

*2018-19 Middle School*

# Course Catalog



**New Life Academy**

Learn. Lead. Serve.

# New Life Academy Middle School Course Catalog 2018-19

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# New Life Academy

## Vision

To develop tomorrow's Christ-centered leaders today.

## Mission

Our mission at New Life Academy is to educate and energize each student to impact their world for Jesus Christ and to reach their full potential in scholarship, leadership and service out of love for God and one another.

## Motto

Learn with Honor. Lead with Courage. Serve with Compassion

## Core Values

- Pursue Excellence in Educating and Preparing students for life
- Teach and model an Authentic Christian Life and Worldview
- Treat others as individually valued and uniquely created
- Create vibrant relationships with Students and Families
- Provide a transformative educational experience for an exceptional value

## Portrait of a Graduate

If you know a tree by its fruit, our most powerful example is our graduates. We exist to unleash a generation of believers shaped by Jesus' teachings to pursue excellence in all things for His glory, moving toward a hurting world with His grace and mercy. A New Life Academy graduate will be

- AUTHENTIC CHRIST FOLLOWERS
- SPIRIT-DRIVEN INDIVIDUALS
- ACCOMPLISHED LEARNERS AND MINDFUL DOERS
- AGENTS FOR POSITIVE CHANGE
- WISE LEADERS AND DISCERNING FOLLOWERS

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### **Statement of Faith**

Christian education is a partnership. Unity in that partnership is an essential part of being consistent and effective in our mission to educate and energize each student to impact their world for Jesus Christ. Below is our statement of faith; written to help you understand what we believe and therefore teach.

#### **The Word of God**

We believe that the Bible is the Word of God, fully inspired and without error in the original manuscripts, written under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, and having supreme authority in all matters of faith and conduct.

#### **The Trinity**

We believe that there is one living and true God, eternally existing in three Persons; that these are equal in every divine perfection, and that they execute distinct, but harmonious offices in the work of creation, providence, and redemption.

#### **God the Father**

We believe in God the Father, an infinite personal Spirit, perfect in holiness, wisdom, power, and love. We believe that He concerns Himself mercifully in the affairs of men, that He hears and answers prayers and that He saves from sin and death all who come to Him through Jesus Christ.

#### **Jesus Christ**

We believe in Jesus Christ, God's only begotten Son, conceived by the Holy Spirit. We believe in His substitutionary atoning death, bodily resurrection and ascension into heaven, perpetual intercession for His people, and personal visible return to earth.

#### **The Holy Spirit**

We believe in the Holy Spirit who came forth from the Father and Son to convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment and to regenerate, sanctify, and empower all who believe in Jesus Christ. We believe that the Holy Spirit indwells every believer in Christ, and that He is an abiding helper, teacher, and guide.

#### **Regeneration**

We believe that all men are sinners by nature and by choice and are, therefore, under condemnation and that there are no good deeds that a person can do to free himself from condemnation. We believe that those who receive Jesus Christ as Lord and trust in Him by faith as the only way to salvation are regenerated by the Holy Spirit.

#### **The Last Things**

We believe in the personal and visible return of the Lord Jesus Christ to the earth and the establishment of His Kingdom. We believe in the resurrection of the body, the final judgment, the eternal peace and joy of the righteous, and the endless suffering of the wicked.

#### **The Church**

We believe in the universal church: a living spiritual body of which Christ is the head and all regenerated persons are members. We believe in the local church: consisting of a company of believers in Jesus Christ, baptized on a credible profession of faith, and associated for worship, work, and fellowship. We believe that God has laid upon the local church the primary task of giving the gospel of Jesus Christ to a lost world.

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### Community Service Hours:

We strive at New Life Academy to develop students that have a growing and personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called as believers to be the hands and feet of Christ. Service hours gives New Life Academy students a distinct advantage to learn the heart of service. Community service provides students the opportunity to find a passion for giving back in the areas they live in and the world around them.

All Christian service hours will be based on the principle in Mark 10:45 which states, "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many." Simply stated, the type of service that you will be required to do will involve giving of your time and talents.

