



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE DESCRIPTION GUIDE

---

**GRADES 6 - 8  
2011-2012**

---

**LITITZ CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**  
501 WEST LINCOLN AVENUE  
LITITZ, PA 17543  
717-626-9518

## ENGLISH

### **English - Grade 6 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This course is designed to help the student master basic English grammar. It includes the study of parts of speech, punctuation, capitalization, usage, and sentence patterns. The student will be given opportunities to practice grammar skills through writing sentences, paragraphs, prose, poetry, and a research paper. Study skills and use of the library are included. Students will be assigned a weekly spelling and vocabulary list and will be given opportunities to develop oral speaking abilities. Students will write a research paper in conjunction with science class.

### **Reading - Grade 6 (Required) - 1 period per week**

Students will learn to recognize the basic elements of a story and reading strategies. Reading skills will be reviewed, and strategies of reading in the content areas will be emphasized. Students will read at least twenty novels both independently and as a class.

### **English - Grade 7 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

The seventh grade English course is designed to be a review and a continuation of sixth grade English. In addition to basic grammar, usage, and mechanics the students will be introduced to compound and complex sentences. Writing skills will be refined through use of the writing process. Students will write a research paper and participate in speaking and listening activities. Required reading will include the following: *Jacob Have I Loved*, *Tom Sawyer* or *Anne of Green Gables*, and *The Giver*. Weekly spelling and vocabulary lists will be assigned.

### **English - Grade 8 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

The eighth grade English course is a review and a continuation of seventh grade English. Parts of speech, sentences, usage, and mechanics will be reviewed. The study of verbals and complex sentences will be extended. Writing activities, speaking, listening, and vocabulary are all included. Required reading includes selections from *Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry*, *The Light In The Forest*, and *The Hobbit*. Students will research a historical event or time period and create an example of historical fiction. This piece is to be written in standard MLA format.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

### **World Geography - Grade 6 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This course emphasizes the regions of the world, with special emphasis on hands-on map skills and cultural distinctives. There is also a heavy emphasis on the geography of the United States, including the fifty states and capitals.

### **U.S. History I - Grade 7 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

Seventh grade history begins with the exploration of the New World, Native Americans, European influences in the New World, the colonization of North America, colonial life, the Great Awakening, pre-revolutionary relationships with Europe, and the American Revolution, the drafting of our Constitution, and concluding with John Adams' presidency. Along with this early American history, there will also be a correlating study on Pennsylvania history. Students are required to keep a binder with all work in it, including their homework check sheet. The major objective of the course is to help students see God's hand on our country's past as well as His overall design and control of history.

**U.S. History II - 19th Century - Grade 8 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

Eighth grade history begins with Post-Revolutionary America, as our newly born nation establishes the government of these United States, continuing through the end of the 19th Century. Among the topics explored are the Constitution, the Presidency, expansion, wars and conflicts, and Industrialization. Our goal is to see the ever-present hand of God in the events that have shaped our land.

**MATHEMATICS**

	Business	Foundational	College Prep.	Honors
6 <sup>th</sup>	No courses offered	Math 6		
7 <sup>th</sup>		Math 7	Pre-Algebra	
8 <sup>th</sup>		Pre-Algebra 8	Algebra I	Algebra I Honors
9 <sup>th</sup>		Basic Algebra I/Geometry	Geometry	Geometry Honors
10 <sup>th</sup>		Basic Geometry	Algebra II	Algebra II Honors
11 <sup>th</sup>	*Accounting I	Basic Algebra II	Pre-Calculus	Pre-Calculus Honors
12 <sup>th</sup>	*Accounting I/II	1 <sup>st</sup> Sem. – Business Math/Accounting 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem. – Basic Trigonometry	1 <sup>st</sup> Sem. – Calculus 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sem. - Statistics	AP Calculus AB

\* Students may receive Math credit for Accounting courses if they have successfully completed Algebra II.

