

BIBLE 6 (1 year)

This class is a fast moving Bible survey with personal application and an emphasis on God's power and activity. Students visit all 66 books of the Bible from the Creation to the Cross to the consummation of time. This course gives both students who are new to the Bible and those who already have a foundation the opportunity to discover how God's Word applies to them personally.

Text: Route 66, Positive Action for Christ, 2007, ISBN 1-929784-30-9

ENGLISH 6 (1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of fifth grade language arts; recommendation of teacher and parents for placement in Resource will be considered on an individual basis as appropriate*

The structure of the short story will be studied with an emphasis on character analysis, vocabulary development, comprehension skills and enjoyment. Grammar study includes vocabulary workshop and words taken from textual reading. The writing focus is on developing strong support statements in body paragraphs with an emphasis on narrative and descriptive writing. Selected novels and texts are read by students and discussed in class. Outside reading and book reports are required. The outline and other components of a research paper are taught. Novels read during the course can include *Hatchet*, *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, *Bronze Bow*, and *White Mountains*.

Texts: Language Network, McDougal Littell, 2001, ISBN 0-395-967362; Language of Literature 6, McDougal Littell, 2002, ISBN 9-780-61861-1; Wordly Wise 6, Educators Publishing Service, 2007, ISBN 0-8388-2824-8; Resource class also uses English, Houghton Mifflin, 2001, ISBN 0-618-03083-2.

GENERAL MATH 6/7 (1 year)

Prerequisites: *recommendation of fifth grade teacher, test scores, and parent input*

This class focuses on building basic computational and problem solving skills which are critical for future math success. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, measurement, percentage, factoring, ratio, fractions and basic geometry are taught. Beginning Algebra concepts are introduced.

Text: California Mathematics 6, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-203119-6; California Mathematics, Scott Foresman, 2001, ISBN 0-328-00470-7; SRA Kit

MATH 6

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of fifth grade math, test scores, teacher recommendation, and parent input.*

Students learn to solve problems, increase computational competence and build critical thinking skills. Skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, measurement, percentage, factoring, ratio, fractions and basic geometry are reviewed and expanded. Beginning Algebra concepts are integrated.

Text: California Grade 6 Mathematics, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-203119-6

MATH 7

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *yearlong high class performance in fifth grade, high SAT math scores, teacher recommendation, parental permission. This is an honors 6th grade class.*

Students must maintain a yearly average of 85% or higher to remain in the class.

Student work, write and simplify numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They focus on developing problem-solving strategies, especially on writing equations that require the use of signed numbers and several inverse operations for solutions. Emphasis is placed on the use of variables in equations and expressions. Operations containing decimals, fractions, exponents, ratios, and percentages are taught.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-203120-5

INTRO TO ALGEBRA

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *yearlong high class performance in fifth grade, high SAT math scores, teacher recommendation, parental permission. This is an honors 6th grade class.*

Students must maintain a yearly average of 85% or higher to remain in the class.

Students work with numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expressions. They also explore operations that use fractions, exponents, ratios, proportions, and percents. The class will also work on linear functions and graphing, spatial thinking, work with irrational numbers and nonlinear functions, introduce basic geometric concepts, and focus on application and critical thinking skills.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-203120-5

SCIENCE 6 EARTH SCIENCE

(1 year)

The program allows the students to experience studies in Earth Science disciplines. The materials present in-depth content and hands-on exploration activities. A comprehensive science fair unit emphasizes study and implementation of the scientific method through research and writing a research report.

Text: Earth Science, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2007, ISBN 0-03-042658-8

HISTORY 6

(1 year)

Students are presented with an overview of ancient world cultures (historical, economic and geographic themes; cultural differences) from the creation of man through the establishment of the Roman Empire and its decline. Special emphasis is placed on understanding God's purpose and plan for mankind throughout history. Student will do projects based on topics and themes that explain and enhance the civilizations studied.

Text: World History: Ancient Civilizations, Houghton Mifflin, 2006, ISBN 0-618-42394-X

SPANISH A

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to the Spanish language. Students learn essential vocabulary related to school, classes, schedules, friends, likes, dislikes, food, and other everyday language experiences. Students learn proper pronunciation and the grammar necessary for understanding and using basic Spanish. The course provides instruction and practice in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to Spanish.

Text: Realidades A, McGraw Hill/Wright Group, 2003, ISBN 0-13-035966-1

SIGN LANGUAGE

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to American Sign Language. Students learn essential concepts and develop an awareness of sign language through the use of basic signs. Students learn how body language and facial expressions influence the meaning of the signs and work on simple translations and conversational exchanges. The course provides the opportunity to learn about deaf culture and gain insight about others around them.