In middle school, students are given the opportunity to complete their services hours through Project Serve. We see middle school as an opportunity to spark the interest and passion to serve.

Middle School Community Service Hour Requirements:

Grades 6-8  
10 Hours Per Year (minimum)  
(5 Per Semester)

### Citizenship Code

At New Life Academy we put a strong emphasis on academics and character. In order to promote Christ-like virtues and a positive school culture, students will be assessed on their citizenship and contribution to our school community through Citizenship marks. Participation in various activities, including leadership roles will be dependent on a student's Citizenship marks.

G - Good  
S - Satisfactory  
N - Needs Improvement  
U - Unsatisfactory

### Grading Scale

Assignments, quizzes, tests, reports and projects are evaluated according to the following grading scale:

100 - 94	4.00	A	76 - 73	2.00	C
93 - 90	3.66	A-	72 - 70	1.66	C-
89 - 87	3.33	B+	69 - 67	1.33	D+
86 - 83	3.00	B	66 - 63	1.00	D
82 - 80	2.66	B-	62 - 60	0.66	D-
79 - 77	2.33	C+	59 - 0	0.00	F

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### Academic Support

Our goal is to maximize the success of each student by removing learning obstacles and navigating social and emotional challenges so they can thrive at NLA. Our Academic, College and Career Department spends time getting to know students so they have the tools they need to succeed.

#### NHS Tutoring

New Life Academy provides tutoring services through our National Honor Society members. If you would like to arrange tutoring, please visit the Academic, College and Career Department to arrange a tutor.

#### Writing Center

The Writing Center is open for all secondary students to receive help in any stage of the writing process, from brainstorming, through research and idea development, all the way to final proofreading. It is open during scheduled flex times on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays. The NLA Writing Center is coordinated by Mrs. Kortuem and staffed by members of the National Honors Society. Students are encouraged to request an appointment to ensure they will be matched with a tutor, and if requested, his/her teacher can be alerted that he or she visited the writing center for their assignment. Students can sign up for an appointment by visiting Mrs. Kortuem's classroom.

### College Planning Tool: Naviance Family Connection

Family Connection from Naviance Succeed is a comprehensive website designed for our students and parents that assists in making decisions about courses, colleges, and careers. Family Connection will allow parents and students to:

- Get involved in the planning and advising process – Build a resume, complete online surveys related to college & career planning, and manage timelines, deadlines, and application materials during the college admissions process.
- Research colleges – Compare GPA, standardized test scores, and other statistics to actual historical data from our school for students who have applied and been admitted in the past.
- Sign-up for college visits – Find out which colleges are visiting our school and sign-up to attend those sessions.

Family Connection also allows NLA to share information with parents and students regarding upcoming meetings and events, local scholarship opportunities, summer enrichment programs, and other web resources for college and career information.

### Middle School Curriculum Overview

Twenty-one credits are required during Middle School. Below is an overview of the curriculum offered .

Subject	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Bible (3 credits)	6th Grade Bible	Wisdom in Proverbs	The Life of Christ
English (3 credits)	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature
Math (3 credits)	6th Grade Math or Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I Quadratic or Geometry
Science (3 credits)	Science Interactions Six	Science Interactions Seven	Science Interactions Eight
Social Studies (3 credits)	MN History	US History	World Geography
Physical Education (3 credits)	PE	PE	PE
Arts (3 credits)	Students choose one from: Art, Band, Choir, Drama, Musical Theory Meets opposite of PE every other day		
Electives (3 credits)	Art, First Aid/Outdoor Education, LTC Quest, Musical Theater, Personal Finance, STEAM, Team & Individual Sports, Yearbook, Intervention Lab		

