

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
7TH & 8TH GRADE



2019-2020
**CURRICULUM
OVERVIEW**

LEGACY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
MIDDLE SCHOOL
7th & 8th Grade

Middle School at Legacy is all about “**Inspiring Students to The Great Adventure of Life with Christ.**” The Great Adventure is not just the one-time event of accepting Christ for salvation, but it is learning to follow where Jesus leads with the understanding that He has a Great Adventure in store for those who love and follow Him.

As a part of “The Great Adventure”, we commit to the following promises:

- We will **KNOW** your child
- We will **LOVE** your child
- We will **PREPARE** your child

Your children have loving and experienced guides in the 7/8th Grade teaching team and they are committed to helping your children build both the important academic skills they need for their futures AND the character they need to succeed in life. Below are some of the ways we engage with students to make that happen.

LOVE and LOGIC

At Legacy, we know that every child is part of a family, and caring about families is important to us. As a Love and Logic school, we focus on helping children develop personal responsibility, self-control and good decision making skills by nurturing long-term relationships and reinforcing good character. We urge parents to become familiar with Love and Logic parenting techniques - they will pay great dividends down the road. Please go to www.loveandlogic.com and sign up for the Insider’s Club, the free, weekly parenting email.

Does your child have GRIT?

It is good for us all to experience hard things, including our children. Those hard things could be academic, relational, social, athletic or even spiritual. Research is now showing that the most successful adults have something called GRIT - that ability to withstand difficulties and use those experiences help them forge ahead when future difficulties arise. Middle School provides a valuable opportunity for students to begin to develop GRIT.

G - Growth (seeing difficulties as growth opportunities)

R - Resilience (being able to get up after a setback)

I - Intuition (knowing when to hold ‘em and when to fold ‘em)

T - Tenacity (the ability to push forward through difficulty into the future)

Strengths

Have you ever wondered why you do the things you do that are completely opposite to the way someone else likes to do it? That is the way it is supposed to be. God has made each of us uniquely, with our individual strengths. Middle School introduces students to the concept of Strengths by taking an individual assessment. Once the strengths are identified, over the course of time in Middle School we take opportunities to recognize and develop strengths in the students.

Trail Life

All 7th and 8th students are part of a small group of boys or girls that meets once or twice a week. Trail Life is designed to provide a place for Christian community with other students in which each student can be connected to a caring adult leader. In addition, we have a specific focus on the area of character development as an essential life skill.

Eagle Electives

All 7th and 8th students get to participate in Fall, Winter and Spring Eagle Electives that allows them to learn new skills, or just have fun. These operate every other Thursday during the school day.

LCA YOU

As Legacy embraces the goal to education the whole child, we are excited to expand our middle school curriculum to include classes designed to equip your children to be successful beyond the world of Legacy and academics. Our LCA YOU program will be taught on Legacy half days, and will include 64 classes across grades 5th-8th, addressing the following domains: Study Skills, Aspire practice, Mental Health Awareness, Physical Health, Personal Relationships, Strengths, Finances, Technology, and Team Building. We at Legacy desire for all children to gain a better understanding of themselves and the world around them. We desire all children to find their purpose in life and use that purpose to glorify God. LCA YOU will give them additional tools to do just that!!

Parent Education Program (PEP Talks)

We are excited this year to partner more closely with our parents as you strive to do the most difficult and yet honorable job afforded to mankind: the job of raising Godly young adults for the next generation. Join us for 6 PEP talks that will encourage, equip and inspire you. Have a night out and enjoy a delicious meal while hearing from experts in the field of parenting such as Tony Evans, Chip Ingram and Gary Chapman. Spend time interacting with your campus' counselor and other parents while learning and practicing new skills. Be prepared to bring change to your home.

Resolving Differences (Matthew 18)

As long as there are people, there will be differences of opinion and misunderstandings. Jesus has great advice for us on how to walk through these kinds of situations in Matthew 18. We teach the students this biblical process and use it as a faculty. Jesus outlines this pattern for working through a conflict between two people:

1. Go directly and privately to the person and talk it out.
2. If that doesn't resolve it, bring in a friend who can help with the discussion.
3. If that doesn't clear things up, ask someone in authority for help.