Text: Signing Naturally Level 1, Dawn Sign Press, 2008, ISBN 1-58121-125-2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(1 year)

Physical Education

Physical Education provides an atmosphere where students will learn to exhibit Christian character through all aspects of activity. Students will develop movement skills enabling them to participate confidently in physical activity. They will also be instructed in good sportsmanship and taking personal responsibility. The goal of the program is to help students develop into well-rounded individuals who have the health, energy, and stamina to pursue every opportunity to its fullest.

Text: none

ACADEMIC ELECTIVE: ORGANIZATIONAL SKILLS/CURRENT EVENTS

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students instruction in skills that will be important to future academic success. Each grade level will require students to participate in an academic elective that addresses another step in their development as a student and a contributing member of the school. In sixth grade, students will begin the year learning organizational skills that will help them be successful in the middle school environment, such as study habits, test taking, using school planners, managing long-term projects, etc. The second semester will be devoted to study and discussion of current events, which helps the students engage in an interdisciplinary look into the wider world and their role in it.

Text: varies by elective assignment

MUSIC ELECTIVES

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students the opportunity to learn to play musical instruments. Beginning band introduces students to an instrument and also allows novice players the opportunity to develop their skills and musical theory. The Akronos Handbell Choir is open to students who have some music reading ability and who want the challenge of learning to play an instrument in a group setting.

Needs: students must furnish their own instrument for band and purchase their own gloves for handbells. Events outside of school hours may be part of the class requirements. There may be an additional fee for the class.

EXPOSURE ELECTIVES

(1 quarter each)

Exposure electives change every quarter and allow students to sample a wide variety of topics over the course of the year. The goal is that students will be able to explore gifts, talents, and interests that are just emerging and could lead to lifelong passions. Exposure electives vary widely based on student interest and staff availability. Examples of electives that may be offered are cooking, aerobics, dramatic reading, book club, game design and strategies, advanced art, golf, woodworking, digital photography, stop motion animation, science immersion and yearbook. Students will receive a course list prior to the beginning of each quarter with a detailed list of that quarter's classes.

Text: varies by elective assignment. There may be an additional fee for some classes.

Seventh Grade Courses

BIBLE 7

(1 year)

The middle school years are a time when young people begin to make more and more decisions about the kind of person they will become as an adult. This increasing freedom is accompanied by greater responsibility and higher expectations in many areas of life. This study from Proverbs will help young people master the principles that will help them live wisely and become more like Christ.

Text: Wise Up, Positive Action for Christ, 2007, ISBN 1-929784-31-7

ENGLISH 7

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of sixth grade language arts; recommendation of teacher and parents for placement in Resource will be considered on an individual basis as appropriate*

Students read selections from a literature anthology and begin to learn skills of literary analysis and terminology. Book reports are required and additional novels, such as The Outsiders, are also read in class. Students are challenged to interpret all reading from a Christian perspective. Parts of speech and the parts of a sentence, along with selected usage areas are covered. Students write different types of paragraphs, emphasizing expository writing. They also learn elements of the five paragraph essay by formulating a thesis statement, supporting the thesis with strong body paragraphs, and writing an effective introduction and conclusions. Research paper format is taught. Students also write summaries, responses to literature, narrative and persuasive essays.

Texts: Language of Literature 7, McDougal Littell, 2002, ISBN 0-618-11572-2; Language Network 7, McDougal Littell, 2001, ISBN 0-395-96737-9; Wordly Wise 7, Educators Publishing Service, 2007, ISBN 0-8388-2825-6.

GENERAL MATH 6/7

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *recommendation of sixth grade teacher, test scores, and parent input*

This class focuses on building basic computational and problem solving skills which are critical for future math success. Addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, measurement, percentage, factoring, ratio, fractions and basic geometry are taught. Beginning Algebra concepts are introduced.

Text: California Mathematics 6, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-203119-6; California Mathematics, Scott Foresman, 2001, ISBN 0-328-00470-7; SRA Kit

MATH 6

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of General Math, test scores, teacher recommendation, and parent input.*

Students learn to solve problems, increase computational competence and build critical thinking skills. Skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, measurement, percentage, factoring, ratio, fractions and basic geometry are reviewed and expanded. Beginning Algebra concepts are integrated.