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## Daily Schedule

New Life Academy utilizes a modified block schedule in Middle School. We've modified the class schedule so that two days a week we have longer blocks of classes to allow for deeper investigation of topics and more time on experiments and projects. On the other three days, we provide students a FLEX time mid-morning.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1st Hour 8:00 - 8:48	1st Hour 8:00 - 8:48	1st Hour 8:00 - 9:30	5th Hour 8:00 - 9:30	1st Hour 8:00 - 8:48
2nd Hour 8:52 - 9:40	2nd Hour 8:52 - 9:40			2nd Hour 8:52 - 9:40
FLEX 9:40 - 10:10	FLEX 9:40 - 10:10	2nd Hour 9:40 - 11:10	Chapel/ Community Groups 9:40 - 11:10	FLEX 9:40 - 10:10
3rd Hour 10:18 - 11:06	3rd Hour 10:18 - 11:06			3rd Hour 10:18 - 11:06
4th Hour 11:10 - 11:58	4th Hour 11:10 - 11:58	3rd Hour 11:20 - 12:50	6th Hour 11:20 - 12:50	4th Hour 11:10 - 11:58
Lunch 11:58 - 12:24	Lunch 11:58 - 12:24	Lunch 11:58 - 12:24	Lunch 11:58 - 12:24	Lunch 11:58 - 12:24
5th Hour 12:28 - 1:16	5th Hour 12:28 - 1:16	3rd Hour 12:28 - 1:16	6th Hour 12:28 - 1:16	5th Hour 12:28 - 1:16
6th Hour 1:20 - 2:08	6th Hour 1:20 - 2:08	4th Hour 1:30 - 3:00	7th Hour 1:30 - 3:00	6th Hour 1:20 - 2:08
7th Hour 2:12 - 3:00	7th Hour 2:12 - 3:00			7th Hour 2:12 - 3:00

## Community Groups

New Life Academy's community group program is a central component to the mission of New Life Academy. Community Groups are designed to equip and develop our students to be Authentic Christ Followers, Spirit Driven Individuals, Agents for Positive Change, Wise Leaders and Discerning Followers, and Accomplished Learners and Mindful Doers.

By setting aside time for students to develop vibrant relationships and to learn how to treat others as individually valued and uniquely created, Community Groups is just one more way that NLA equips tomorrow's Christ-centered leaders.

Community groups are assigned within their grade. Groups are made up of 10-15 students of a single gender. Teachers and faculty will serve as Community group advisors. Community groups meet twice a month and have the following goals:

- Culture building through relationships and leadership development
- Goal setting
- Academic Guidance and Advocacy

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### **FLEX**

Flex Time is a 30-minute period offered three times a week that allows students to get extra academic help, participate in clubs / activities and/or connect with staff and other students. The goals of FLEX time are :

- To promote academic equity by giving all students a chance to have individualized access to teachers and resources during school hours.
- To give students the opportunity to experience different opportunities in unique areas of interest.
- To give the school leadership and teachers the time to meet with grade levels, promote community and training.
- To develop students spiritually, mentoring and discipleships opportunities, leadership development
- To provide opportunities for class unity

<b>FLEX Time 9:40 - 10:10</b>	<b>Monday Academic Support</b>	<b>Tuesday Clubs / Activities</b>	<b>Friday 15% IP / Academic Support</b>
<b>Flex Time is a 30-minute period offered three times a week that allows students to get extra academic help, participate in club/ other activities or connect with staff and other students.</b>	Academic Support Teacher's in Classrooms  NLA Writing Center  NHS Tutoring/Meetings  College Rep. Visits  Enrichment Board Game Challenge  Community Connect	FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes)  Class Level Prayer Groups  Student Council Meetings (Middle School)  Crochet Club  Lawn-Game Club  Enrichment Board Game Challenge  Frisbee Golf (Seasonal)  Ukulele Club  Community Connect  Art Club (After School)	15% IP Sessions (Rock-eting, Programing, etc.) Please see 15% IP class offerings schedule.  Academic Support Teacher's in Classrooms  NLA Writing Center  NHS Tutoring/Meetings  College Rep. Visits  Community Connect
<b>Need Based Use of Flex Time</b>	Grade Level and Student meetings are based on need and times of year	Travel Planning/Training Meetings (Washington DC, Junior Missions, Sophomore Retreat, Senior Trip)	Grade Level meetings for announcements or school updates



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### **Arts**

Visual Arts, Musical Arts, Theatre

Art is not something separate from life, but something at the heart of life which celebrates the fact that we are creator children of a Creator God." Steve Turner

#### **Art**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: This course is designed to give students brief experiences into various art mediums including drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and mixed media. Students will learn the basic language of art by understanding the elements of art and the principles of design to become better informed on what art is and how art is created, and to understand God as the Creator.

