



LEGACY
PREPARATORY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

MIDDLE SCHOOL
**Course
Catalog**

2015-2016

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PRIMARY PARENTAL ROLES

Co-Teacher: In this role, parents will receive instructions from the classroom teacher on a regular basis outlining homework assignments, follow-up study over covered material, and preparation or review needed for the next class. They will also bear the primary responsibility for direct instruction in some aspects of the course, such as spelling, and in monitoring their child's academic progress (including the timely submission of all assignments).

Guide for Dependent Study: This role will usually relate to parents with children in grades 7-10. These students are at a dependent age where disciplined study habits must be developed through positive encouragement and through the students' growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for these classes to be successful, the teachers are dependent upon parents to make certain their children keep up with the course material assigned and to communicate to teachers if difficulties arise. In some cases, private tutoring might be necessary.

Guide to Independent Study: Academic courses at the 11th and 12th grade levels will usually involve this role by the parent. Here, the parent has the opportunity to monitor the independent school work performed by their children while it is still possible for them to provide additional guidance if needed. Courses offered by a University-Model School at this level should mimic that of a junior or community college program where independent study skills and disciplined planning for completing homework assignments are necessary.

Interactive Discussion: In courses utilizing this role (ex. Health courses), parents are expected to interact with their children on teacher-directed topics throughout the semester. Students will then reflect on those interactions through class discussions and written assignments. These courses are designed to place emphasis on the parent-student relationship by emphasizing and reinforcing the values parents are teaching within their home. These courses also provide families with the opportunity to explore and interact on issues that are of importance, especially during the teen years.

Course Monitor: Some courses will involve equipment or expertise which necessitates that teaching be done in the classroom and leaves little for parents at home. This role, therefore, will require the least amount of time by parents, but its importance cannot be understated. The primary responsibility of parents is to track the progress of their children and to monitor how well they are doing. Are they becoming discouraged? Are they enjoying the class? What are the activities being done each day in class? What are the activities being done each day in class? What are they learning? In short, parents need to show an interest and express this to their children. If problems should develop, teachers need to know immediately.

DEPARTMENTAL PURPOSE STATEMENTS & GOALS

Language Arts Department Purpose Statement

The Language Arts department at Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy exists to help students see and understand God's gift of communication and language. We will study this gift of language to strive to become excellent communicators with the written and spoken word. Secondly, the appreciation of great literature is also at the heart of the language arts department. A variety of literature will be compared to the truth of God's word and dissected to encourage an awareness of humanity.

Language Arts/English Department Goals for the Middle School

Grammar:

- Learn and utilize the rules that govern the English Language
- Incorporate this learning into composition
- Recognize the improper and poor usage of grammar and its impact on communication

Spelling:

- Keep the attention to spelling detail at the forefront of importance in all subjects
- Memorize principles in order to spell properly
- Consistently apply principles of proper spelling to writing

Composition:

- Mastery of proper keyboarding techniques
- Understand the content of well structured writing in order to reproduce these qualities
- Application of grammar skill and usage and vocabulary definitions into writing
- Invent with ease and skill
- Use logical thought processes in order to arrange and organize composition
- Gather and use reference material in research and writing process
- Understand the process of editing and revising for a polished work

Literature:

- Continue to cultivate the habit of reading
- Provide the opportunity to read a variety of well-written literature
- Analyze and synthesize all components of great literary works through higher order, critical thinking skills
- Read all works in light of the scripture and with historical perspective
- Analyze what the author is saying about humanity
- Understand and apply literary terms

Vocabulary:

- Incorporate vivid vocabulary in written composition
- Synthesize vocabulary from literature using context clues to infer meaning

HISTORY

Middle School

The History department at Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy exists to equip students to view History in light of God's sovereignty and plan as well as prepare them for effective ministry and useful citizenship. Students will study history in light of the scripture and will develop a love of God and His relationship with many cultures. This will come through the acquisition of general facts and ideas and how these fit in the scheme and course of history throughout the ages.