Text: California Grade 6 Mathematics, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-203119-1

MATH 7

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of Math 6, teacher recommendation and parent input*

Student work, write and simplify numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They focus on developing problem-solving strategies, especially on writing equations that require the use of signed numbers and several inverse operations for solutions. Emphasis is placed on the use of variables in equations and expressions. Operations containing decimals, fractions, exponents, ratios, and percentages are taught.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-050486-6

INTRO TO ALGEBRA

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *yearlong high class performance in sixth grade math, high SAT math scores, teacher recommendation, parental permission. This is an honors 7th grade class. Students must maintain a yearly average of 85% or higher to remain in the class.*

Students work with numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They also explore operations that use fractions, exponents, ratios, proportions, and percents. The class will also work on linear functions and graphing, spatial thinking, work with irrational numbers and nonlinear functions, introduce basic geometric concepts, and focus on application and critical thinking skills.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-050486-6

ALGEBRA

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of Pre-Algebra, high SAT math scores, teacher recommendation and parental permission. This is an honors course and students must maintain a yearly average of 85% or higher to remain in the class.*

This course is designed to sharpen skills that use variables with whole numbers, signed numbers, decimals and fractions. Students will be introduced to polynomials, functions, algebraic functions and the quadratic formula. There is an emphasis on learning strategies for solving work problems. This is a high school level course.

Text: Algebra, CA edition, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-12-044263-1

SCIENCE 7 LIFE SCIENCE

(1 year)

In Life Science, students will embark on an exciting year exploring God's creation as inquisitive and investigative scientists. Class investigations will include laboratory experimentation, group investigations, formal lab reports, technology enrichment, and an interdisciplinary approach to science. Students will participate in a comprehensive science fair unit which emphasizes the study and implementation of the scientific method, research and communication of those results to others through a research report and oral presentation.

Text: Life Science, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2007, ISBN 0-03042657-X

HISTORY 7

(1 year)

Seventh grade world history is a continuous study of the world beginning where 6th grade ended. This class focuses on European history from the events of the fall of the Roman Empire to the French Revolution. Students will study history in order to find lessons that would benefit them in their daily lives. We will search throughout history in order to see God at work in the world and student will recognize biblical principles throughout history.

Text: World History: Medieval and Early Modern Times, McDougall Littell, 2006, ISBN 978-0-618-53294-0

SPANISH A

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to the Spanish language. Students learn essential vocabulary related to school, classes, schedules, friends, likes, dislikes, food, and other everyday language experiences. Students learn proper pronunciation and the grammar necessary for understanding and using basic Spanish. The course provides instruction and practice in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to Spanish.

Text: Realidades A, McGraw Hill/Wright Group, 2003, ISBN 0-13-035966-1

SPANISH B

(1 year)

Prerequisite: *successful completion of Spanish A*

Spanish B continues a student's knowledge by adding cultural studies and more opportunities to use the Spanish language. This year students will learn words related to food, pastimes, family, shopping, traveling, entertainment, and technology. More time will be spent speaking together in Spanish as students expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the language. Oral participation is a large part of the grade in this class.

Text: Realidades A and B, McGraw Hill/Wright Group, 2003, ISBN 0-13-035966-1 and 0-13-035967-X

SIGN LANGUAGE

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to American Sign Language. Students learn essential concepts and develop an awareness of sign language through the use of basic signs. Students learn how body language and facial expressions influence the meaning of the signs and work on simple translations and conversational exchanges. The course provides the opportunity to learn about deaf culture and gain insight about others around them.

Text: Signing Naturally Level 1, Dawn Sign Press, 2008, ISBN 1-58121-125-2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(1 year)

Physical Education

Physical Education provides an atmosphere where students will learn to exhibit Christian character through all aspects of activity. Students will develop movement skills enabling them to participate confidently in physical activity. They will also be instructed in good sportsmanship and taking personal responsibility. The goal of the program is to help students develop into well-rounded individuals who have the health, energy, and stamina to pursue every opportunity to its fullest.

Text: none

ACADEMIC ELECTIVES: SPEECH/COMMUNITY SERVICE

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students instruction in skills that will be important to future academic success. Each grade level will require students to participate in an academic elective that addresses another step in their development as a student and a contributing member of the school. In seventh grade, students will begin the year learning public speaking skills. The second semester will help them explore opportunities to participate in community service.

Text: varies by elective assignment

MUSIC ELECTIVES

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Beginning band introduces students to an instrument and also allows novice players the opportunity to develop their skills and musical theory. The Akronos Handbell Choir is open to students who have some music reading ability and who want the challenge of learning to play an instrument in a group setting.

