

**Portland Christian
Jr. High School
Academic Catalog
2018-2019**



PORTLAND CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

EST. 1947

At Portland Christian, we recognize the unique character and characteristics of the junior high-aged child and strive to offer an education that meets the needs of the child during this transitional period. In general, students in this age bracket exhibit a tremendous number of changes in their physical, intellectual, social, and educational growth. Nowhere in their educational experience will so many transformations occur at different rates than in this age student. Because our students exhibit a variety of academic and social levels and abilities, we provide a program that enables us to meet them where they are and challenge them to grow. Just as important in our educational setting, we take extreme care amongst our faculty and administration to uphold and model Biblical, Christ-like standards of attitudes, conduct, and speech.

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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

BIBLE

At Portland Christian, we believe that, "the Bible is the greatest of all books, to study it is the noblest of all pursuits, to understand it, the highest of all goals" (Charles C. Ryrie). As Christians, we must base everything that we think and do upon the Word of God. We must start with the inerrant Word of Creator God and compare all other thoughts to it. "For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen" (Romans 11:36). The school is committed to teaching fundamental truths that are clearly Bible-based and set forth in Scripture, integrating them into all areas of life, thus enabling students to develop a proper biblical world and life view.

Bible 6

This course is a survey of the New Testament with special emphasis on practical application of New Testament teachings. Because our goal in Bible class for all grades is for students to understand the truth of God's word and to live it, sixth grade Bible is a course designed to help prepare young people to live a Christian life that is grounded in and shaped by God's Word. Special focus is given to the foundational teachings from the Bible about the nature and character of God, the qualities of His people, and His Church.

Bible 7

Seventh grade Bible is an Old Testament overview. The course is designed to give each student a conceptual grasp of the Old Testament. Lessons are designed to enable students to think through each period of Old Testament history with its distinctives while at the same time seeing the common threads of man's sin, God's redemptive plan, and God's sovereignty. The course is approached from a historical perspective with the Prophetic and Poetic Books included in the appropriate periods. Special emphasis is also given to major events such as Creation, the Fall of Man, the Flood, the Tower of Babel, the Exodus, and the focus on a coming Messiah (Savior). Lessons are also learned by studying the lives of some of the different characters found in the Old Testament.

Bible 8

Eighth grade Bible is designed to give the student a conceptual overview of the New Testament. Lessons are designed to enable students to think through: (1) the life of Christ and His ministry, opposition to that ministry as it peaked and culminated in the Cross, (2) the Resurrection and its implications for the future, and (3) the birth and growth of the Church in the first century. At the same time students should see the common threads of man's sin, Christ's substitutionary death, eternal life, New Testament church patterns, and the distinctives of the Christian life. The course is approached from a historical perspective with the Epistles being studied with the period in which they were written.

ENGLISH

At Portland Christian Junior High School we recognize "that all truth is God's truth," regardless of the channels. The Language Arts program is designed to improve the students' awareness of the important role that language and literature play in their lives. Students are urged to develop and refine their language abilities. They are encouraged, within their Christian worldview, to realize their need for discernment in all literature.

English 6

In English 6, students will write and publish multiple pieces of writing. An emphasis will be placed on independent reading and writing for an audience. Common Core Standards at this level emphasize instruction in non-fiction writing.

English 7

The Language Arts are an amazing gift of God, given for the purpose of relationship and worship. In seventh grade English, we study literature, grammar, composition, vocabulary, and spelling. Students are guided to develop critical thinking skills and effectively integrate a Biblical worldview within all areas of Language Arts. In keeping with Common Core Standards, a common thread in all of our reading activities is using evidence from the text to both comprehend and to discuss what is read; and we place an emphasis on informational text, both in reading and in writing. Skills in grammar, vocabulary, and spelling are taught directly and in the context of reading and writing.

English 8

In English 8, the purpose is to train students in reading, writing and speaking skills so that they will be discerning readers, fluent writers and compelling speakers who bring glory to God through the gift of language. Students will look at short stories; reading them and writing them. The course will continue the study of grammar to see God's creative genius in the structure of language, composition to join as sub-creators in God's created world, and finally literature to see revealed truth within literature.

