

**OAK GROVE LUTHERAN SCHOOL
COURSE DESCRIPTIONS
GRADES 6-7-8
2011-2012**

ART

Art 6 **Required, 1 quarter** **Grade Level: 6**

This course exposes the students to a wide range of art materials, so they may express ideas and emotions in the language of the visual arts. Projects will be made in the areas of drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and poster making.

Art 7 **Required, 1 quarter** **Grade Level: 7**

The quarter long class is an introductory art class where students are exposed to a wide range of art materials, so that they may express ideas and emotions in the language of the visual arts. Students will study the five elements of art and the principles of design. Projects will be made in the areas of drawing, painting, print making, sculpture, and poster making. A sketchbook of weekly drawings will be made.

CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Christian Studies 6 **Required, 1 quarter** **Grade Level: 6**

Students will study Scripture to find out how God created human relationships and rescues His people. Various topics are covered in this study including: God creates the universe, God creates human beings, God creates human relationships, God saves people from sin and evil, God saves people through Jesus, God helps people by the work of the Holy Spirit, and God calls people to serve.

Christian Studies 7 **Required, 1 semester** **Grade Level: 7**

Students will explore the Bible by reading the stories of the Old and New Testaments. The focus will be on God's plan for his creation. The students will discover how the stories and prophesies of the Old Testament are linked to the resurrection of the Messiah in the New Testament. An emphasis will be put on how God calls each of us personally to be in a relationship with Him and to serve others. Other mini units within this class include Christian Leadership, Exploring Christian music, Being a good neighbor, Prayer, and Being a Disciple.

Christian Studies 8 **Required, 1 semester** **Grade Level: 8**

Students will study Scripture to find out how God calls Christians to gather in worship and serve others as shown through Jesus Christ. Various topics are covered in this study including: God calls people to serve, God calls people to be Jesus' disciples, God calls people into the Christian church, and God gathers Christians to worship.

COMPUTER

Computer Applications 6 **Required, 1 quarter** **Grade Level: 6**

Students will concentrate on touch typing keyboarding skills. Students will be introduced to Microsoft Word 2007, including inserting pictures and clipart. Students will use the internet to research and write a Social Studies paper that will be formatted in MLA style.

Computer Applications 7 **Required, 1 quarter** **Grade Level: 7**

Students will review touch typing keyboarding skills. Basic formatting skills using Microsoft Word 2007 for letters, memos, press releases, and tables will be presented. Microsoft Excel 2007 will be utilized for simple spreadsheets. Basics of Microsoft PowerPoint 2007 will be introduced.

Computer Applications 8**Required, 1 semester****Grade Level: 8**

Students will review touch typing keyboarding skills. Students will design newsletters using Microsoft Word 2007 and review formatting for letters, memos, and tables. Spreadsheets that are more complex will be introduced using Microsoft Excel 2007. Students will learn to generate a variety of charts. PowerPoint presentations will include transitions, animations, inserting pictures, tables, charts, etc. Students will complete a project incorporating Word and Excel.

ENGLISH**English 6****Required, full year****Grade Level: 6**

In this course, students will work to further develop their skills in writing, reading, and speaking. They will use the six traits of writing to improve their writing and editing skills while being introduced to informative, persuasive, narrative, and descriptive writing styles. Emphasis will be placed on writing a clear and well developed paragraph. Students will undertake a detailed study of grammar learning and applying the eight parts of speech to their writing. Students will gain an appreciation for various genres of literature as they read the novels for this course. Through these novels, they will study vocabulary, spelling, and the elements of literature. Students will also be involved in group and individual presentations including a demonstration speech. The Accelerated Reader program is used in this class to encourage reading and increase comprehension.

English 7**Required, full year****Grade Level: 7**

This course focuses on writing and literature. Students will review the eight parts of speech focusing on usage and applying the rules of grammar to their writing. As students work with functional, narrative, informative, and persuasive styles of writing, emphasis will be put on writing and editing a paper with an introduction, thesis, appropriate transitions, and a conclusion. In literature, students will study the elements of short stories as well as novels. They will further develop their vocabulary and spelling skills through these works of literature as well as use the themes presented to practice critical thinking skills and make real life applications. The Accelerated Reader program is used in this class to encourage reading and increase comprehension.

