



LITITZ CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

2023.2024

Middle School Programming Guide

Updated 05.17.2023

MISSION STATEMENT

Lititz Christian School partners with Christian families to provide a biblical, academic education which prepares students to honor Jesus Christ in scholarship, vocation, and lifestyle.

VISION

Equipping Minds, Enriching Souls, Empowering Lives: Our vision is to enrich curricula and experiential opportunities for those whom God sends us, and to maintain a level of excellence that honors Jesus Christ.

EXPECTED STUDENT OUTCOMES

Social	A student will exhibit respect for all people, regardless of gender, race, religion, etc., recognizing the inherent value of each person as an image-bearer of the Creator.
Spiritual	A student will be able to articulate and defend the foundational tenets of a Biblical worldview based on a well-developed knowledge of scripture, as well as understand other belief systems present in the world today.
Intellectual	A student will be an articulate communicator – both verbally and through writing – of the knowledge present in a general education and the application of that knowledge; able to form and support ideas and arguments, and to engage articulately and respectfully in the exchange of ideas with others.
Vocational	A student will develop a positive work ethic and cultivate the skills of studying, investigating, problem-solving, and decision-making.
Physical	A student will understand the value of a pure and healthy lifestyle for the body, the mind, and the spirit.
Emotional	A student will possess an understanding of his/her gifting, abilities, strengths, weaknesses, value, and identity as an image-bearer of Christ.

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PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAMMING GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to provide students, parents, and staff with an understanding of the guidelines, policies, and expectations regarding courses offered by Lititz Christian School. This guide is designed to provide sufficient information to help students plan their high school learning experience, giving consideration to both future educational and career goals. The LC Middle School Programming Guide is posted each spring for the following school year to help with course selection, scheduling, and answering FAQ. Lititz Christian School reserves the right to alter annual course offerings based on the needs and interests of our student body.

LC GRADING SYSTEM

A+ 100 – 96.5%	B+ 89 – 86.5%	C+ 79 – 76.5%	D+ 69 – 66.5%	F 59% and below
A 96 – 92.5%	B 86 – 82.5%	C 76 – 72.5%	D 66 – 62.5%	
A- 92 – 89.5%	B- 82 – 79.5%	C- 72 – 69.5%	D- 62 – 59.5%	

FOREIGN LANGUAGE DEPARTMENT

In grades 5-6, students will take a semester of French and a semester of Spanish. This exposes students to both languages and helps guide them in deciding which language they'd like to focus on moving into the higher grades.

In grades 7-8, students will select either French or Spanish as their foreign language. Students will then take that language for the full year. This focus on 1 language lays a foundation for high school, where students are required to take 1 year of a foreign language for graduation.

Students may choose to take a different language each year of 7th & 8th grade. They may also opt to take a different language in high school than they took in 7th or 8th grade. However, this is not recommended as the foreign language program is designed to build each year on previous skills and knowledge.

ELECTIVES

Two days a week, students have the opportunity to take elective courses. A student will select an elective for semester 1 and again for semester 2. Some electives students may take both semesters, some electives only run for 1 semester. A form will be emailed to parents prior to the start of each semester for students to choose their electives. These electives are a great opportunity for students to try new things!

See page 17-18 for elective course descriptions.

GRADE 5

Core Courses + Descriptions:

- Bible 5

This study provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God in the Old Testament. As students journey through this survey, they will discover truths and applications that God placed in the books of the Old Testament. God's gracious work is clear—from creation through the Old Testament.

- English 5

This course is a compilation of lessons that will help the student grow in the understanding of the English language & help the student grow as a writer. Topics included for writing are narratives, informative, persuasive, and descriptive. Topics included for grammar, usage, & mechanics are sentence and paragraph forms, nouns, verbs, pronouns, adjectives, and adverbs.

- Literature 5

This course will look at a compilation of different stories that will help you grow in your reading and comprehension. Topics include cause & effect, sequence of events, compare & contrast, drawing conclusions, main ideas, vocabulary, and several novels. This course will also give the student a chance to discuss novels with classmates in small groups.

- Math 5

In this course students will develop number sense by learning place value and working with computation of fractions and decimals. Students will also be introduced to some basic algebra and geometry concepts. This course offers a variety of mathematical content at a basic level preparing students with the foundations of mathematical understanding and reasoning.

- Science 5

This course is an introduction to science topics that will be covered throughout Middle and High School. Topics discussed include Living Things, Adaptations, Ecology, Energy, and Matter. 5th Grade Science evaluates God's character through observing, interpreting and exploring creation and life processes. God's purposeful design is examined through a biblical lens as students study biological, physical, and earth science.