MATHEMATICS

The foundation of Portland Christian High School's math department is that mathematics is an entity which always exists in the mind of God; it is a universal expression of His creative and sustaining Word of power. If mathematics is God's thought, then the beauty, order, infinitude, and power mathematics exhibits are reflections of God's "power and Godhead"(Rom 1:20). The student, beholding the glory of the Creator, is changed into Christ's likeness (2 Cor. 3:18), thus fulfilling his destiny as a Christian (Rom. 8:29, 1 John 3:2). These are the theoretical, abstract, and structural aspects of mathematics. We teach students that they need mathematics to obey God's command to subdue and replenish the earth and to take dominion over it (Gen. 1:28). These are the vocational, scientific, and applied aspects of mathematics.

Math 6

This math course intended to help students understand and develop the skills needed for Pre-Algebra. Topics emphasized are: real numbers concepts and skills involving fundamental operations with numbers, equations, inequalities and simpler Algebra and Geometry concepts. The course establishes and reinforces the foundation necessary for more advanced mathematic courses.

Math 7

In this course students will be able to state the nature and purpose of mathematics and accurately use the vocabulary, symbolism, and operations of arithmetic, especially fractions, ratios and percentages. Students will begin the basics of geometry, including areas of triangles, parallelograms, and circles, use the metric system in solving problems, and translate word problems from English to mathematical terms. The course establishes and reinforces the foundation necessary for more advanced mathematics. Additionally, the goal is that in the process, students will come to appreciate math as an amazing language designed by God to help us make sense of our world.

Math 8/Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra covers the material essential to preparing a student to take Algebra 1. The topics covered include fundamentals of arithmetic, simplifying and developing algebraic expressions, exponents, writing and solving equations and inequalities, linear functions and graphing, probability and data analysis, introduction to geometry, and application of solid geometrical shapes and their measures. Minimal calculator use is required.

Based on assessments and teacher recommendation, a student will follow one of these paths

- Math 7, Math 8, Algebra 1
- Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1

NOTE: Advanced 8th grade math students may be placed in an Algebra I, Geometry, or Algebra 2 class. These students will be taught at the same level and degree of rigor as any student at the Senior High school level; thus High School credit will be awarded and included on a student's transcript upon completion.

Algebra 1

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra or teacher approval

Algebra 1 is the first higher level math course available to a junior high student. It introduces students to the world of abstract mathematics. This course lays the foundation of skills necessary for geometry and higher level math and provides opportunities for the mathematically gifted to stretch their thinking and gain the confidence to plunge into new ideas. Only minimal calculator use is required.

Geometry

Prerequisite: Algebra 1

Geometry will cover concepts of spatial relationships integrated with algebra and trigonometry. It will include analyzing and evaluating geometric problems, constructing proofs, and deductive and inductive reasoning. In geometry the students will develop the formalized reasoning skills to construct well-reasoned arguments applicable to all areas of study and thought. A scientific or graphing calculator is required.

Algebra 2

Prerequisite: Geometry

Algebra 2 students are introduced to advanced algebraic concepts and techniques that are required for success in higher level math courses, standardized testing, and college. These include functions and abstract expressions, matrices, graphing, absolute value inequalities, and other concepts. Algebra 2 must be followed by Advanced Algebra in order to provide the minimum level of math that Portland Christian requires for graduation. **A graphing calculator is required (TI-Nspire CX CAS is recommended).**

SCIENCE

The Science Department at Portland Christian accepts the Bible as the inerrant Word of God. For this reason, science is taught from a literal creation account, based on observable scientific phenomena. Students are taught that true science is the study and investigation of the universe that God has created.

Science 6 (Earth Science)

Through a combination of lecture, discussion, hands-on laboratory activities, and special projects, students in Science 6 will focus on the study of Earth and Space. All scientific concepts are taught from a distinctively Christian perspective, based primarily on the Genesis account of creation. Through their study of the natural world (God's creation), students learn to better appreciate and understand God's character and attributes.