History Department Goals for the Middle School

- Teach students that History is God's unfolding, unending plan
- Memorize basic, foundation facts
- Learn from past successes and failures
- Develop a love for and familiarity with great historical figures
- Develop a love for country and for other cultures
- Always use the scripture to interpret the events of history and see God's unfolding plan and our purpose in the plan

While studying History, we will focus on the following principles and questions in order to process our studies and develop critical thinking skills:

1. There is one God! What is He like? How do I see His character in what I study?
2. God made us in His image! What are we like? How do I see myself or others in what I study?
3. The Bible teaches us how to live! What does the Bible say about what we are studying?
4. We were created by God for a purpose! What is the meaning of this event and how does it point to Jesus?

SCIENCE

Middle School

The middle school science department at Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy exists for students to bolster their faith in God as the Creator of the universe. Students will correlate science with God's word. Students will memorize scientific vocabulary, participate in inquiry based learning, and be introduced to laboratory experiences. We will initiate higher order thinking skills as students cultivate scientific knowledge.

Science Department Goals for Middle School:

- Experience inquiry based learning, laboratory experiments, and dissections
- Memorize scientific vocabulary and terms
- Look at creation with a Biblical worldview
- Encourage discussion and application of scientific concepts at school and home
- Practice the scientific method
- Communicate in writing how to validate scientific theories and knowledge using the Bible

While studying science, we will focus on the following principles and questions in order to process our studies and develop critical thinking skills:

1. What are the popular theories of the origin of the universe? Which of these theories align with scripture?
2. What is man's role on earth?
3. How are people set apart as God's special creation?
4. How does creation show God's glory and order?

MATH Middle School

The Math department at Legacy Preparatory Christian Academy exists to recognize God's amazing creativity and order in creation, thereby communicating His character, inciting a worshipful response to Him as Creator and Lord, and awakening in students their capacity and responsibility to participate with God in the stewardship of His world. To this end, the math department also exists to equip students with basic and advanced computational and problem-solving skills and to encourage students toward logical, analytical, and independent thinking.

Math Department Goals for Middle School

- Establish careful, thoughtful habits and strong foundations to be built on in High School
- Ensure retention of memorized fundamental facts
- Continually reinforce, utilize, and build upon mastered skills and concepts
- Learn and understand abstract concepts
- Use discovery-based instruction to activate logical, analytical, and independent thought, increase retention, and create a sense of ownership and enthusiasm toward mathematical patterns and processes
- Use need-based instruction to promote connectivity to real-world applications and awaken problem-solving capacity, mathematical purpose, and initiative
- Glorify God through the recognition of his character and amazing creativity, power, and order in Creation

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES

When your child enters Middle School the **Parent Role** is Co-teacher. Parents will receive instructions from the classroom teacher on a regular basis outlining homework assignments, follow-up study over covered material, and any preparation or review needed for their student's next class.

While students transition through the Middle School, the **Parent Role** begins to shift to Guide of Dependent/Independent Study. Students are generally at a dependent/independent age where disciplined study habits must be developed through positive encouragement and through the students' growing awareness of personal consequences. In order for these classes to be successful, **the teachers are dependent upon parents** to make certain their children keep up with the course material assigned and to communicate to teachers if difficulties arise. In some cases, private tutoring might be necessary.

Course Prerequisites in all Middle School classes involve satisfactory performance on the appropriate placement test, successful completion of the preceding course in the grade level sequence during the preceding school year, or permission of the instructor.

FIFTH GRADE

Language Arts 5

Course ID: LANG-500

Students will be immersed in a comprehensive reading program including novels with character driven stories that draw upon biblical principles. An emphasis is placed on literary elements and vocabulary enrichment, which will help strengthen student's reading and critical thinking skills. Grammar and writing are also an essential component of Language Arts. Students will plan, draft, revise, proofread and publish several different types of writing including personal narratives, imaginative fiction, expository/informational texts, opinion and persuasive pieces, and letters. Students will also participate in spelling throughout the course of the year. The focus of this class is a thorough presentation of English instruction, including grammar, writing, spelling, vocabulary, and keyboarding with a balance of rich reading and literature dissection.

