



potential
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

6-8



2023-2024

Middle School

Potential Christian Academy
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ASCI & Cognia Accredited

Dr. Julia Elliott
Head of School

PCA MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

6 th GRADE	7 th GRADE	8 th GRADE
Bible– Basics for Biblical Worldview	Bible– The Story of the Old Testament	Bible– The Life of Christ
Language Arts I	Language Arts II	Language Arts III
World History	Civics	US History
Life Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
Middle School Math Or Accelerated	Pre-Algebra Or Accelerated	Algebra 1 Or Algebra 1A
Electives Art Portfolio Qtrs 1-4 Broadcasting Qtrs 1-4 Sports Leadership Qtrs 1-4 Drama / Musical Theater	Electives Art Portfolio Qtrs 1-4 Broadcasting Qtrs 1-4 Sports Leadership Qtrs 1-4 Drama / Musical Theater	Electives Art Portfolio Qtrs 1-4 Broadcasting Qtrs 1-4 Sports Leadership Qtrs 1-4 Drama / Musical Theater
Academic Wheel Study Skills Qtr 1 Coding Qtr 2 Spanish Qtrs 3-4	Academic Wheel Spanish Qtrs 1-2 Coding Qtrs 3-4	Academic Wheel Spanish Qtrs 1-4* (High School Credit)

REQUIRED COURSES

Bible (3 Credits)

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Basics for a Biblical Worldview	6	Middle-school students are daily confronted with worldviews that want to win their heart. Basics for a Biblical Worldview helps students distinguish a biblical worldview from false worldviews and equips them to live out a biblical worldview. Students learn to relate the story of Scripture to basic Christian beliefs and values as they learn what the Bible says about their identity, work, relationships, society, and belief system. (1 credit).
The Story of the Old Testament	7	This overview of the entire story of Scripture establishes a foundation for a biblical worldview before high school. The course materials work together to present the Bible as the true story of what God is doing to glorify Himself by redeeming His fallen creation. The modern relevance of the individual narratives becomes clear when they fit into the one unfolding story of Scripture. (1 credit)
The Life of Christ	8	A program with a focus on a theological approach to studying the Bible. Students will continue to follow the unified story of the Bible, with special focus on the Gospels and the life of Christ. The Gospels present the life of Christ as the fulfillment of God's redemptive plan as promised in the Old Testament. With age and developmentally appropriate content, this course will prepare students to live with Christ-likeness in our world today, teaching them crucial Bible study skills for interpretation and application. (1 credit).

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Language Arts (3 Credits)

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Language Arts I	6	This curriculum is designed to introduce the elements of literature to students. There is a strong focus on literary elements, reading, writing, non-fiction and critical thinking. Students begin to appreciate the way literature is crafted, and they learn how to analyze meaning and think critically about their responses. Students will be exposed to many genres of literature including short stories, poems, magazine articles and more. Vocabulary and grammar will be used to expand students' communication skills as they learn to express themselves and their thoughts and ideas. (1 credit)
Language Arts II	7	This curriculum is designed to reinforce the elements of literature. Students move from defining and identifying literary terms to applying them on their own. There continues to be a strong focus on reading, writing, non-fiction and critical thinking. Students are able to recognize the way literature is crafted and are now able to analyze meaning and put their own critical thoughts into writing as they respond to literature. Students will refine their written responses and learn to recognize recurring themes in literature as well as continuing to develop their God-given ability to communicate. They leave the course with a vision of their story as an important part of the divine metanarrative. (1 credit)
Language Arts III	8	<p>This curriculum is designed to solidify the elements of literature, writing, reading, non-fiction and critical thinking. Students discover the connection between literature and their own experiences while they continue to reflect upon literature and construct responses of criticism and thematic connections.</p> <p>Students write often and in varied ways, including narrative, descriptive, persuasive, and explanatory forms, and with special emphasis on ideas, voice, organization, and sentence fluency. As they write, they discover connections between different subjects and derive meaning from their own experiences. Grammar study solidifies the mastery of parts of speech, with additional focus on effective and correct combining of phrases and dependent and independent clauses. Through literary analysis and formal vocabulary study, students deepen their facility with and appreciation for reading and language. By sharing their work and making oral presentations, they gain confidence in their knowledge and in presenting what they know to others. The course's literary selections, engage students in the exploration of themes and ideas that align with and contrast with the Christian worldview. (1 credit)</p>