Science 7 (Life Science)

This class is designed to introduce students to the characteristics of living things; to study the diversity of organisms created by God in order for them to see His character in His creation. Using as much lab work as possible, it is our goal that students develop a sense of wonder about God's creation. It is important that the student see the overall design of the creation and learn how to apply the scientific method to problem solving. In this course, students will understand the Genesis account of Creation as opposed to evolution. As students understand the characteristics of living things, they will describe the steps in the scientific method, use the metric system, and explain cell theory and how living things are classified. Students will be introduced to the concepts of simple organisms and the comparative anatomy of higher order animals.

Science 8 (Physical Science)

This course is centered on the physical sciences, accompanied by applications in earth and space sciences. The physical sciences are a practical study of the relationship between matter and energy in God's Creation, and include the introduction of physical laws and chemical processes. Students are provided with a variety of experiences to help them develop and apply critical thinking skills. During this course, students will be able to define physical science, describe and experience some of the activities used by scientists in solving problems, outline and follow the scientific method, perform laboratory experiments that illustrate key concepts, and distinguish quantitative and qualitative characteristics. Students will perform all calculations using significant digits and use the factor-label method to solve problems. They will recognize the difference between the Christian world view and the non-Christian, naturalistic world view, and realize that the implications of their world view will determine how they think and what they conclude about all of life.

SOCIAL STUDIES

The Department of Social Studies at the junior high level encompasses a broad range of course work, including World Geography and US History. In the history class the student is exposed to the revelation of God in time, space and human events. History is the realm of unrepeatable phenomena, with certain consequences for human knowledge and understanding. In history dwells the unveiling of the personal God, His character, His attributes, and His nature. Through the study of the past and God's clarification of that past, we also come to grip with who man is today.

Social Studies 6

Social Studies 6 focuses on world geography and culture. The purpose of this course is to expose sixth grade learners to modern political, and physical geography, while focusing on ancient civilizations of the “old world.” Students will learn cultural and physical regions of the world, while gaining an appreciation for and an understanding of 9 ancient civilizations. (Polynesian, Maori, Sumerian, Ancient Egyptian, Hebrew, Ancient Indian, Ancient Chinese, Ancient Greek, and Persian).

Social Studies 7

In Social Studies 7 (Ancient World), students will view history through the lens of what mankind has done with the time God has given him. Specifically, an exploration of what was going on throughout the world – Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas – in the Medieval Era, between the ancient times and modern times (approximately 500 AD {BCE} to 1500 AD {CE}: common era, as it is often referred to today); geography is integrated throughout. A key focus of this class is to develop critical thinking skills, examining the *how* and *why* of history. Particular attention is given to comprehending informational texts, along with researching and writing informational texts (essays and research papers).

Social Studies 8

The 8th grade American History course seeks to help students develop an understanding of the mind of Christ. Students will be able to define a Christian world view of history, identify how the Old World inhabitants discovered and explored the New World, identify the process by which major European nations established colonies in the New World, and explain the establishment of the U. S. as a separate nation through the Constitution. In general, this course will deal with United States History beginning with the first Americans and extending through US Reconstruction following the Civil War. The course will work within eight areas of focus for social studies in preparation for high school courses: geography, politics, ideologies, religion, art, technology, economics and societies.

JUNIOR HIGH ELECTIVES

At Portland Christian we believe that the middle school years are unique ones. Through our elective course offering we help prepare our junior high students for high school and beyond. Electives do not provide in-depth coverage of a single subject matter. Instead, most are designed as exploratory classes to provide opportunities for our students to gain “hands-on” experience. Band, Spanish 1, and Yearbook are the only full year electives offered, the others are semester courses. At this time we offer the following electives (subject to change):

Art A and Art B

It is a unique privilege to be made in the image of our Creator God. The process of creating reveals the very nature of God and offers a means for glorifying Him. In Junior High Art, students will have the opportunity for creative expression in two and three-dimensional art, learn the basic elements of design, and become familiar with the works of some major artists. Studio projects are designed to expose students to art history, new art techniques, and creative problem solving. Art A and Art B will provide a varied experience and one does not need to take one before the other, they may be taken sequentially or in isolation.

Intermediate Concert Band

In this course, students develop technical skill on their respective instruments. As these skills are developed, students will learn to interpret music with sensitivity, and musicality is acquired through various rehearsal formats.