We encourage parents to guide their children in walking through relationship difficulties using this biblical pattern, and we also encourage parents to use this process if you have questions or concerns with other families or your children's teachers.

Social Media & Technology

One of the greatest challenges we face at school is with technology. Left unmonitored, students can easily gravitate to those things which are not helpful and potentially very harmful. As parents, we cannot afford to be asleep at the wheel on this one. Be mindful that online misconduct can result in disciplinary action at school, and potentially even legal repercussions for students (see Handbook for further clarification). Take whatever steps are necessary to monitor your child's online activities, including social media. Set firm boundaries, provide consequences and if a boundary continues to be crossed, the first consequence wasn't the right consequence.

In regard to the moving target of social media, not only can students be exposed to harmful material, it is an easy platform for students to hurt other students, both intentionally and unintentionally. Regardless of the intention, as parents, we need to educate and train our children in how to act responsibly online.

English

In the lower grades, students learn to read; however, in 7th and 8th grade English, students begin reading to learn. For this reason, we focus heavily on developing close readers who can go beyond reading comprehension and read critically between and beyond the lines. In literature, we heavily focus on literary analysis writing with an opinion-based assertion, textual evidence, and commentary.

7th Grade English

Focus: The 7th grade grammar curriculum builds on the 6th grade curriculum, focusing on phrases and clauses and their functions. While sentence diagramming is a focus of the 7th grade grammar curriculum, we use that method to accomplish the overarching goal of developing effective writers who can manipulate language. In the 8th grade year, students begin to see the direct link between grammar and writing as they implement punctuation and usage knowledge along with language mechanics.

8th Grade English

Focus: In the 8th grade year, students begin to see the direct link between grammar and writing as they implement punctuation and usage knowledge along with language mechanics.

8th Grade Honors English

Focus: Honors English is offered to those 8th graders who have shown a natural passion for thinking critically about literature and humanities, as well as upper-level writing skills. It moves at a faster pace, jumps immediately into deeper analysis, and involves expectations in writing that will prepare students for future pre-AP curriculum. Students in Honors English can also work more independently than the average 8th grader.

Additional Information:

- One session a week may be designated as a “New-to-Legacy Students Only” session. This is a more traditional tutoring session and usually focuses on grammar skills that new students may not have been taught at their previous school.
- Homework Help sessions will be posted outside of each English teacher’s classroom.
- If a student needs English help more than one time per week OR needs focused one-on-one help without other students in the room that may be an indication that he/she needs outside private tutoring or a private homework coach. Your child’s English teacher can provide names of adults who tutor. Additionally, some high school students in NHS provide tutoring, either for pay or service hours.
- When a student comes to a Homework Help session, he/she should be prepared with specific questions or needs.

Resources:

Jane Schaffer Writing Program, Analytical Grammar 8th, MLA Format Research Based Writing
Jane Schaffer Writing Program:

The Jane Schaffer Writing Program® is the premier academic writing system for students and teachers. The program includes an initial structured, organized, and logical method for novice and struggling writers K-12. That same method transforms into sophisticated weaving and syntactical techniques as students evolve in their writing abilities. Writing styles include Expository, Argumentation, Response to Literature, Narrative, and Style Analysis. This program aligns seamlessly with state and national standards. The program is currently implemented in districts across the United States and around the world. ***“All Students Can Think; All Students Can Write.”***

Mathematics

7th Grade Math 7 and Pre-Algebra Math7

Focus: Math 7 covers many of the same concepts as Pre-Algebra, but at a slower pace, filling in skill gaps. Students will start with a thorough review of fractions and decimals using all 4 operations.. We will spend a great deal of time on Integers and then will move on to equations and inequalities.