- History 5

History 5 will broaden students' historical understanding of geography and cultures around the world. We will investigate how cultures and civilizations formed and how their societies flourished and were destroyed. The students will also identify how God has been present from the beginning of civilization while learning about the beliefs and practices of other civilizations.

Additional Courses:

- **Foreign Language** - *See page 4 for additional information*
In grades 5-6, students will take a semester of French and a Semester of Spanish. This exposes students to both languages and helps guide them in deciding which language they'd like to focus on moving into the higher grades.
- **Physical Education**
Students will have PE twice a week to keep students active, teach students the skills involved in various sports, and inspire students to maintain an active lifestyle.
- **Computer**
Students are taught basic computer skills of word processing, with a focus on the google suite, which LC uses extensively via Google Classroom in both middle school and high school. Students are also instructed in best practices for responsible digital citizenship.
- **Art**
Students experience hands-on art projects in various mediums to expose them to artistic terminology, practices, and methods. Instruction emphasizes unique artistic expression, affirmation of others' creativity, and collaboration, reminding students that we have been created to create.
- **STEAM**
Students have a weekly STEAM class that provides hands-on application of scientific principles students are learning their core science course. STEAM also provides cross-curricular opportunities, so students can see how the separate subjects they're learning about in their classes intersect.
- **Study Skills**
Students use this weekly class to develop strategies for note-taking, task initiation, organization, studying, and learning.
- **FLEX**
This period is the final period of the day and can be used in a variety of ways, including: study hall, to get help from a teacher, to ask questions, to make-up missing work, or to attend Math Lab or the Learning Lab.

5th Grade Field Trip Schedule:

Trip	Estimated Cost
Fall 2023: MS Service Trip	\$0
Fall 2023: Camp Swatara Fossil Dig	\$10
Spring 2024: Philadelphia Penn Museum	\$40

GRADE 6

Core Courses + Descriptions:

- **Bible 6**
This study provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God in the Old Testament. As students journey through this survey, they will discover truths and applications that God placed in the books of the Old Testament from Ezra-Malachi. God's gracious work is clear—from creation through the Old Testament.
- **Language Arts 6**
Language Arts 6 will guide and mold LC students into confident readers and writers through the implementation of reader's and writer's Workshop. Students will be immersed in a variety of mentor texts, reading a variety of literature and non-fiction. They will actively participate in read-alouds, independent reading, and small literature circle groups. Students will be expected to have an independent reading book for reader's workshop in progress throughout the year. In order to enhance their writing skills, students will work through multiple drafts of their writing pieces and receive written and oral feedback from both the teacher and their peers before completing final drafts. As a class, we will work together to examine written and spoken word through a biblical worldview and to make connections with course content, the bible, and our world today.
- **Math 6**
Students will cover a variety of math topics, ranging from computation of decimals and fractions to solving equations to dimensional analysis. The skills learned in this course will prepare students to take Pre-Algebra the following year.
- **Science 6**
After we review the fundamentals of science, the first 3 quarters will focus on our incredible planet as we study topics such as the features of the Earth, how maps are created and how to decipher them, the rock cycle, minerals and fossils, Earth's history, natural disasters, and atmosphere and weather. Students will study Astronomy for the last quarter of the course. We will discuss different views when approaching earth, which forces everyone to think and discover truth as we seek God's wisdom through creation and His Word.
- **History 6**
History 6 will build on themes and topics covered in history 5 by continuing to broaden students' historical understanding of geography and cultures around the world. We will continue to investigate how cultures and civilizations formed and how their societies flourished and impacted our modern world today. Students will also be immersed in a unit focused on community through studying the town of Lititz, PA, gaining a deep understanding of how the town of Lititz began. Students will explore how Christianity has impacted civilizations while gaining an understanding of the importance of religion to people and culture.