Keyboarding

Students in Keyboarding will learn keyboarding technique and understand that computer literacy is absolutely necessary in today’s culture. This is a required Junior High course that must be completed by the end of 8th grade. Student may test out if they can prove an ability to type 40 WPM with no errors.

Computer and Digital Media

In this course, the student will complete training in various categories and interests related to computers and digital media. Students need to provide their own set of headphones. Instruction will be individually focused and students will follow a guide for learning. Online interactive instruction will be paired with teacher guidance, to create a variety of experiences for the student. A list of learning opportunities offered within this course include: Google apps, Blogger, Chrome, Digital Etiquette/netiquette, The Internet, Evernote, Gmail, Google Drive, Google Search, iPad/iPhone, Microsoft Office 2013, Notability, Survey Monkey, Word Press, Yahoo, and more!

Yearbook/Photography

The primary objective is to create and produce a yearbook reflective of Portland Christian MS's year and students in a manner that glorifies God. Students will work independently as well as in groups to document the school year through use of photography, story, captions, layout, design, interview and other journalism techniques. To prepare for production students will be presented lessons and a chance to practice design fundamentals, layout, typography, camera use, image composition, goal setting, interviewing, as well as other aspects of student journalism and yearbook production. Students will use school equipment (digital cameras and computer programs) provided.

Drama

The purpose of this course is to give junior high students the opportunity to honor God through a genuine theater production experience. This will include learning about the process of theatrical production from auditions to final performance. Special emphasis will be placed on stagecraft vocabulary, acting vocabulary, and theater etiquette. Students will learn the basis of successful public speaking as well. There will be performances held during the evening once near the end of the semester, with rehearsals held after school in preparation. Participation in this event is expected.

Choir

Middle School Choir is an elective designed to do four things: introduce students to choral music and choral singing; give students confidence in singing, whether they are new to singing or have been performing all their lives; teach and develop basic music concepts, particularly as they apply to singing; and through all these steps, serve as a "feeder" for high school choir. As singing is one of the many ways God has given us to worship Him, Middle School Choir is for anyone! There will be performances held during the evening a couple times during the semester. Participation in these events is expected.

PE

The purpose of the PE Department is to develop students who understand the relationship between stewardship, wellness, and its influence in their pursuit of God's will in lifelong service. This class introduces students to multiple sports and activities to provide them the opportunity to learn and improve skills which they can use later in life to keep a healthy lifestyle. Through a variety of PE activities the students will develop muscular coordination, agility, cardiovascular endurance, mental alertness, and an appreciation for personal hygiene. In competitive situations the student will have opportunity to learn sportsmanship, teamwork and self-control. Students are required to wear a PCS PE uniform and tennis shoes for every class.

Introduction to Spanish

Junior High Introduction to Spanish is a basic, introductory foreign language course which introduces students to the foundations of foreign language learning. Classroom emphasis includes focus on topics regarding personal introductions, numbers, colors, weather, and time. Students are introduced to the concept of thinking in another language and viewing that language through the lens of a native speaker, as opposed to thinking in their own language. Basic vocabulary and grammar concepts are introduced through a variety of creative activities, games, memorization, and assignments. Cultural elements are incorporated throughout the course to promote interest and relevance in the language.

Learning Lab

Study Skills: Students will gain strategies for effective study, including organizational skills and note-taking. Students receive individual guidance and practice while developing abilities.

Tutoring: Students will receive peer/teacher tutoring in a supervised and supportive setting.

Course Management: Students will receive individual support for courses they are taking at Portland Christian. A pass (P) grade is earned.

ELECTIVES FOR HIGH SCHOOL CREDIT:

Spanish, Level I: 7th or 8th grade

Credit: 1.0

This course is a beginning foreign language course which emphasizes the skills of listening and speaking so that students are able to communicate in Spanish on a basic level. Vocabulary and grammar are acquired through memorization, conversation, role play, and other interactive activities. Grammar content includes, but is not limited to, regular and irregular verbs in the present tense, interrogatives, negatives, adjectives, possessives, and articles. Vocabulary acquisition is a major part of the course and includes basic words and phrases necessary for use in a variety of contexts. The skills of reading and writing are developed through cultural references, short stories, creative writing, and written exercises. The culture of many Spanish-speaking countries will be explored.