Pre-Algebra

Focus: Pre-Algebra is a readiness class for high school Algebra. Students should have a solid foundation of addition and multiplication facts, fractions, decimals, percentages, and basic geometry. Students begin with algebraic expressions and integers, and then move on to equations and inequalities. Other concepts taught will be ratios, proportions, percentages, graphing equations, geometry, irrational numbers, nonlinear functions, and data analysis.

8th Grade Transitional Algebra, Algebra I (Regular & Honors)

Transitional Algebra

Focus: Transitional Algebra covers similar material as Algebra I, but at a slower pace filling in gaps from Pre-Algebra where necessary. The primary difference is that Transitional Algebra is targeted for the students who have either gaps in their prerequisite knowledge, require more individualized instruction, or both. The goal of this course is to prepare students for Algebra I without it affecting their high school GPA.

Algebra I Regular

Focus: Algebra I develops a deeper understanding of equations and inequalities by applying skills with everyday word problems. Students will learn methods of solving systems of equations, graphing, and functions and develop skills using exponents. Students are introduced to polynomials, factoring, and quadratic functions, equations and simplifying radicals; along with finding the distance and midpoint in preparation for Geometry.

Algebra I Honors

Focus: Algebra I Honors incorporates all of Algebra I, but applies the learning at a deeper level with more application of word problems and is taught at a rigorous pace. Students in honors will also research a famous mathematician.

Additional Information:

- Our Pre-Algebra textbook has an online resource which gives practice questions for quizzes, tests, and vocabulary. However, it is not an online book so it cannot be used for homework. Please ask your student for these websites to keep near your computer at home as a resource for them.
- Students will be required to work in ALEKS, our online math curriculum, which ties to our textbooks or the objectives in which we are teaching, as reinforcement of what is taught in class. Students will be required to do a certain number of topics each week and these will begin on Saturday and will always be due on Friday night at midnight. We suggest students do a few each night so they are not overwhelmed on Friday night trying to get them completed. Knowledge assessments will come up after so many hours or topics completed in ALEKS which is another reason to not procrastinate because when it is time to do a knowledge check it must be done before completing topics for the week. These knowledge checks allow us to see if mastery is taking place.
- Help sessions are offered after school Monday through Thursday until 4:05, so that students may come get help on individual questions. Most help sessions will not be a one on one situation. If a student needs ongoing private tutoring, an outside tutor is suggested. The math department maintains a list of paid adult tutors. Additionally, some Upper School students provide tutoring, either for pay or service hours. Contact your child's math teacher for more information regarding outside tutors.

Resources:

Algebra Readiness 7th Grade, Prentice Hall, *Algebra I*, Prentice Hall

- Each textbook has an online resource which coincides with the student text. However, it is not an online book so it cannot be used for homework. It is a resource for reinforcing learning and preparing for quizzes and tests.
- Students will be required to work in ALEKS, our online math curriculum, which supports the textbooks, as reinforcement of what is taught in class.

Science

Science at Legacy provides “evidence that demands a verdict” or data which points one to Christ. Our curriculum is based on data which has never been disproved . . . that is the Truth of the Bible. Legacy Science is current, interactive, lab based, problem based and taught with a Biblical worldview so kids are prepared for a “Great Adventure” in applying it to their lives.

7th Grade – General & Life Science

The Seventh Grade Science curriculum contrast both historic and current ideas. It is interactive, problem based and taught with a Biblical worldview so students are prepared for a “Great Adventure” in applying it to their lives. The curriculum covers “A Brief History of Science”, “Scientific Inquiry”, “How to Analyze and Interpret Experiments”, “DNA: From Genes to Proteins”, “Classifying Life”, and “The Human Body: Fearfully and Wonderfully Made”. Seventh Grade science covers general scientific problem solving as well as a focus on life from genetics to large body systems with about 40 labs and activities to reinforce all topics studied. In addition, STEM is intertwined throughout the year to give students unique problem-solving opportunities. Students will have fun learning about how and why things work in labs like “Ransom for Renard”, “The Floating Egg”, “Letter e Lab”, “Microscope Mania”, “Megascope & Microscopic Mold”, “Junkyard Digestion”, “Cell City or Cell Rap”, and “Creatures in Creation” to name a few. In addition, students will dissect an earthworm, cow’s eye, and frog. This course aligns vertically with the Ninth Grade Biology program.