Additional Courses:

- **Foreign Language** - *See page 4 for additional information*
In grades 5-6, students will take a semester of French and a Semester of Spanish. This exposes students to both languages and helps guide them in deciding which language they'd like to focus on moving into the higher grades.
- **Physical Education**
Students will have PE weekly to keep students active, teach students the skills involved in various sports, and inspire students to maintain an active lifestyle.
- **Computer**
Students are taught basic computer skills of word processing, with a focus on the google suite, which LC uses extensively via Google Classroom in both middle school and high school. Students are also instructed in best practices for responsible digital citizenship.
- **Art**
Students experience hands-on art projects in various mediums to expose them to artistic terminology, practices, and methods. Instruction emphasizes unique artistic expression, affirmation of others' creativity, and collaboration, reminding students that we have been created to create.
- **STEAM**
Students have a weekly STEAM class that provides hands-on application of scientific principles students are learning their core science course. STEAM also provides cross-curricular opportunities, so students can see how the separate subjects they're learning about in their classes intersect.
- **Study Skills**
Students use this weekly class to develop strategies for note-taking, task initiation, organization, studying, and learning.
- **FLEX**
This period is the final period of the day and can be used in a variety of ways, including: study hall, to get help from a teacher, to ask questions, to make-up missing work, or to attend Math Lab or the Learning Lab.

6th Grade Field Trip Schedule:

Trip	Estimated Cost
Fall 2023: MS Service Trip	\$0
Fall 2023: Lititz Community Field Trip	\$0
Spring 2024: Philadelphia Penn Museum	\$40

GRADE 7

Core Courses + Descriptions:

- Bible 7

This study provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God in the Old Testament. As students journey through this survey, they will discover truths and applications that God placed in the books of the Old Testament. God's gracious work is clear—from creation through the Old Testament.

- Language Arts 7

This course will look at a compilation of different stories that will help you grow in your reading and comprehension. Topics include Fiction vs. Nonfiction, Short Stories, Poetry, and several novels. This course will also study personal and descriptive composition, grammar, usage, and mechanics, specifically components of a sentence and paragraph.

- Pre-Algebra 7

Pre-Algebra introduces the building blocks of algebra: variables, constants, expressions, equations. Students will review factoring, operating on integers, fractions, decimals, percents, and solving proportions. They'll learn to display information in various types of graphs. Throughout the course students will practice translating English into algebraic expressions/equations, and then simplify and solve them. The course will conclude with a foray into functions and their graphs. This course puts students on track to take Algebra 1 in 8th grade.

PREREQUISITE: Student needs to have earned an A- in Math 6 + receive their previous Math teacher's recommendation to enroll in this course.

- Pre-Algebra - Part A

Pre-Algebra A introduces the building blocks of algebra at a slower pacing than Pre-Algebra. This course covers the first half of Pre-Algebra in 1 year; then students who complete this course will cover the second half of the course content the following year in Pre-Algebra Part B. This puts students on track to take Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

- Science 6

This course is an introduction to science topics that will be covered throughout Middle and High School. Topics discussed include Living Things, Adaptations, Ecology, Energy, and Matter. 5th Grade Science evaluates God's character through observing, interpreting and exploring creation and life processes. God's purposeful design is examined through a biblical lens as students study biological, physical, and earth science.

- History 7

This course is an examination of U.S. history from pre-Columbus until the Civil War. It begins with native people groups, covers the colonization of America, the founding of the nation and the

challenges and conflicts that the new nation faced. Prominent Christian movements, figures, and contributions will be highlighted and a biblical worldview will be used to think critically about various movements, events, and ideas throughout this historical period. Developing social studies skills will be emphasized throughout the course, especially analyzing primary sources.

Additional Courses:

- **Foreign Language** - *See page 4 for additional information*
In grades 7-8, students will select either French or Spanish as their foreign language. Students will then take that language for the full year. This focus on 1 language lays a foundation for high school, where students are required to take 1 year of a foreign language for graduation.
- **Physical Education**
Students will have PE weekly to keep students active, teach students the skills involved in various sports, and inspire students to maintain an active lifestyle.
- **Computer**
Students are taught basic computer skills of word processing, with a focus on the google suite, which LC uses extensively via Google Classroom in both middle school and high school. Students are also instructed in best practices for responsible digital citizenship.
- **Art**
Students experience hands-on art projects in various mediums to expose them to artistic terminology, practices, and methods. Instruction emphasizes unique artistic expression, affirmation of others' creativity, and collaboration, reminding students that we have been created to create.
- **STEAM**
Students have a weekly STEAM class that provides hands-on application of scientific principles students are learning their core science course. STEAM also provides cross-curricular opportunities, so students can see how the separate subjects they're learning about in their classes intersect.
- **Study Skills**
Students use this weekly class to develop strategies for note-taking, task initiation, organization, studying, and learning.
- **FLEX**
This period is the final period of the day and can be used in a variety of ways, including: study hall, to get help from a teacher, to ask questions, to make-up missing work, or to attend Math Lab or the Learning Lab.