#### **Band**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: Band is offered to students in 6-12th grade committed to performing in small groups and large ensemble all while developing skills on their instrument. The band performs two main concerts at NLA, one at Christmastime and the other in the spring. Other performances and activities are planned throughout the year, such as performing at the Mall of America, band festivals or visiting Orchestra Hall.

#### **Choir**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: Middle School Choir is open to any student in grades 6-8 who desires to sing in an ensemble, learn more about music, develop musicianship skills, and work together as a team. It is our desire to help students develop a lifestyle of worship, and singing is just one part of that. Students should demonstrate personal and musical growth during their time in choir. The highlights for the Middle School Choir are singing with the Twin City's Master Chorale and going to the Mall of America at Christmas time.

#### **Musical Theory**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: Students in the general music class will spend time learning about music history, music technology, and current musical events, while integrating our faith with everything we listen to, discuss or perform. Students will also learn to play a Ukulele (added cost of \$45-\$55) and an acoustic guitar (finger-picking and chord strumming).

No musical background is necessary, just a desire to learn, grow and share their musical ability with the class. One of the highlights is going to Orchestral Hall in Minneapolis.

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### **Drama**

Length of Class: Full Year

Supplies: 1-4 or 8 GB SD Card to be stored in classroom

Course Description: Students will be introduced to theater, its terminology, and stage presence. A variety of theater games will be used to help students become comfortable in front of others and to learn to speak clearly, without inhibitions. Basic techniques of articulation, body movements, pantomime, and improvisation are incorporated into this class. Students will perform monologues, storytelling, short skits, and create radio programs.

### **Extracurricular Opportunities:**

Students may participate in these extracurricular opportunities. They do not count towards the Fine Arts Elective requirement.

### **Adonai**

Length of Class: Full Year Extracurricular Meets before School (7 am)

Course Description: Adonai is a before school select choir group. It will meet two times a week in the morning and an audition and director approval is required. Two of the highlights are singing at the Mall of America and singing with the Twin City's Master Chorale. They will also sing at Care Centers and other private schools.

### **Pep Band**

Length of Class: Full Year Extracurricular

Students in 6-12th grade are welcome to be a part of this ensemble that plays for multiple home sporting events starting in the Fall through the Winter. We play upbeat, energetic pieces to keep the teams' spirits high and the fans cheering! We have rehearsals before school or after once a week during the Fall, with occasional rehearsals during the Winter. Students get free admission to the games.

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### **Bible Courses**

The story of the Bible is the most exciting story ever told. It is the story of a God, His people and the promise of a king who would bring peace and life to all people. The message of the Bible is that Jesus is this promised king, who died in our place, making peace and securing the future of all who believe. Through studying the Bible, students are able to see the world through the lens of Christ. Students seek God's good intention for the world, an understanding of how things went wrong, how Christ set things right, and a picture of what is to come.

#### **Sixth Grade Bible**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: Students will get an overview of the New Testament so that they can better understand it. Students will also get an in-depth look at popular scriptures and passages so they can apply them to their life as a middle school student. They can then use this knowledge to build a stronger foundation for their relationship with Christ.

#### **Wisdom in Proverbs**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 7

Course Description: This course will help students learn about God's wisdom by going through the topics covered in the Book of Proverbs – a book originally written to a young person. We will be covering the major principles found in Proverbs such as wisdom, character, making good decisions, and learning to build healthy relationships with those around us. Going through the workbook, Wise Up: Wisdom in Proverbs, we will look at the people in the Bible and their stories to understand how we can glorify God by applying these principles to our own lives.