Resources: *Apologia Science, Sciencewise STEM Activities, DNA from Genes to Proteins, ACT ASPIRE Prep*

8th Grade - Physical Science

The Eighth Grade Science curriculum is based on data which uses scientific discoveries to support the Truth found in the Bible. The students will cover relevant problem solving in the disciplines of physics and chemistry specifically. The students will conduct about 40 labs and activities to reinforce all topics studied. They also practice writing lab reports following the scientific method with data tables, results, conclusions, and reflections. In addition, STEM is intertwined throughout the year to give students unique problem-solving opportunities using a corporate model. Students will have fun learning about how and why things work in labs like “Raw Egg Car Crashes”, “Rube Goldberg Contraptions”, “Free Fall Egg Drop”, “Crushing Cans”, “Mentos Rockets”, “Straw Rockets & Trajectory”, “Center of Gravity Magic Tricks” and many other fun classroom experiences. This course aligns vertically with the Tenth, Eleventh, and Twelfth Grade Chemistry & Physics programs.

Honors Science is offered to those eighth-grade students who have shown a natural passion and inclination for being self-motivated in the field of science. Traits like engagement in class, aptitude in advanced math, work ethic, character, and writing ability are all considered when being placed in Honors Science. The Honors 8th Science course requires students be in Algebra 1 Honors Math.

Resources: *Apologia Science, Newton’s Toy Box, Red Herring Mysteries, Brain Games, ACT ASPIRE Prep*

Bible and Character Strong

Bible

7th Grade

Focus: Jesus in the Old and New Testament: the first semester we explore the timeline as well as the major characters of the Old Testament. Students will learn about the shadows, types, and prophecies that lead to the appearing of our Savior in the New Testament. We spend the majority of the second semester studying how Christ fulfills the expectations of the Old Testament in the 4 Gospels.

8th Grade

Focus:

In the first semester, students will focus on what we believe and why we believe it. We cover the essential doctrines of the Christian faith, especially in regard to the person and work of Jesus. Throughout this semester, there will be a dual apologetic focus, helping students understand why we should believe what we do. In the second semester, students will learn how to live in light of this great hope. This semester is devoted to maturing their walk with the Lord in every area of life.

Resources: *The Holy Bible, CSB Apologetics Study Bible for Students*

7th and 8th Grade Character Strong

We believe that education should help to create young people who are not only competent in math, science, and reading – but also students who are compassionate, empathetic, and kind. Our Character, like any other muscle in our body, can get stronger with intentional, consistent practice. Most people fundamentally want to BE good, but not all of us know how to DO good. Character Strong helps our students forge meaningful relationships, build positive community, focus on social-emotional learning, and develop character. Interactive activities and lessons include: Empathy, Healthy Habit Development, Growth Mindset, Resilience, Emotional Intelligence, Mindfulness, Kindness, Respect, Acceptance, & more.

United States History

7th Grade History

8th Grade History (Regular and Honors)

The 7th and 8th grade courses are designed to provide students with a basic account of the history of the United States from the migration of its first native people to the present time. Primary and secondary sources will be used throughout the school year. Students will learn how God was, and is, an integral part of the founding and continued success of our great nation. While there is value in learning the ‘facts of history’ our greater desire is that every student would develop a love for history. *Throughout the year, we will work on developing critical thinking through higher level questioning which challenges the students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate the events of history to gain a better understanding of how and why events unfold as they do.*

Resources:

Fine Arts Offerings for 7th & 8th Grades

Art 7th & 8th Grades: The Studio Group

The Studio Group is a mixed ability class for 7th and 8th grade students with a strong desire to improve their visual skills in viewing and creating art. Both beginners and two-year veterans will create original compositions using a variety of drawing media, watercolor and tempera paints, paper construction, graphic design, printmaking, photography, and ceramics.