- **IMPORTANT:** College Prep. and Honors tracks 8<sup>th</sup> grade **will be required** to have an approved fully operational graphing calculator. The approved graphing calculators are any TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator; regular, plus, or silver edition.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Math 6 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

Mathematics: Applications and Concepts is a three-course middle school series, beginning in 6<sup>th</sup> grade, intended to bridge the gap from elementary mathematics to Algebra 1. The program is designed to motivate students, enable them to see the usefulness of mathematics in the world around them, enhance their fluency in the language of mathematics, and prepare them for success in algebra and geometry.

**7<sup>th</sup> Grade**

**Foundational: Math 7 - 5 periods per week**

Building on the computational skills developed in sixth grade, this course adds further practical uses of mathematics, as well as concepts which are new to the student. Some topics covered include: statistics, metric measurement, basic geometry, the meaning of integers, rational and irrational numbers, and an introduction to equations. Emphasis will be placed on maintaining skills in operating on fractions and decimals and on the use of proportions to solve simple equations. The program is designed to motivate your students, enable them to see the usefulness of mathematics in the world around them, enhance their fluency in the language of mathematics, and prepare them for success in algebra and geometry. A calculator which operates on fractions and converts fractions to decimals and vice versa is required.

### **College Prep & Honors: Pre-Algebra- 5 periods per week**

Designed as an aid to making the transition from elementary mathematics to algebra, this course reinforces and builds upon basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents. The students will use basic principles of algebra and proportionality to analyze and represent linear functions. The properties of operations, integers, simple geometry and simple equation-solving techniques are taught and practiced. Techniques of general problem solving are taught with the goal of helping the student become a better problem solver. An emphasis is on improving reading and math literacy and using activities to increase reading and math understanding. A calculator that does basic math operations and square roots is required.

### ***8<sup>th</sup> Grade***

#### **Foundational: Pre-Algebra 8 - 5 periods per week**

Designed as an aid to making the transition from elementary mathematics to algebra, this course reinforces and builds upon basic operations with whole numbers, fractions, decimals, and percents. The students will use basic principles of algebra and proportionality to analyze and represent linear functions. The properties of operations, integers, simple geometry and simple equation-solving techniques are taught and practiced. Techniques of general problem solving are taught with the goal of helping the student become a better problem solver. An emphasis is on improving reading and math literacy and using activities to increase reading and math understanding. A calculator which does basic math operations and square roots is required.

#### **College Prep: Algebra I - 5 periods per week**

The Algebra I course includes concepts typically taught in college prep algebra and includes real world applications. This course uses a traditional text that covers topics such as; equations with more than one variable, inequalities, factoring, rational expressions, relations, linear and non-linear functions, radicals, and statistics and probability. Graphing calculators are used wherever possible to further student understanding of the concepts.

Prerequisite: C or above in 7<sup>th</sup> grade math

#### **Honors: Algebra I Honors— 5 periods per week**

This course uses a traditional text that covers topics such as: equations with more than one (1) variable, inequalities, absolute value equations, systems of equations, polynomials, factoring, rational expressions, relations, linear and non-linear functions, radicals, and statistics and probability. Background and supporting conceptual theory will be addressed whenever applicable.

Prerequisite: B or above in Pre-Algebra 7 and teacher approval

## **SCIENCE**

### **General Science - Grade 6 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This course is an overview of the many branches of science, including biology, chemistry, physical science, ecology, and earth science. Through a variety of hands-on projects and demonstrations, students will be introduced to the various fields as motivation for future study. A laboratory component to the various fields of study will also be included.

**Life Science - Grade 7 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

Students will formulate opinions and be able to debate earth's origins through coinciding God's intricate design patterns of life with the teachings of scripture. Hands-on interactive learning, coupled with review and testing, will provide the constant checks needed to assure the student's understanding of the material. Major topics will be: creation, cells, heredity, taxonomy, and the five kingdoms.

**Earth Science - Grade 8 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This course provides an overview of physical science relating to the earth. We will study earth systems, earth models, earth chemistry, geology, resources of the earth, fossils, weather, oceans, atmospheres, and creation. Basic lab procedures are emphasized throughout this course as well as a variety of hands-on projects, demonstrations, and applications.