#### **The Life of Christ**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 8

Course Description: This course is designed to help students personally know Christ better as they study what He said and did while here on earth, mainly from the Gospel of John. As we read each chapter, we will learn more about our loving Savior and the lives He transformed. The objective of this course ties to the primary objective of the Gospel of John itself: "But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name (John 20:31)."

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### English Courses

The New Life Academy of Woodbury English Department believes that a primary goal of education is to equip young adults to interact with the world from a Christ-centered perspective. In order to achieve these goals effectively, we want our students to be able to write well, think critically about complex issues, and speak confidently in small and large group settings.

In order to achieve these goals, the English department will focus on developing a love for reading, critical thinking and research skills, as well as crucial listening and speaking tools. By reading various forms of texts, students will not only be able to enjoy the characters they meet, but they will be able to see how themes apply to our world today. They will be able to successfully articulate the complexity of the issues raised in their texts in verbal and written form. From a Biblical perspective, they will be able to engage their peers and teachers in valuable and difficult discussions.

The goal of the English Department is to have all students display the following attributes of an effective Christian citizen:

- Support and defend viewpoints
- Enjoy reading of all types
- Produce clear and effective writing in various forms
- Develop polished public speaking skills
- Understand and respect differing viewpoints

#### Sixth Grade English

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: This course is designed to build on the foundational skills that were taught in Elementary School. Students will focus on reading, writing, and grammar through the use of novels, speeches, hands-on writing activities, and daily practice with grammar. Students will be able to use these written and spoken language skills as they share their faith with others.

#### Seventh Grade English

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: This course is designed to transition students into the rigors of secondary courses by building on the skills of elementary school. The course builds a foundation of basic knowledge for future reading, writing and speaking skills. Through focusing on skills used to interpret and enjoy literature, students will be encouraged to use this knowledge to be articulate and intelligent witnesses for Christ. This will be accomplished by reading various types of literature, writing, and participating in discussions and formal public speaking.

#### Eighth Grade English

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: This course builds off of the foundational knowledge of 7th grade English and pushes students towards achieving academic proficiency in the areas of Communication Arts and Literature. Students will begin to work on mastering the skills of literary analysis, research, formal public speaking, creative writing and collaboration with peers to enrich their classroom experience. They will be challenged to use these skills in critically thinking about the world around them as they continually shape their Biblical worldview.

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## Mathematics

At New Life Academy, we believe that math benefits our students in at least four areas of their development. Those areas include (1) Professional Development, (2) Character Development, (3) Mental Development, and (4) Spiritual Development.

### **Professional Development:**

Having a strong grasp of mathematics opens the doors to a variety of careers that are not available to those who are not proficient in math. In fact, several studies have concluded that almost all of the top paying undergraduate degrees are math intensive.

### **Character Development:**

Math requires perseverance, and a willingness to be humbled in order to be successful. The process of learning math involves a cycle of trying, making mistakes, fixing mistakes, asking or seeking help, and trying again. According to Romans 5, the process of perseverance develops character. This process is at the heart of our department philosophy.