7th Grade Field Trip Schedule:

Trip	Estimated Cost
Fall 2023: MS Service Trip	\$0
Fall 2023: Lititz Park Stream Study	\$10
Spring 2024: Historic Philadelphia	\$40

GRADE 8

Core Courses + Descriptions:

- Bible 8

This study provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God in the Old Testament. As students journey through this survey, they will discover truths and applications that God placed in the books of the Old Testament. God’s gracious work is clear—from creation through the Old Testament.

- Language Arts 8

Language Arts 8 will focus on effective communication through various modes. Students will interact with various texts including works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama as a model of expression. They will practice synthesizing information and exercise their creativity in order to create a final product. Students will be presented with opportunities to connect scripture with the literature analyzed and will practice the skill of examining concepts through the lens of Scripture, seeing things from a Biblical worldview. While covering the essential language arts topics including reading, writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar, we will continue to seek how to bear Christ’s light in a dark and hurting world through effective use of language.

- Language Arts 8 Honors

Language Arts 8 Honors will focus on effective communication through various modes. Students will interact with various texts including works of fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and drama as a model of expression as they delve deeper into the content area. They will practice synthesizing information and exercise their creativity in order to create a final product. Students will be presented with opportunities to connect scripture with the literature analyzed and will practice the skill of examining concepts through the lens of Scripture, seeing things from a Biblical worldview. While covering the essential language arts topics including reading, writing, speaking, vocabulary, and grammar, we will continue to seek how to bear Christ’s light in a dark and hurting world through effective use of language. This class will work more independently from the teacher and go deeper into topics covered. Students will write and read more in order to prepare them for high school honors level English.

PREREQUISITE: Student needs to have earned a B+ in previous English class + receive their previous English teacher’s recommendation to enroll in this honors course.

- Algebra 1

Pre-Algebra introduces the building blocks of algebra: variables, constants, expressions, equations. Students will review factoring, operating on integers, fractions, decimals, percents, and solving proportions. They’ll learn to display information in various types of graphs. Throughout the course students will practice translating English into algebraic expressions/equations, and then simplify and solve them. The course will conclude with a foray into functions and their graphs. This course puts students on track to take either Geometry Honors or Algebra 2 Honors in high school.

- **Pre-Algebra - Part B**

Pre-Algebra A introduces the building blocks of algebra at a slower pacing than Pre-Algebra. This course covers the first half of Pre-Algebra in 1 year; then students who complete this course will cover the second half of the course content the following year in Pre-Algebra Part B. This puts students on track to take Algebra 1 in 9th grade.

- **Science Survey**

This course is an extensive study of our eleven organ systems that the Lord has given mankind. We discuss the functions, parts, and diseases associated with each organ system all while answering the question: how can I honor God and his design of this organ system? We couple this learning with practicing social emotional skills that aid us in becoming a person of character and a healthy 8th grade body. We end the year with an intro to environmental science as we talk about the health of the environment and how it is connected to our health.

- **History 8**

This course is an examination of U.S. history from after the Civil War up until recent history. We begin with the recovery process from the Civil War and follow as American society continues to change into the nation that we have today. Prominent Christian movements, figures, and contributions will be highlighted and a biblical worldview will be used to think critically about various movements, events, and ideas throughout this historical period. Developing social studies skills will be emphasized throughout the course, especially analyzing primary sources.

Additional Courses:

- **Foreign Language - *See page 4 for additional information***

In grades 7-8, students will select either French or Spanish as their foreign language. Students will then take that language for the full year. This focus on 1 language lays a foundation for high school, where students are required to take 1 year of a foreign language for graduation.

- **Physical Education**

Students will have PE weekly to keep students active, teach students the skills involved in various sports, and inspire students to maintain an active lifestyle.

- **Computer**

Students are taught basic computer skills of word processing, with a focus on the google suite, which LC uses extensively via Google Classroom in both middle school and high school. Basic coding is also taught, along with best practices for responsible digital citizenship.

- **Art**

Students experience hands-on art projects in various mediums to expose them to artistic terminology, practices, and methods. Instruction emphasizes unique artistic expression, affirmation of others' creativity, and collaboration, reminding students that we have been created to create.

- **STEAM**

Students have a weekly STEAM class that provides hands-on application of scientific principles students are learning their core science course. STEAM also provides cross-curricular opportunities, so students can see how the separate subjects they're learning about in their classes intersect.

- **Study Skills**

Students use this weekly class to develop strategies for note-taking, task initiation, organization, studying, and learning.