**BIBLE**

**Redemption – God's Grand Design I - Grade 6 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This sixth grade Bible course traces the history of God's redemptive plan through the Old Testament. Examples are drawn from Christian history, which encourages students to apply Bible knowledge to their daily lives. Students will also practice Bible study skills and learn to use various Bible study tools. There is weekly memorization of scripture using a topical system.

**Redemption – God's Grand Design II - Grade 7 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This seventh grade Bible course picks up where we left off in grade six and continues the history of God's redemptive plan through the New Testament. Examples are drawn from Christian history, which encourages students to apply Bible knowledge to their daily lives. Students will also practice Bible study skills and learn to use various Bible study tools. There is weekly memorization of scripture using a topical system.

**New Testament Survey I - Grade 8 (Required) - 5 periods per week**

This first half of New Testament Survey will focus on the Life of Christ in the four Gospels and the days of the Early Church in the book of Acts. Material will be presented primarily in chronological order, with a few units more focused on specific topics.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION/HEALTH**

**Physical Education - Grades 6, 7, 8 (Required) - 1 or 2 periods per week**

Physical education is a phase of education concerned with developing physical skills, acquiring sports knowledge, and enhancing character through physical activities and games. This course will focus on three areas of physical education. The first area of focus will be the improvement of the student's fitness level. Through the use of activities that increase strength, flexibility, and endurance, each student will learn to improve his own fitness level. The second and third areas of focus will be on individual and team sports. The student will learn the rules and fundamentals of various games and will acquire skills that can be carried over into the adult life.

**Health - Grade 8 (Required) - 1 period per week**

This course considers two areas: The main emphasis includes various systems of the body, the organs of each system, how each functions properly, and how to best take care of each body system. The second area of emphasis deals with the human reproductive system, AIDS education, and STI's. These sensitive health issues are considered from a Christian perspective.

**FINE ARTS**

**Music - Grades 6, 7, 8 (Required) - 1 period per week**

Music classes will consist of learning the biblical background and principles of music, learning how to read and sing music, and the study of various historical time periods, focusing on composers and styles.

**Band - Grades 6, 7, 8 (Elective) - 2 periods per week**

Students will learn to play in concert with others, how to read the rhythms of assigned pieces, how to play scales in various rhythmic patterns, and how to follow a director. The band will perform at the Christmas concert, Spring Creative Arts Festival, and Baccalaureate.

Prerequisites: Approval of the instructor. Students who have successfully completed Method Book #1 are generally permitted to join the band. Sixth grade students must be in the elementary band and may audition to be in the junior/senior band. They may be in both bands.

**Choir - Grades 6, 7, 8 (Elective) - 2 periods per week**

This course consists of learning vocal and performance techniques and applying them to selected songs. Choir members will perform at Grandparents' Day, the Christmas concert, Spring Creative Arts Festival, and possibly Baccalaureate.

**Art - Grades 6, 7, 8 (Required) - 1 period per week**

This course will cover a wide range of basic art theory and media. We will explore color, composition, design, and drawing as related to other art projects. We will continue to paint and use pastels, colored pencils, ceramics, and oil pastels. We may delve into areas such as sculpture, puppetry, and printmaking.

**OTHER REQUIRED COURSES**

**Family and Consumer Science - Grade 7 (Required) - 4 periods per week**

The semester will offer the basics in life skills that will be used beyond the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Topics will include interior design, child development, cooking, nutrition, sewing and mending, and budgeting.

**Introduction to Office – Grade 6 (Required) – 1 period per week**

This course introduces students to the fundamentals of using Microsoft Word, a word processing program, and PowerPoint, a presentation tool. Students will take unit quizzes and work on quarterly projects incorporating their growing skill base. These programs are employed extensively throughout their school career, so performing well in this class will enable students to produce projects and presentations with greater ease and expertise.