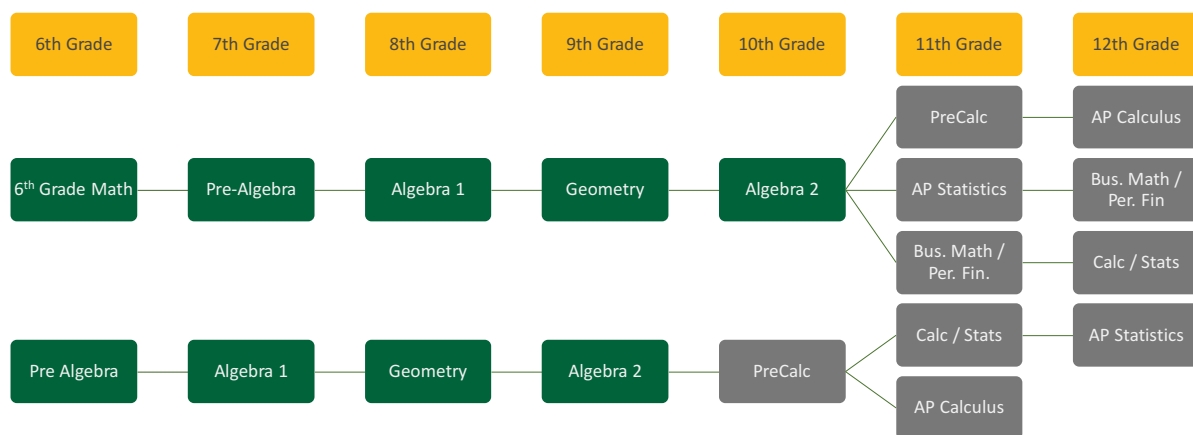
### **Mental Development:**

Even if a student does not pursue a math intensive career, the development of critical-thinking and problem-solving skills are invaluable. Math requires focus, analytical, and linear thinking. Unfortunately, many students only see math as a “collection of recipes” to be followed rather than an opportunity to “learn how to cook”. We strive to help our students develop an appreciation for the development of thought that math fosters.

### **Spiritual Development:**

Galileo said that “Math is the language with which God wrote the universe”. By studying math, we gain an appreciation for the orderliness of creation and his faithfulness to sustain it. By learning math, we discover the order and predictability that God spoke into creation and called good. By studying these patterns, we have the ability to make wise decisions as we navigate this world in stewardship to what God has given us.

The following schematic depicts typical math tracks at New Life Academy.



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### **6th Grade Math**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 6

This course is designed to enhance students' depth of understanding in basic mathematical operations. It is essential that students have practiced and perfected the processes of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing with integers, decimals, and fractions prior to Algebra. The main objective of this course is to reinforce these concepts while introducing basic Algebra concepts, such as equation solving and graphing. During the course, students will be encouraged in their development of number sense as they explore the negative side of the number line as well as the relationships between fractions, decimals, ratios, proportions, and percent. If time allows, students will also work on the basics of Geometry and Statistics.

### **Pre-Algebra**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 6, 7

This course is intended to solidify the basic mathematical operations before laying the foundation for basic Algebra. The course starts with a review of adding, subtracting, multiplying, and dividing integers, decimals, and fractions with special emphasis on these operations with negative numbers. By the end of this course, it is expected that students are proficient in the order of operations, rules of exponents and radicals, working with variables, factoring and distributing, and solving and graphing simple linear equations. Successful completion of these objectives will lay the proper foundation for success in Algebra 1.

### **Algebra I Quadratic**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 8

Algebra 1: Quadratic covers the second semester of Algebra 1 over the course of a full school year. This class is for students who completed Algebra 1 Linear the previous year. The main focus of Algebra 1: Quadratic is the development of Algebra concepts as they pertain to Quadratic Functions. This includes working with exponents, radicals, and polynomials; factoring quadratic functions; and solving quadratic functions by factoring, completing the square, or by the quadratic formula.

### **Algebra I**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 7, 8

Algebra mastery is the foundation for all future math courses at NLA. To enhance overall learning, the concepts in this class will be explored through problem solving as well as visual and interactive learning. The first semester of Algebra 1 covers linear concepts, including solving linear equations and inequalities, finding slopes of lines, finding equations of lines, and solving systems of linear equations. The second semester covers exponents, radicals, and polynomials, with a special emphasis on factoring quadratic equations and solving quadratic equations by factoring, completing the square, and using the quadratic formula. Students will also be introduced to functions and functional notations in this course.

### **Geometry**

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 7, 8

Course Description: This course is designed to emphasize the study of the properties and applications of common geometric figures in two and three dimensions. Geometric relationships will be explored using traditional geometric tools to perform constructions and measure figures. Inductive and deductive thinking skills are used in solving real-world applications and proving properties of parallel and perpendicular lines, triangles, and polygons. Algebra skills are applied extensively with area, surface area, and volume formulas as well as the Pythagorean Theorem and basic Trigonometry.