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History (3 Credits)

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
World History	6	World History is a survey of the history of the world beginning with ancient times and moving forward through the present day. The purpose of this course is to enable students to understand their connections to the development of civilizations by examining the past, to prepare for their future as participating members of the global community, and to see the hand of God throughout history. Map skills, geographical themes, and current events are also emphasized. (1 credit)
Civics	7	Civics provides a basis for understanding the rights and responsibilities for being an American citizen and a framework for competent and responsible participation. Emphasis is placed on the historical development of government and political systems, and the importance of the rule of law; the United States Constitution; Federal, State and local government structure; and the rights and responsibilities of citizenship. Students will actively investigate local, state and national issues, read and participate in discussions, and develop informed arguments using a variety of writing forms. (1 credit)
US History	8	This course is a trip through the history of the United States beginning with the earliest settlers and concluding with current events. It will provide students with the opportunity to acquire an understanding of the chronological development of the American people by examining the political, economic, social, religious, military, scientific, and cultural events that have affected the rise and growth of our nation. Strong emphasis is placed on the uniquely Christian heritage revealed in the concept, formation, structure, and function of our form of government. (1 credit)

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Science (3 Credits)

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Life Science	6	Life Science is an inquiry-based introduction to explore the fundamental concepts of life. Topics include cell biology; cell reproduction; principles of genetics; classification of the living things God has created including bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals; the structure and function of the human body; and ecology. The end result is to think critically, to solve problems, and to gain competence in laboratory techniques. Laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus and safety are an integral part of this course. The student is also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science. (1 credit)
Earth Science	7	Earth Science is an inquiry-based introduction to the basic traits and functions of planet Earth. Topics include rocks; minerals; plate tectonics; natural disasters; water; weather; and astronomy. The end result is to think critically, to solve problems, and to gain competence in laboratory techniques. Laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus and safety are an integral part of this course. The student is also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science. (1 credit)
Physical Science	8	Physical Science is an inquiry-based introduction to the concepts of physics and chemistry. Chemistry topics range from the states of matter on a molecular level; the history of the atomic model; the arrangement of the periodic table; the language of chemistry; the pH scale; and chemical reactions. The physics portion of the course covers the relationships between matter and energy in the areas of forces, motion, waves, and sound; light and optics; electricity; and magnetism. The end result is to think critically, to solve problems, and to gain competence in laboratory techniques. Laboratory activities that include the use of the scientific method, measurement, laboratory apparatus and safety are an integral part of this course. The student is also taught that God is the Creator and Sustainer of all things and it is His hand that has shaped the world of science. (1 credit)

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Math

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Mathematics	6	Middle School Math integrates pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, and probability with a goal to help each student see that math can be widely applied in the real world. Students become aware that God is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. (1 credit)
Accelerated Mathematics	6	Accelerated mathematics integrates advanced pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, and functions with a goal to help each student see that math can be widely applied in the real world. Students become aware that God is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. This class moves at a fast pace and successful completion (with a grade of A or B) prepares students for Accelerated Pre-Algebra. (1 credit)
Pre-Algebra	7	Pre-Algebra integrates pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, functions and probability. Concepts are taught through their applications emphasizing the reading and writing of mathematics, providing a wide variety of meaningful problem-solving opportunities and incorporating the latest technology. Students become aware that God is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world.
Accelerated Pre-Algebra	7	Accelerated Pre-Algebra integrates advanced pre-algebra, geometry, statistics, consumer math, business math, functions and probability. Concepts are taught through their applications emphasizing the reading and writing of mathematics, providing a wide variety of meaningful problem-solving opportunities and incorporating the latest technology. Students become aware that God is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. This class moves at a fast pace and successful completion (an A or B) prepares students for Algebra 1.