- **FLEX**

This period is the final period of the day and can be used in a variety of ways, including: study hall, to get help from a teacher, to ask questions, to make-up missing work, or to attend Math Lab or the Learning Lab.

8th Grade Field Trip Schedule:

Trip	Estimated Cost
Fall 2023: MS Service Trip	\$0
Fall 2023: Historic Gettysburg	\$35
Spring 2024: Franklin Institute	\$40
Spring 2024: Service Retreat	\$150

ELECTIVES

Semester 1: Elective Options + Descriptions

- **Survival Skills**
Students have the opportunity to go out into nature and be taught basic skills of survival using things that nature provides. Building fires, navigation, etc.
- **Yearbook**
This elective works on the production of the middle school yearbook, published in the spring. Students take pictures, create page layouts, edit text, and cultivate teamwork as they work toward a shared goal.
- **Cross-Stitch**
This craft elective teaches students the basics of cross-stitching. Choosing patterns, following a design, and creating a beautiful piece of hand-stitched art.
- **Robotics**
Students participate in engineering robots, learning how to design robots, write code, and program their creations.
- **Court Sports**
In this PE elective, students will participate in flag football for Quarter 1, then (as the weather gets cold) basketball for Quarter 2. The basic skills for each sport are taught along with loads of opportunity to get into teams and play.
- **Create-and-Relate**
This art elective with Mrs. T provides a unique experience to meaningfully engage with art and each other. Students will participate in various art and crafting projects as well as have the opportunity to talk through day-to-day struggles, ask questions, encourage each other, and hear from their teachers encouragement and biblical counsel.
- **Leadership**
Students are taught the tenets of what makes strong leaders, explore examples of successful leadership in action, and take opportunities to lead in their own classes and community.

Semester 2: Elective Options + Descriptions

- **God's Creation/Nature Appreciation**

Students have the opportunity to go out into nature and explore the complexity and beauty of God's creation. Mr. Whiting will take students on walks; help them discover ecosystems; explain bird, plant and insect varieties; and provide a fuller picture of the amazing world that surrounds us.

- **Yearbook**

This elective works on the production of the middle school yearbook, published in the spring. Students take pictures, create page layouts, edit text, and cultivate teamwork as they work toward a shared goal.

- **Digging Into History**

Students get to engage with historical figures as real people, learning about kings and queens, explorers, and others whose stories have endured through time. This elective brings history to life.

- **Robotics**

Students participate in engineering robots, learning how to design robots, write code, and program their creations.

- **Court Sports**

In this PE elective, students will participate in **volleyball** for Quarter 3, then **speedball** for Quarter 4. The basic skills for each sport are taught along with loads of opportunity to get into teams and play.

- **Create-and-Relate**

This art elective with Mrs. T provides a unique experience to meaningfully engage with art and each other. Students will participate in various art and crafting projects as well as have the opportunity to talk through day-to-day struggles, ask questions, encourage each other, and hear from their teachers encouragement and biblical counsel.

- **Leadership**

Students are taught the tenets of what makes strong leaders, explore examples of successful leadership in action, and take opportunities to lead in their own classes and community.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Middle School Summer Reading Challenge Board

DIRECTIONS:

- Your goal this summer is to read at least **two** books of your choice from any place on the reading challenge board.
- Choose books that interest you and will challenge you.
- Record the book title, author, date started, date completed, a rating out of 5 stars, and write 3-5 sentences about why you would or would not recommend the book on the attached sheet.
- Return your board and log on the first day of school to your Language Arts teacher for your first participation grade of the school year.

EXTRA CHALLENGE- How many READ combinations can you get!? **One book counts for one box**

ACADEMIC HONESTY: By signing below, I am indicating that I have completed the minimum of **2** books and the information on these pages is accurate.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

R	E	A	D
A book that your friend recommended	A book by a first time (debut) author	A book with mythical characters	A historical fiction book
A book published the year you were born	A book about a vacation	A book where the main character's name is in the title	A graphic novel
A book about an athlete or sport	A book recommended by a teacher	A book with a religious theme	A book with a map
A book about a middle schooler	A book that takes place entirely in one day	A book recommended by a family member	A book with an animal character

Reading Challenge Log

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Date Started: _____ Date Completed: _____



Write 3-5 sentences about why you would or would not recommend the book.

Reading Challenge Log

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Date Started: _____ Date Completed: _____



Write 3-5 sentences about why you would or would not recommend the book.