English 8**Required, full year****Grade Level: 8**

In these classes, the students will study vocabulary, literature, grammar, research, Internet usage, speech, and writing. The students will read novels in class for literary study; they will also read books and take tests through the Accelerated Reader Program to develop comprehension skills. The speeches and writings will be research based with appropriate documentation.

FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCE**Family and Consumer Science****Required, 1 quarter****Grade Level: 8**

This class includes and introduces the students to a variety of life skills using hands-on activities. The topics include: character development, food safety and sanitation, food guide pyramid, food preparation, hand sewing, machine sewing and money management.

MATHEMATICS

One math class is required per year. Any student taking a high school math class will receive high school credit for the class.

Mathematics 6**Required, full year****Grade Level: 6**

This course includes the study of basic mathematics including: addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals and fractions; graphing and statistics; measurement and geometry; ratio, proportion and probability; percent; area and volume; and integers. Algebra is brought into most chapters throughout the text.

Accelerated Math 6**Full year****Grade Level: 6**

Placement in this course based on faculty recommendation. This course moves at a steady to rapid pace from a seventh grade text. Concepts that may be covered in this course include: problem solving, number relationships, fractions and their operations, algebra and integers, data analysis and statistics, ratios and proportions, percents and decimals, geometry in the plane, geometry in space, probability and discrete mathematics, and algebraic equations and functions. In addition to these concept areas, hands-on projects tied to real-life situations will be incorporated.

Mathematics 7**Full year****Grade Level: 7**

This course includes the basic study of: exponents, rounding, place value, metrics, order of operations, using various graphs, adding, subtracting, multiplication, and division of decimals and fractions. It also includes lowest common multiples, greatest common factors and probability. The course will involve integrate algebra throughout.

Accelerated Math 7**Full year****Grade Level: 7**

Placement in this course based on faculty recommendation. This course includes the advanced study of: variable expressions, metrics, greatest common factor, lowest common multiple, rational numbers, ratio, Pythagorean Theorem, geometry, slope, intercepts, surface area, volume, polynomials and binomials.

Pre-Algebra 8**Full year****Grade Level: 8**

This course includes the basic study of percent applications, exponents, scientific notation, metrics, multi-step problems, lowest common multiples, greatest common factors, fractions, decimals, graphing, geometry, probability and statistics, and two variable equations in algebra.

Algebra I**Full year (1 HS credit)****Grade Level: 8-9**

Placement in this course based on faculty recommendation. This high school course includes the study of number theories, graphs, positive and negative numbers, mathematical sentences, polynomials, linear equations and inequalities with one and two variables, systems of equations, functions, plus enrichment activities and computer enhanced instruction, as well as a more thorough coverage of inequalities, irrational numbers and quadratic equations. High school credit will be given in this course.

MUSIC**Beginning Band****Elective, full year****Grade Level: 6**

This is a beginning level band that focuses on learning the basics of playing a band instrument including note reading, breath support, counting, dynamics, playing as an ensemble and following the conductor. The student also has a weekly sectional/private lesson. Private lessons are also encouraged but not required. The Beginning Band participates in four major concerts per year: October, December, March, and May

General Music**Required, full year****Grade Level: 6**

This course provides an opportunity for the student to learn various aspects of general music. The students will review note-reading and will learn fundamentals of music theory and music history. They will also be introduced to improvisation and composition. Students will sing two-part music in a choral format, and will participate in three concerts per year: December, March (the Middle School Musical), and May.

Choir**Required, full year****Grade Level: 7-8**

Choir meets every other day. Concepts taught include vocal development, healthy singing through voice change, breath support and posture, and learning part-singing through rounds, partner songs, and two and three-part music. The student will also learn proper concert etiquette and audience skills. The choir participates in three concerts per year: December, March (the Middle School Musical), and May

Private Lessons, Vocal**Elective, semester****Grade Level: 7-8**

Private vocal lessons are elective and available on a limited basis to highly motivated students who wish to study voice individually. There is an additional fee.

Private Lessons, Piano**Elective, semester****Grade Level: 7-8**

Private lessons in piano are elective and available on a limited basis to highly motivated students who wish to study piano individually. There is an additional fee.

Honor Choir (By Audition Only)**Elective, full year****Grade Level: 7-8**

This select group practices once weekly and performs locally and at school concerts. Students are selected on the basis of ability, commitment, and desire to work on more challenging music. We typically meet Wednesdays after school.