Math Glencoe Course 1

Course ID: MATH-600

This course covers concepts, procedures and vocabulary for success in Algebra and Geometry. Students will simplify expressions, use exponents, examine square roots, utilize geometric formulas, ratios, percents, fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals. They will work with circumference, pi, angles, coordinate graphing and prime factorization.

Science 5

Course ID: SCIE-500

This course focuses on man's use of God's creation and design and studies minerals and rocks, fossils, matter and heat, sound and light, weather, biomes, ecosystems, and the respiratory and circulatory systems. The student develops his science process skills as he participates in hands-on activities and projects.

History 5

Course ID: HIST-500

American History

In 5th grade, students begin the year with the discussion of the importance of history and social studies in the context of our relationship with the God of History, our one true God. History further covers American history from the first migrations into the Americas through the 20th century. Intense interaction with the personalities, places, and events that structured our nation leads students to be both keen observers of and informed participants in U.S. history. Students discuss and recognize the importance of learning all of these concepts in light of the scripture.

SIXTH GRADE

Language Arts 6

Course ID: LANG-600

Students will be engaged in a unique and comprehensive writing program, a broad, yet in-depth, reading program and thorough grammar and spelling programs. The structured, yet fluid writing program develops competency, independence, and creativity at all writing levels. Through a unique writing model, students will become comfortably engaged in a writing process that allows for creative experimentation and develops essential written organization skills. An emphasis will be placed on short story creation, to support and encourage a love of writing. The literature study includes numerous genres of literary works including novels, poetry, persuasive works, biographies and autobiographies, shorts stories, and fables. As students study various literary elements, the chosen literature will foster thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior. The focus of this class is a thorough presentation of English instruction, including grammar, writing, spelling, and vocabulary development, with a balance of rich reading and literary analysis.

Math Glencoe Course 2

Course ID: MATH-700

Course covers measurement, estimation, rate, powers, roots, geometric proofs, scientific notation, graphing function, balancing equations, algebraic terms, graphing linear equations and inequalities, and probability and statistics. Students will work word problems and learn to collect, display, and analyze data.

Science 6

Course ID: SCIE-600

In this course students will study the intricacies of cells and organisms, matter and energy, astronomy, heredity, the nervous system, and the immune system. The students will participate in interesting examples of God's purposeful design, manageable experiments, projects, diagrams and charts as well as periodic reviews.

History 6

Course ID: HIST-600

In 6th grade, students begin the year with the discussion of the importance of history in the context of our relationship with the God of History, our one true God. History further introduces students to the beginnings of the human story. As they explore the great early civilizations of Egypt and the Near East, India, China, Greece, and Rome, students discover the secrets of

these ancient cultures that continue to influence the modern world. Students discuss and recognize the importance of learning all of these concepts in light of the scripture.

SEVENTH GRADE

7th English

Course ID: ENGL-700

This course is vertically aligned with all other courses in the Language Arts/English department to prepare students for rigorous high school courses. The structured, yet fluid writing program develops competency, independence, and creativity at all writing levels. Through a unique writing model, students will become comfortably engaged in a writing process that allows for creative experimentation and develops essential written organization skills. Proper grammar usage will be an integral aspect of the writing program. Through both the writing program and the literature study, students will be exposed to several genres of literature throughout the year including poetry, nonfiction, biographies, adventures, and novels. Students will recognize plots, define characters, explore settings, and understand themes. As students study various literary elements, the chosen literature will foster thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior.

Pre-Algebra

Course ID: MATH-800

This course is vertically aligned to prepare students for math classes in the upper grades. Pre-algebra serves as the transition course from arithmetic to algebra. The text used is designed so as to automate the use of fractions, mixed numbers, and decimals in all operations. It is also designed for automating procedures for solving simple word problems. The concepts of area, percent, ratio, and order of operations will be practiced. The beginning concepts of algebra, including linear graphing, factoring, and geometry, will be practiced thoroughly.