**Computer Concepts - Grade 8 (Required) – 2 periods per week**

This course introduces students to information and skills necessary from behind the computer monitor. Computing topics include binary numbers, image representation, algorithms, information theory, file management, and basic programming. This course also includes one period per week of keyboarding skill practice.

**Introduction to Spanish I – Grade 6 (Required) – 2 periods per week**

The goal of this introductory course will be to familiarize students with Spanish pronunciation, vocabulary, simple sentence structure, and elements of the Hispanic culture, with an emphasis on our neighbor to the south. Basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar will be introduced through activities that teach Spanish numbers, colors, the alphabet, greetings, time-telling, the weather, verb infinitives, and simple dialogues.

**OTHER ELECTIVES**

**Creative Storytelling – Grades 6,7,8 – 1 period per week**

This course will explore the art of storytelling both in words and creatively. Students will produce several projects throughout the year, which will also serve as keepsakes from their middle years.

**Introduction to Spanish II – Grades 7, 8 – 2 periods per week**

The goal of this introductory course will be to further familiarize students with Spanish pronunciation, vocabulary, simple sentence structure, and elements of the Hispanic culture, with an emphasis on our neighbor to the south. Basic Spanish vocabulary and grammar will be introduced and reinforced with further study and activities that continue to teach Spanish numbers, colors, the alphabet, greetings, time-telling, the weather, verb infinitives, and simple dialogues.

**Intramural Sports - Girls – Grades 6-8 – 1 period per week**

This club is for girls interested in having fun through competition in various team sports. The girls will play soccer and ultimate frisbee in the fall, basketball and volleyball in the winter, and field hockey and softball in the spring. Class size is limited.

**Intramural Sports – Boys – Grades 6-8 – 1 period per week**

This club is for boys interested in having fun through competition in various team sports. The boys will play football and ultimate frisbee in the fall, volleyball and basketball in the winter, and soccer and softball in the spring. Class size is limited.

**Fantasy Sports Club – Grades 6-8 – 1 period per week**

The Fantasy Sports Club is for sports fanatics interested in managing their own baseball and football teams via a fantasy league set up on the computer. The winter months of this club will also include a March madness college basketball bracket challenge. This is not for the faint at heart! Class size is limited.

**Chess/Strategy Game Club – Grades 6-8 – 1 period per week**

Students will learn how to use basic game strategy through learning about and participating in strategic games such as Chess, Risk, etc. Students will practice against each other in preparation for a club tournament.

**Mentoring – Grades 6-8 – 1 period per week**

This club will be a time for middle school students to befriend and be mentored by a selected high school student of the same gender. Each week, there will be a time to build relationships based on social and spiritual interaction.

**Study Skills – Grades 6-8 – 1 or 2 periods per week**

Study Skills is a course for students who need extra help in the development of their organizational habits, study strategies, and time management. Learning methods as well as practical study and assignment help will be provided.

**Mission/Service League – Grades 6-8 – 2 periods per week**

The Mission/Service League provides an opportunity for middle school students to study the history of Christian missions and put study into practice by developing missions locally and globally.

**Sports Club - Grades 6-7 – 1 period per week**

The Sports Club is an opportunity to enjoy the fun of sport in many forms. Through play, through viewing, and through friendship we will enjoy our favorite sports together.

**Navigators' Club – Grades 6-7 Boys – 1 period per week**

In this club, we seek to navigate the early adolescent years by covering various topics that relate to school, relationships with peers, and life in general. Growing up is tough, and we hope to lighten the burdens by leaning on our brothers.

**Introduction to Sign Language – Grades 6-8 Girls – 1 period per week**

This club will serve as a basic introductory to the language of signing and finger spelling. Students will use the book The Joy of Signing as a foundation for this class. Throughout this class, students will discuss the history of sign language, understand the importance of body language and facial expressions while signing, and become fluent in finger spelling. Additionally, students will learn many everyday signs and how to put those signs together in sentence form to carry on basic conversations. Class size is limited.