Needs: students must furnish their own instrument for band and their own gloves for handbells. Events outside of school hours may be part of the class requirements.

EXPOSURE ELECTIVES

(1 quarter each)

Exposure electives change every quarter and allow students to sample a wide variety of topics over the course of the year. The goal is that students will be able to explore gifts, talents, and interests that are just emerging and could lead to lifelong passions. Exposure electives vary widely based on student interest and staff availability. Examples of electives that may be offered are cooking, aerobics, dramatic reading, book club, game design and strategies, advanced art, golf, woodworking, digital photography, stop motion animation, science immersion and yearbook. Students will receive a course list prior to the beginning of each quarter with a detailed list of that quarter's classes.

Text: varies by elective assignment. There may be an additional fee for some classes.

Eighth Grade Courses

BIBLE 8

(1 year)

Students will witness the birth and expansion of the early Christian church. They will learn much about the truth of Scripture and how they can apply it to have an impact on their world. This course is designed to teach principles for Christian living from the example of the early church as recorded in the Book of Acts. Students will learn about the central figure of the Bible, Jesus Christ, and how to build a lifelong relationship with Him.

Texts: To the Ends of the Earth, ACSI Purposeful Design, 2002, ISBN 1-58331-132-7; More than a Carpenter by Josh McDowell, Living Books, 2005, ISBN 0-8423-4552-3.

ENGLISH 8

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of seventh grade language arts; recommendation of teacher and parents for placement in Resource will be considered on an individual basis as appropriate*

This course will include a study of grammar, concentrating on functions of parts of speech and clauses and phrases. Writing will include descriptive, narrative and expository forms with an emphasis on persuasive essays with the inclusion of annotated remarks, anecdotes and statistics. Literature selections include *The Diary of Anne Frank*, *The Pearl*, poetry and nonfiction essays; supplemental novels will include *The Old Man and the Sea*. Vocabulary words are also used in textual context. Literary terms and definitions are taught and applied to reading selections. Students are encouraged to interpret literature from a Christian perspective and to apply Biblical principles to their evaluation of literature. A research paper is required using MLA format. A concentrated effort on the five-paragraph structure is emphasized throughout the year.

Texts: Language of Literature 8, McDougal Littell, 2002, ISBN 978-0-618-60136-3; Language Network 8, McDougal Littell, 2001, ISBN 978-0-618-15382-4; Wordly Wise 8, Educators Publishing Service, 2007, ISBN 0-8388-2826-4.

MATH 6

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of General Math, test scores, teacher recommendation, and parent input.*

Students learn to solve problems, increase computational competence and build critical thinking skills. Skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, decimals, measurement, percentage, factoring, ratio, fractions and basic geometry are reviewed and expanded. Beginning Algebra concepts are integrated.

Text: California Grade 6 Mathematics, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-203119-6

MATH 7

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of General Math or Math 6, test scores, teacher recommendation, and parent input.*

Student work, write and simplify numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They focus on developing problem-solving strategies, especially on writing equations that require the use of signed numbers and several inverse operations for solutions. Emphasis is placed on the use of variables in equations and expressions. Operations containing decimals, fractions, exponents, ratios, and percentages are taught.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-050486-6

INTRO TO ALGEBRA

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of Math 7, teacher recommendation and parent input.*

Students work with numerical expressions as well as introductory algebraic expression. They also explore operations that use fractions, exponents, ratios, proportions, and percents. The class will also work on linear functions and graphing, spatial thinking, work with irrational numbers and nonlinear functions, introduce basic geometric concepts, and focus on application and critical thinking skills.

Text: California Pre-Algebra, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-13-050486-6

ALGEBRA

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of Pre-Algebra, high SAT math scores, teacher recommendation and parental permission. This is an honors course and students must maintain a yearly average of 85% or higher to remain in the class.*

This course is designed to sharpen skills that use variables with whole numbers, signed numbers, decimals and fractions. Students will be introduced to polynomials, functions, algebraic functions and the quadratic formula. There is an emphasis on learning strategies for solving work problems. This is a high school level course.

Text: Algebra, CA edition, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 0-12-044263-1

GEOMETRY

(1 year)

Prerequisites: *successful completion of Algebra with an 85% average or higher, proficiency test, high SAT math scores, parental permission and teacher recommendation. This is an honors class for 8th grade.*

This honors course includes learning the language of geometry, studying parallel and perpendicular lines, congruence and similarity, special right triangle relationships and trigonometric ratios. Students gain skill in logical thinking by exposure to conditional statements, indirect proofs and two-column proofs. This course will involve studying area, perimeter, surface area and volume of a variety of geometric shapes. This is a high school level course.