Latin, Level I: 8th grade

Credit: 1.0

This course provides a first year introduction to the Latin language. Students will read stories of Roman life in Latin so that they learn about Roman culture and history as well as Latin vocabulary and grammar. The course will make connections between the Latin language and Roman civilization and the many varied subjects for which they are a foundation: English, Spanish, Italian, and French, law, medicine, biology, history and archaeology. All students participate in the National Latin Exam in March, which is paid for and administered by Portland Christian.

LEARNING SUPPORT

It is the policy (5.10.12) of Portland Christian to offer a class as an elective for students who are struggling academically. In this class, **Learning Lab**, the student will receive individualized support for homework and organizational skills.

They may also have individualized academic accommodations throughout their classes if needed.

1. Parents, Principal, or teachers may refer a student to the Dean and/or Director of Student Support to be considered for assistance through the Learning Lab regarding study skills or tutoring. A student may be accepted as a student at PC on the condition that the student is in such a course. The parents may be required to seek outside testing, counseling, or other interventions if needed.
2. The Dean, Director of Student Support, and teacher may create an Action Plan for the student to guide the support provided, or accommodations, when needed.
3. Some students in who receive assistance from the Learning Lab do not need classroom accommodations. These students will utilize the class time to do homework and learn organizational strategies.
4. A student may require minor accommodations in one or more of their courses. These accommodations will allow the student to access the same information as the rest of the class. Such students will generally be required to learn the same content and be responsible for showing that knowledge.
 - A typical minor accommodation might include: shortened assignments, more time to complete assignments, testing location, seating assignment, break during class period, additional time to complete tests, etc.
5. A student that is not able to keep up with their coursework (with reasonable accommodations) may be eligible for extensive accommodations which would require them to receive a modified diploma. This level of change to the student's academic plan would require a decision by the Principal and the student's parents. Working toward a modified diploma would mean that the student's grades would be modified and they would not be held accountable for the same level of content as the rest of the students. This arrangement is reserved for rare situations that require such a plan.
6. All factors will be taken into consideration before placing a student with an accommodation plan on academic probation. This decision will be made by the teachers, Director of Student Support, Dean, and Principal.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

The Arts

Junior high students may choose to audition for the school-wide fall and spring drama/musical productions. They may also submit artwork for the spring art show. The band, drama and choir will perform at various times throughout the year.

Athletics

Because Portland Christian Junior High resides on the same campus as PC High School, our students can take advantage of all the facilities our high school program has to offer. This includes a state-of-the-art track and field. Students can participate in football, basketball, track, volleyball, baseball, and soccer.

Clubs/Activities

Students may participate in Student Council, Art Club, and the Ski Club. The Student Council exists to promote Christian example and develop leadership potential in our Junior High School students.

Annual Serve Day

Every spring, PCS junior high and high school students take a full day and serve the community with a missional focus. Small groups of students, teachers, and parents, participate in this serve day. The groups go out for the day to food banks, public elementary schools, parks, shelters, churches, senior centers, etc. A reflection and sharing of experiences occurs back on campus.

Outdoor School

The sixth grades students and teachers experience a week (4 days/3nights) of Outdoor School each fall. This is a time for learning in the beauty of God's creation. Educational activities include science, math, history, art, and language. There are opportunities for numerous recreational activities as well each afternoon. Campfires, skits, music, and special guest speakers are enjoyed in the evenings. PCS provides cabin accommodations and meals for this experience.

Weekly Chapels

Students enjoy a weekly chapel experience where they worship with music and learn about God's love for them. Students are invited to participate in the worship group, signing or playing an instrument, with the direction of a teacher. There are occasional guest speakers (missionaries, youth pastor, community members) that bring a message for chapel. Often a teacher, school leader, or high school student will speak.

After School Tutoring

Students are encouraged to seek additional academic assistance from their teachers each day, 3-3:45 pm. This time should be planned for with the teacher, student, and parent. It is intended for homework, to make-up a test, to have a paper reviewed and edited, work on a large project, review vocabulary, get organized, read a book, or to address any other academic needs a student may have. This time can be required by a teacher if a student is falling behind in class.

END