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### Science

The focus of our science program is to teach a full understanding of science principles and science practices while at the same time showing how science reflects the nature of God through His creation. To accomplish these goals, we focus on having students discover the natural world around them through using inquiry, hands-on learning, scientific instruments, and technology. We seek to serve God as wise stewards of His resources and use our gifts to reveal His glory and join Christ in restoring creation.

Through the study and participation in science, our students will:

- Understand that God created the heavens and the earth, including all things visible and invisible, amazingly large and atomically small, living and non-living.
- Understand that God loves His creation and continually cares and provides for it.
- Recognize qualities of God's character as He reveals Himself through creation.
- Understand how man's fall into sin has impacted all of creation and demonstrates our need for Jesus Christ, the Savior.
- Become responsible stewards working to restore God's creation.
- Use scientific principles to explore and discover God's creation.

#### Science Interactions Six

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: The sixth grade science program focuses on physical science. Scientific Method and critical thinking are emphasized in the exploratory activities. These concepts are investigated through observing, collecting, summarizing, analyzing, and presenting the results of replicated scientific investigations.

#### Science Interactions Seven

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: In Life Science, students will gain an understanding of how science and a Christian worldview can reveal the glory of God through His exquisite creation. Students will use the skills of science and inquiry to discover the complexity and variety of living organisms. Topics covered in this class include cell structure and function, scientific method, biological diversity, heredity and ecology.

#### Science Interactions Eight

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: This course is a study of the physical nature of the earth and its surroundings. Students will explore questions about the physical world (i.e. What type of place do we live in? How do the things around us behave?). The primary objectives of this course are two-fold: To understand what scientific thinking is and how it helps them to understand the world around them. Students will reach beyond what is familiar and become more aware of the great things in the universe. Above these objectives is the higher goal of a greater appreciation for our Creator.

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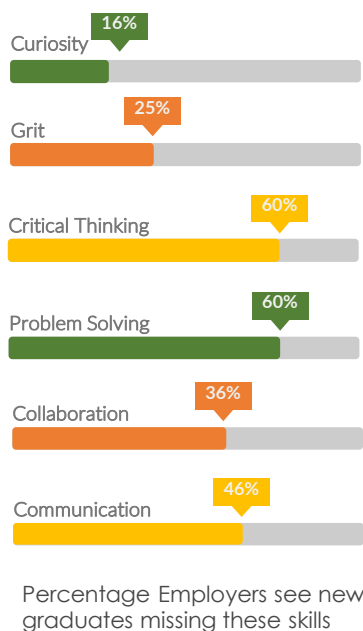
### 15% Innovation Portfolio (15% IP) Program: Shaping Future Leaders

At New Life Academy, students in grades 6-12 build a solid foundation in STEM/STEAM integration through long-term, student-driven 15% Innovation Portfolio projects. Students are inspired and encouraged by NLA faculty to connect their academic learning to the real-world applications and think critically in identifying personal or global needs and designing testable solutions. In 2018-19 school year, students have the option of joining one of the 5 STEAM clubs and collaborate as a team or work independently on a desired project. The Robotics & Coding, Rocketry, Ecology, Engineering and Independent Research Clubs are coached by one or more NLA teachers who have the passion and expertise in these subjects. Students initiate and lead projects through scientific inquiry, engineering design or coding and have the opportunity to participate in the Twin Cities Regional Science Fair or other challenges within and/or outside of NLA. All students are required to graduate with a portfolio that demonstrates efforts and growth in innovative thinking throughout their education at New Life Academy.

15% IP projects are evaluated in Science classes based on independent initiative, implementation, quality and effort, collaboration and teamwork at the end of each semester. 15% IP projects may also be featured at the annual NLA STEAM Fair, where students have the opportunity to interact with professional industry judges and receive awards. This program ultimately equips students with skills needed to use God-given gifts and resources and prepare for their future endeavors and careers.