Additional Information:

- *New students are welcome to enroll and typically do well, even if they begin instruction in the eighth grade.*
- *Artists may choose to bring their own preferred supplies, but everything they need is already provided.*
- *Artists will learn to evaluate their own and others' work and will receive a grade on each challenge piece.*
- *Every artist will compete in a local, regional, and/or national competition!*
- *Parents are welcome to visit the studio and hallway galleries to view student art throughout the year.*
- *Students will bring home a portfolio of their artwork at the end of the year.*

7th & 8th Grade Drama

In Drama, students will bond as a group and develop focusing, listening and speaking skills. Students will learn how relaxation, breath work and acting warm-ups help prepare actors for performance. They will use sensory awareness and imagination to portray characters and environments. Students will convey story through imagination, movement and vocalization. Students will also learn theater terminology and history. Class performances and Middle School performance are scheduled throughout the school year.

Middle School Choir

This year, middle school choir is made up of 6th-8th grade students which allows the group to tackle more challenging pieces while having a bigger sound. Students will sing three or four part choral literature and work to establish the best possible ensemble sound. They will learn music theory, sight-reading, music history, vocal technique and music technology. Throughout the year, the choir will perform a variety of music in concerts, festivals, and competitions. They will also have the opportunity to form smaller ensembles that sing in chapel giving them practical ministry experience.

7th and 8th Grade Band

Throughout the year students will continue to expand their knowledge of music theory, sight reading, music history, and advance their instrumental skills. Students will perform in multiple parts in an ensemble setting at concerts and festivals at various times during the year. Students will also have the opportunity to take private lessons, audition for honor bands, and perform at solo competitions.

Foreign Language

7th Grade Spanish & Latin

Seventh grade Spanish is a continuation of beginning Spanish. For the first semester, students have Spanish 2 times each week, at semester they have Latin 2 times each week.

8th Grade Spanish I

Spanish Level 1 will introduce the basic foundational language skills required to learn Spanish. Students will practice listening, speaking, writing and reading in Spanish. In addition, the study of the cultures of other Spanish-speaking countries will create a greater appreciation for the language. Biblical concepts are interwoven and emphasized throughout the curriculum. Spanish I is a high school credit class and will be included on the student's high school transcript. Tests, quizzes and projects will make up 60% of the student's grade, while homework, classwork and class participation will make up 40%.

8th Grade Latin I

This course will introduce students to the Latin Language and the Romans who used it, as well as provide a better understanding of our own language and social system through examining vocabulary, characters and situations in the context of reading passages.

Goals are to introduce and edify students through the areas of:

- *Vocabulary Recognition & Usage*
- *Confidence in reading sentences and passages to determine plot, main ideas, and theme.*
- *Solidify students' understanding and usage of Grammatical concepts*
- *Encourage students to examine and compare both Ancient Roman and Modern American societies to further develop students' biblical worldview.*

Additional Information: Legacy offers curriculum that utilizes a "Supersite" which is an online tool for students. The "Supersite" can be accessed at www.vhlschool.com. Students have a login and a password. Much of the homework is be done online. There are online videos and tutorials to help enhance the learning experience outside of the classroom. The textbook itself is also online, so students will not need to take their books home in order to complete homework and study.

Legacy Learning Center (LLC)

The LLC is our accommodation program at Legacy that is designed to provide support for students with diagnosed learning differences and/or ADHD in order to maximize their potential for success within the LCA curriculum. In the Middle School, the LLC is a class where students can work one-on-one, independently, and in small groups on their daily work and prepare for tests in their classes with a Learning Center Specialist. Needed accommodations are also managed by the learning specialist.

Students will:

- Learn new strategies that will make them successful
- Have the opportunity for re-teaching of materials as needed
- Have a Learning Specialist as their advocate in dealing with everyday issues
- Be able to work on homework and classwork with a better understanding
- Be able to become more organized, more confident, and have higher self esteem
- Receive approved accommodations

***** Please note, at this time, LLC for grades 5-12 is at capacity.***