Life Science

Course ID: SCIE-700

This course is designed to prepare students for Biology in high school. This course is designed to present basic life science concepts with an emphasis on laboratory and process skills. Major topics in life science include the following: The Nature of Science, Living Chemistry, Cells & Cellular Processes, Genetics, Energy for Life, Ecological Interactions, Vertebrates, Invertebrates, Microbiology, Plants, Human Systems, and The Origin of Life.

History 7:

Course ID: HIST-700

Texas History

This course introduces students to the great state of Texas via its study of local geography, culture, history, animals, symbols, government, economy and eventual statehood. Projects, field trips, historical fiction, and biographies enhance the textbook for this course.

8th English**Course ID: ENGL-800**

This course is vertically aligned with all other courses in the Language Arts/English department to prepare students for English courses in upper school. The structured, yet fluid writing program develops competency, independence, and creativity at all writing levels. Through a unique writing model, students will become comfortably engaged in a writing process that allows for creative experimentation and develops essential written organization skills. Special attention will be given to various styles of essay writing in preparation for high school English and proper grammar usage will be an integral aspect of the writing program. The extensive literature study will expose students to several genres of literature throughout the year including poetry, nonfiction, biographies, historical essays, adventures, drama and novels. Students will recognize plots, define characters, explore settings, and understand themes. As students study various literary elements, the chosen literature will foster thinking and talking about values, ideals, and behavior.

Algebra I**Course ID: MATH-900**

This course covers a review of symbols and expressions, along with the commutative, identity, associative, and distributive properties; integers and rational numbers; equations and formula; inequalities, exponents and polynomials; polynomials and factoring; graphs and linear equations; systems of equations; inequalities and absolute value; rational expressions and equations; radical expressions and equations; relations and functions; and quadratic equations.

Course Prerequisites: Successful completion of Pre-Algebra and/or previous course in the math sequence during the preceding school year or satisfactory performance on a diagnostic placement test.

Integrated Physics and Chemistry: IPC**Course ID: SCIE-800**

This course is vertically aligned to prepare students for science courses in the upper grades. This course will serve students as a lab-based introduction to possible future coursework in chemistry and physics while ensuring a mastery of the basics of each discipline. It is a lab-oriented study of the scientific method, metric system, properties and classification of matter, atomic structure, chemical formulas, physical and chemical changes, motion and machines, light and sound, heat, electricity and magnetism. Mathematical processes are also applied. This course includes a lab.

Course Prerequisites: Concurrently enrolled in Pre-Algebra or Algebra 1 and successful completion of previous course in the science sequence during the preceding school year or satisfactory performance on a diagnostic placement test.

History 8:**Course ID: HIST-800**

American Republic

This course focuses on the unfolding of the history of the United States through richly detailed narrative. Starting with the discovery of the New World, the text traces the path of American history up to the present day. In addition to a historical account, American Republic demonstrates the distinctiveness of American values and government, and emphasizes the importance of understanding and appreciating United States history.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

ELECTIVE OPTIONS

5th - 6th Grade

TASH - Teacher Assisted Study Hall

Course ID: TASH-100

Teacher Assisted Study Hall is a study period designed for students to study when they have an open period between classes for which they are registered. Study Hall will be quiet. No games, headphones, or talking will be permitted. Students must come with work to do or something to read. A teacher will preside over study hall and attendance will be taken at the start of each period just like in any class. The teacher will be available to assist students with their assignments and answer questions as needed.

ART

Course ID: ART-100

Students will have comprehensive art experiences in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. They will learn about various artists and various styles of art as well as how art is reflected in culture and culture is reflected in art. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will learn about the history, analysis, and interpretation of art.

CHOIR

Course ID: CHOIR-100

Middle School Choir will bring our individual voices together in one sound to give honor and glory to God alone. We will represent our school in a variety of settings such as school events, chapels, school musicals, and fine arts festivals as opportunities arise. Students will learn about the fundamentals of music and singing through various resources throughout the year.