Math

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Algebra 1A	8	Algebra 1A introduces the student to variables, algebraic expressions, equations, functions, inequalities and their graphical representations. Laws of Exponents, solving systems of equations, and statistical analysis are all explored. Students also develop skills in critical thinking, working cooperatively and communicating mathematical ideas clearly. Students become aware that God is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. Successful completion prepares students with a good foundation for success when taking the Algebra 1B. (.5 credit)
Algebra 1 Honors	8	Algebra 1 Honors introduces the student to variables, algebraic expressions, equations, functions, inequalities and their graphical representations. Law of exponents, polynomial operations, solving systems of equations, quadratic equations, and statistical analysis are all explored. Students also develop skills in critical thinking, working cooperatively and communicating mathematical ideas clearly. Students become more aware that Go is a God of order not chaos and learn to use math skills to bring order to their world. Successful completion (an A or B) of this course fulfills the Algebra 1 requirement at most high schools. (1 credit)

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Academic Wheel

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Study Skills	6th (1st Quarter)	This class is designed to help students improve their learning effectiveness, attitudes, and motivation. The following are part of the curriculum: time management, concentration, note-taking skills, textbook study methods, test-taking strategies, and critical thinking skills. Students will own a biblical worldview, adapting integrity, honesty, and humility in their lives. (.25 credit)
Spanish	6th (3rd & 4th Quarters) 7th (1st–2nd Quarters)	This Spanish course is a one semester class designed to develop basic vocabulary and communication skills in Spanish. The Spanish curriculum in both 6th and 7th grades will emphasize correct pronunciation and grammar. Students will learn to express and understand ideas using a thematic approach. Students will also explore and learn about some Spanish speaking cultures around the world.
Computer Coding	6th (2nd Quarter) 7th (3rd –4th Quarters)	How can students make computers do and say what they want them to do? In this class, students will explore computing systems, programming rules, data and analysis, networking, the internet, and how computers affect their lives. Students will look at languages such as Scratch, Python, and even practice building their own programs!
Spanish 1	8th (1st-4th Quarter)	Spanish 1 includes Spanish grammar, vocabulary, facts and cultures of Spanish-speaking regions, memory verses, writing assignments and more. The students will perform frequent practices, review exercises to develop proficiency, and retain important cultural information. This course will be a great way for students to learn and practice literacy, oral fluency and proficiency in the Spanish language.

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Electives

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Art Portfolio I, II, III, IV	6-8	<p>The purpose of this course is to enable students to create a portfolio of artworks.</p> <p>A portfolio should contain a variety of works in different media that represent the student's creative abilities and interests. Not only will students be required to study, know, and use the elements of art, they will also be exploring the elements of design and will be encouraged to incorporate them in their artwork. The different media that students will explore include, but are not limited to, pencil, ink, pastels, chalk, watercolor, and tempera paint. It is important that each student sees himself as a creator of art made in the image of God with the ability to glorify God through the process of making art. (.5 credits).</p>
Sports Leadership	6-8	<p>The purpose of this course is to give the students the experience and the opportunity to play sports and games while learning leadership skills. It will examine attitudes towards leadership throughout history and the evolution of the role of sports in the professional world today. It is also designed to help students increase their skills in each of the activities. Students will work together with their teammates, learn basic rules for team sports and games, learn the basic skills for each sport, and play the sports using good sportsmanship always seeking to glorify God with their attitudes and bodies. (.5 credits)</p>

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Electives

COURSE NAME	GRADE LEVEL	DESCRIPTION
Drama I or II (Fall Elective)	6-8	<p>In this class, students will be introduced to the basic concepts of theatre arts. Students will use various creative drama techniques to build <i>confidence, believability, concentration, and trust</i>, stimulate imagination, movement and role-play. Through theatre games and activities students will learn to lose inhibitions and will gain trust in themselves as well as others in their groups.</p> <p>Students will learn and use drama and theatre vocabulary, explore movement and stage presence, and will exhibit and reinforce their skills through individual and group participation, performances, and participation in Junior Thespian events. (.5 credits)</p>
Performing Arts/ Musical Theater (Spring Elective)	6-8	<p>This course will introduce students to the techniques used by actors/singers to play musical theater scenes believably, honestly and dynamically. Basic acting techniques will be taught as well as work in singing, text analysis, movement and speech. Students will begin with individual songs, then prepare, rehearse and present a musical. (.5 credits)</p>