Text: Geometry, Prentice Hall, 2009, ISBN 978-0-13-036000-7

SCIENCE 8 PHYSICAL SCIENCE

(1 year)

This program allows the students to experience studies in Physical Science disciplines. The materials present in-depth content and hands-on exploration activities, laboratory experimentation, group investigations, and formal lab reports. Students will participate in a comprehensive science fair unit which emphasizes study, research, experimentation, and communication of results through both written and oral reports.

Text: Physical Science, Holt, Rinehart, & Winston, 2007, ISBN 0-03-042659-6

HISTORY 8

(1 year)

This course focuses on United States history and government. Students study the exploration and colonization of the American continents, the Revolutionary War, the writing and content of the United States Constitution, the branches of government, the amendment process, Westward Expansion, the Civil War, and the Gilded Age. The students explore ways in which God works through time and events. They also investigate events of history that teach basic lessons of life and consider how historical events illustrate principles set forth in God's Word. Furthermore, the students are introduced to ways in which they may actively influence government even as eighth graders.

Text: Creating America: Beginnings through WWI, McDougal Littell, 2006, ISBN 978-0-61-855949-7

SPANISH A

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to the Spanish language. Students learn essential vocabulary related to school, classes, schedules, friends, likes, dislikes, food, and other everyday language experiences. Students learn proper pronunciation and the grammar necessary for understanding and using basic Spanish. The course provides instruction and practice in reading, writing, speaking, and listening to Spanish.

Text: Realidades A, McGraw Hill/Wright Group, 2003, ISBN 0-13-035966-1

SPANISH B

(1 year)

Prerequisite: *successful completion of Spanish A*

Spanish B continues a student's knowledge by adding cultural studies and more opportunities to use the Spanish language. This year students will learn words related to food, pastimes, family, shopping, traveling, entertainment, and technology. More time will be spent speaking together in Spanish as students expand their vocabulary and knowledge of the language. Oral participation is a large part of the grade in this class.

Text: Realidades A and B, McGraw Hill/Wright Group, 2003, ISBN 0-13-035966-1 and 0-13-035967-X

SIGN LANGUAGE

(1 year)

This course offers students a basic introduction to American Sign Language. Students learn essential concepts and develop an awareness of sign language through the use of basic signs. Students learn how body language and facial expressions influence the meaning of the signs and work on simple translations and conversational exchanges. The course provides the opportunity to learn about deaf culture and gain insight about others around them.

Text: Signing Naturally Level 1, Dawn Sign Press, 2008, ISBN 1-58121-125-2

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

(1 year)

Physical Education

Physical Education provides an atmosphere where students will learn to exhibit Christian character through all aspects of activity. Students will develop movement skills enabling them to participate confidently in physical activity. They will also be instructed in good sportsmanship and taking personal responsibility. The goal of the program is to help students develop into well-rounded individuals who have the health, energy, and stamina to pursue every opportunity to its fullest.

Text: none

**ACADEMIC ELECTIVES: HIGH SCHOOL
PREP/DEBATE**

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students instruction in skills that will be important to future academic success. Each grade level will require students to participate in an academic elective that addresses another step in their development as a student and a contributing member of the school. In eighth grade, students will spend the first semester in a high school preparation class. They will learn how to fill out high school applications and develop interview skills. They will learn the art of debate in the second semester, which will help build their public speaking, research, and critical thinking skills.

Text: varies by elective assignment

MUSIC ELECTIVES

(1 semester each)

These courses offer students the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Beginning band introduces students to an instrument and also allows novice players the opportunity to develop their skills and musical theory. The Akronos Handbell Choir is open to students who have some music reading ability and who want the challenge of learning to play an instrument in a group setting. Performances for school events are part of the class expectations.

Needs: students must furnish their own instrument for band and their own gloves for handbells. Events outside of school hours may be part of the class requirements.

EXPOSURE ELECTIVES

(1 quarter each)

Exposure electives change every quarter and allow students to sample a wide variety of topics over the course of the year. The goal is that students will be able to explore gifts, talents, and interests that are just emerging and could lead to lifelong passions. Exposure electives vary widely based on student interest and staff availability. Examples of electives that may be offered are cooking, aerobics, dramatic reading, book club, game design and strategies, advanced art, golf, woodworking, digital photography, stop motion animation, science immersion and yearbook. Students will receive a course list prior to the beginning of each quarter with a detailed list of that quarter's classes.

Text: varies by elective assignment. There may be an additional fee for some classes.