PUBLIC SPEAKING

Course ID: PUB SPEAK-100

Public speaking will teach students to become communicators for Christ. Throughout the year students will learn various speaking styles including recitation, expository, humor, impromptu, dramatic, and persuasive. Students will demonstrate their speaking skills in a variety of settings such as school events, and chapels as opportunities arise.

COMPUTER

Course ID: COMP-100

In this computer elective students will learn the basics of keyboarding, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and much more. The focus of this course will be gaining skills for completing school assignments with ease that can also be carried into the future workplace.

ELECTIVE OPTIONS

7th-8th Grade

TASH - Teacher Assisted Study Hall

Course ID: TASH-100

Teacher Assisted Study Hall is a study period designed for students to study when they have an open period between classes for which they are registered. Study Hall will be quiet. No games, headphones, or talking will be permitted. Students must come with work to do or something to read. A teacher will preside over study hall and attendance will be taken at the start of each period just like in any class. The teacher will be available to assist students with their assignments and answer questions as needed.

ART

Course ID: ART-100

Students will have comprehensive art experiences in painting, drawing, printmaking, sculpture, and crafts. They will learn about various artists and various styles of art as well as how art is reflected in culture and culture is reflected in art. In addition to gaining confidence and proficiency working with a variety of mediums, students will learn about the history, analysis, and interpretation of art.

CHOIR

Course ID: CHOIR-100

Middle School Choir will bring our individual voices together in one sound to give honor and glory to God alone. We will represent our school in a variety of settings such as school events, chapels, school musicals, and fine arts festivals as opportunities arise. Students will learn about the fundamentals of music and singing through various resources throughout the year.

Intro Spanish IA (7th Grade only)

Course ID: FLSPAN-IA

Spanish 1A is a year-long course for Junior High students designed to cover only the contents of the first semester of the regular Spanish 1 course (see Spanish 1 course description). The goal of this course is to expose the Junior High student to Spanish earlier in order to make possible the taking of higher levels of Spanish in the upper years of high school.

Intro Spanish IB (8th Grade only)

Course ID: FLSPAN-IB

After taking Spanish IA, Spanish IB is a year-long course for Junior High students designed to cover only the contents of the second semester of the regular Spanish 1 course (see Spanish 1 course description). The goal of this course is to expose the Junior High student to Spanish earlier in order to make possible the taking of higher levels of Spanish in the upper years of high school.

Course Prerequisites: Spanish IA in 7th grade

Publications I

Course ID: GEPUBL-100

This course will cover the basics of journalistic writing, copy editing, and publication of the school newspaper (Paws For Thought), yearbook (The Lair), and web-based content for Lions Online (www.legacypca.org). The class will also cover broadcast journalism, including production of video newscasts and podcasts. Each student will research and write stories, conduct interviews, and take photos to support their submissions. Students will be expected to develop multiple story ideas throughout the course of the semester, in addition to carrying out the tasks of researching and writing. Students will be asked to support their fellow staff members, cooperate with the instructor, and use all equipment (computers, cameras, etc.) responsibly. Students must be mature, act in a Christian manner, and work efficiently, both independently and as part of a team. Some work can be completed in class, though there will be LPCA events that students must cover during or after school, or even on weekends.

COMPUTER

Course ID: COMP-100

In this computer elective students will learn the basics of keyboarding, Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, Microsoft PowerPoint, and much more. The focus of this course will be gaining skills for completing school assignments with ease that can also be carried into the future workplace.

ATHLETIC COURSES

6th -12th Grade

Competitive sports at Legacy begin in 6th grade, with the offering varying each year according to availability of practice/game facilities and sufficient quantities of student participants. Detailed information (e.g., cost, duration of season, practice times, coaches, etc.) will be distributed immediately prior to the start of each sport season, and participants will register at that time.

Cheer at Legacy begins in 6th grade. As with other sports, detailed information (e.g., cost, duration of season, practice times, coaches, etc.) will be distributed immediately prior to the start of each cheer season, and participants will register at that time.