Middle School Band**Elective, full year****Grade Level: 7-8**

This class aims to continue learning and implementing intermediate instrumental techniques in a full band setting. Students will be working to improve the skills they learned in Beginning Band. Students will develop their sight-reading skills, learn scales, and play various band selections. They will develop their aural skills, working towards proper balance and blend within the ensemble. This class is open to any student grade 6-8 who has had at least one year of experience on his/her instrument. The Middle School Band participates in four concerts each year: October, December, March, and May.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND HEALTH**Physical Education****Required, 1 semester****Grade Level: 6-8**

The Oak Grove Physical Education program is designed to help students acquire the important health and fitness skills they need to continue their journey through life. Students will have an opportunity to participate in a wide variety of team sports and lifetime sports. We will also be covering a wide variety of individual and dual sports. Physical fitness testing is also a part of the Oak Grove Physical Education program.

Health 6**Required, 1 quarter****Grade Level: 6**

Students will study the interrelationship of physical, mental, emotional, social, and spiritual health. Using a variety of methods, students will research and analyze current health information and issues in order to make positive health choices. Areas of study include wellness, decision making, goal setting, refusal skills, self-esteem, self-concept, hygiene, skeletal and muscular systems, and tobacco prevention education.

Health 7**Required, 1 quarter****Grade Level: 7**

Students will further their study of wellness and making positive health choices. Areas of study are decision making, goal setting, refusal skills, physical fitness, nutrition, and alcohol education. Using technology, students will write a research paper, design a visual aid, and give a presentation on infectious or non-infectious disease.

Health 8**Required, 1 quarter****Grade Level: 8**

Continuing study of wellness will include mental and emotional health, stress management, decision making, goal setting, refusal skills, healthy relationships, infectious diseases, health careers, and the miracle of life. Students will use technology and library resources to research and write papers on mental illnesses, health careers, and current health issues.

SCIENCE

General Science 6

Required, full year

Grade Level: 6

This course covers a variety of scientific areas including life's structure and function, diversity of life, life and the environment, Earth's air and water, earth and space, matter, forces, and energy, electricity and magnetism.

Life Science 7

Required, full year

Grade Level: 7

This course is required for all seventh grade students. Throughout the year, students will explore the living world starting with discovering what a cell is and ending with the human body. To help along the way, many activities and labs are integrated into the lessons. Throughout the school year, students will dissect a set of eight specimens that relate to the animal groups in their studies. A science Fair research project will be required for grade and for competition, as well as 1 research paper will be submitted for grade during each semester.

Earth Science 8

Required, full year

Grade Level: 8

During this course students explore the following topics: Rocks and Minerals, Weathering and Erosion, Plate Tectonics, Climatology, Oceanography, Space Science and Meteorology. Labs and activities will be provided to assist in learning these topics. A science Fair research project will be required for grade and for competition, as well as 1 research paper will be submitted for grade during each semester.

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Social Studies

Required, full year

Grade Level: 6

The course covers a variety of topics including: "The Shape of the Earth" and "The Dawn of Civilization". Additional topics covered throughout the year include: Europe, Africa, Asia, and Australia in the Modern Age; Central, South America, North America, and the Caribbean in the Modern Age. As a class, we will study historical structures around the world. Each student will select a structure, which he/she will construct, and research. Presentations will be given to the class on each structure, including its history and how the student constructed it.

Geography

Required, full year

Grade Level: 7

This course is the study of the world's regions using the Five Themes of Geography. The regions include: Location (both absolute and relative), place (the physical and human characteristics), human/environment interaction (the relationships within places) movement (the mobility of people, goods and ideas) and region (how they form and change).

United States History

Required, full year

Grade Level: 8

This course is the study of the history of the peopling of the Americas through the Reconstruction following the Civil War.

WORLD LANGUAGES

The study of foreign language gives students a unique perspective on the world. They learn about the similarities and differences between cultures. The study of foreign language at Oak Grove addresses four traditional and vital skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. We teach these skills under the broad umbrella of culture and tradition. The availability of staff will dictate the world language class offerings.

Spanish

Required, 1 quarter

Grade Level: 7

Middle School Spanish is an introduction to the skills of speaking, reading, listening and writing in Spanish in a context of everyday communication. The students are introduced to basic levels of grammar, pronunciation and vocabulary with a focus on cultural aspects of Spain and our neighbor, Mexico.