BIBLE & LEADERSHIP COURSES

LEADERSHIP COURSES

5th-12th Grade

Legacy's mission is to partner with parents to inspire their children to be college-worthy, character witnesses of Christ. In order to live in such a way, students are called from the broad road of popular culture to lead the way on the narrow path. Jesus said, "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow is the road that leads to life, and only a few find it" (Matthew 7:13-14). To depart from the norm and walk a different path, students must be given the tools to think and act with an eternal perspective and a biblical worldview. They must become leaders.

As students move from elementary Bible into Leadership courses, they dig deeper into God's Word. Students complete an overview of the Old and New Testaments, study Israel's history and leaders, and are introduced to the tenets of the biblical worldview. They explore the origin and formation of the Bible and learn that God's Word has been proven true again and again through archaeology, history, and science. Students learn Bible study skills that may be applied to other academic subjects, and are encouraged to become stewards of their own time by developing increased independence in daily Bible study, prayer, academic studies, and other responsibilities.

In 8th – 12th grades, students learn more advanced Bible study tools to enable them to find answers to their toughest questions. Each course is built around an in-depth study of the Bible. As students study the attributes of God, they learn that God is holy so they should live lives of purity. By studying the book of Acts, students learn to become mission-minded and share the good news. Students compare the biblical worldview with the leading humanistic worldviews of our day and begin to view relationships and social issues through the lens of the Bible. Ultimately, students will recognize that the Holy Spirit guides us as we abide in Christ throughout our lives, enabling us to become leaders down the narrow path.

5th Grade Leadership

Course ID: LEAD-500

Course Title: New Testament Overview

Building on the foundation laid during the elementary years, this course is designed to give students a deeper interaction with Scripture and the person of Christ at a critical time in their development. Students will study New Testament books with a focus on historical context, God's character, His plan, the authority of the Bible, the relevancy of the church, and developing Christ-like character. The Bible study skills taught in this course will help students read God's Word with understanding, and may be applied in other academic subjects. Students are encouraged to become stewards of their own time by developing increased independence in daily Bible study, prayer, academic studies, and other responsibilities. The desired outcome is for students to become rooted in the faith – a key characteristic of a godly leader.

6th Grade Leadership
Course ID: LEAD-600
Course Title: Old Testament Overview

This course increases understanding and application of truths found in both the Old and New Testaments. Students will be introduced to the Pentateuch, the historical books, the poetry and wisdom literature, and the prophetic literature of the Old Testament. Building on the Bible study tools taught in the 5th grade course, students will be equipped to study Scripture with greater insight and clarity. Special emphasis is placed on how the Old Testament points us to Jesus and the need for a Savior. As with the 5th grade course, students will be encouraged to become stewards of their own time by developing increased independence in daily Bible study and prayer, academic studies, and other responsibilities. Emphasis also is placed on developing Christ-like character.

7th Grade Leadership
Course ID: LEAD-700
Course Title: Standing on the Truth

This course builds upon prior Leadership courses by introducing additional tools to independently read and comprehend Scripture. Students will explore the origin and formation of the Bible, and learn that God's Word has been proven true again and again through archaeology and science. They will study the history of Israel and its leaders, identifying their leadership principles. During the spring semester, students will learn the tenets of the Biblical worldview and how they compare to the beliefs of the leading humanistic worldviews of our day. Various areas of life, including relationships and social issues, will be viewed through the lens of the Biblical worldview. The concepts learned in this course, as well as prior Leadership courses, provide a firm foundation of truth as students begin to act upon their faith in subsequent Leadership courses.

8th Grade Leadership
Course ID: LEAD-800
Course Title: Developing a Servant's Heart

As students understand the gospel, they will overflow with the joy, gratitude, and humility essential to developing a servant's heart. They will understand how great a gift they have received in salvation and explore how to make an eternal impact by seeing and meeting the needs of others. Students will examine the scriptural teaching on missions, research world missions, learn about needs of Christians in other parts of the world, communicate with missionaries, and pray for the work being done to fulfill the great commission. They will continue to build on the Bible study skills learned in prior Leadership courses, and recognize that the Holy Spirit guides us as we abide in Christ through daily Bible reading, prayer, and Scripture memory.