#### What skills does the 15% IP Program Develop and why does that matter?

Our goal at New Life Academy is to equip students not only for college but for life. A 2016 survey<sup>1</sup> of 63,924 managers indicates that they do not feel that their recent college graduate hires are ready for the work force and have indicated that they are missing these skills:



An additional study<sup>2</sup> shows that at least a 1/3 of college students do not improve their critical thinking and problem solving skills during college. A recent article in the Wall Street Journal said *“Colleges need to focus on preparing students for the workforce by incorporating more soft skills into their curriculum. Maybe with a little more experience in critical thinking and problem solving, graduates will be ready to take on the world.”*

As a K-12 Christian school striving for excellence in all areas, we say why wait for college? STEAM education and 15% IP is an integrated approach to learning that encourage students to discover, explore, create, innovate, problem-solve and think critically. Solving real-world problems starts with inspiring kids to ask questions.

This is the basis for the 15% IP program so our students begin developing these skills now. While 15% IP program is part of the science curriculum, many projects are related to humanitarian causes or environmental sustainability and are reflective of the Christian worldview education threaded into all aspects of students’ life. All students regardless of career or subject interest benefit from the valuable skills that are developed while creating their Innovation Portfolio.

1. 2016 *Workforce-Skills Preparedness Report*. (Rep.). (2016). Payscale.

2. Belkin, D. (2017, June 5). Exclusive Test Data: Many colleges fail to improve critical-thinking skills. *Wall Street Journal*.



# New Life Academy Middle School Course Catalog

## 2018-19

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### **Social Studies**

"We can be almost certain of being wrong about the future, if we are wrong about the past". – G. K. Chesterton.

The goal of Middle School Social Studies at New Life Academy is to gradually build on student's knowledge of their state, country and world. Each year, students will focus on either Minnesota History, U.S. History or World Geography. Through these studies, students will not only learn about the past and the world around them, but about God's role in them. During these three years, students will go on field trips to the Minnesota History Center, the James J. Hill House, and have the option to travel to Washington, D.C. Our objective is to make life-long appreciators of history who see God's handprint not only on the past, but the world around them today.

Experiential Learning and Excursion Opportunities:

- Wax Museum
- Washington DC Learning Excursion

#### **6th Grade History**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: The focus of this course is the history and geography of Minnesota. Students will study first-hand accounts, consider personal points of view, backgrounds, and motives as they interpret the historical perspectives to present day issues relating to Minnesota, national, and world history. Highlights include: A student-created Minnesota historical wax museum to be shared with the New Life Academy community, a fur trading day with student-created objects, and a partnership with the Minnesota History Center on new educational programs. All events and studies help students begin to develop and foster a lifelong interest in history.

#### **7th Grade US History**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: In U.S. History, seventh graders will study our country's history from its earliest explorers, to its birth as a nation and beyond. Through this survey course, students will identify those events that shaped our nation through primary sources, reading, class activities, projects and writing. By learning the history of the United States in chronological order, students will more clearly see the connections among people, places, events, and ideas while also informing them about who they are as citizens of the United States.

#### **8th Grade World Geography**

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: 8th grade Geography class is designed to help students see God's handiwork not only in our physical earth, but also in the variety of people and cultures that live here. Through this course, students will learn about the seven continents of the Earth and its countries, examining the physical environment, culture, economy, as well as important political issues associated with the region. With this global scope of study students will be able to see how the environments, economies and peoples of the world are dependent on each other.

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### **World Language**

God reveals himself through language and culture. The study of languages and cultures enables us to gain knowledge, explore ideas, and communicate effectively. It is by nature an integrated study of literature, reading, writing, listening and speaking. Through languages we strengthen our relationship with God and are able to communicate his message to others close to home and around the world.

Upper School students must take 2 credits of a World Language. If they take Spanish I in 8th grade, they will still need 2 full credits in Upper School.

#### **Spanish I**

Length of Class: 2 semesters, 1 credit

Open to Grade(s): 8. Prerequisite: none

Course Description: Spanish I is intended to instruct students in the development of their interpersonal, interpretive, and presentational skills in Spanish. This will be done by performing an assortment of language functions: to list, to ask questions, to describe, to narrate, to write on a variety of topics, and to converse on familiar topics. These will be learned in different contexts, such as at home, in school and through videos, music, role-playing or games. Topics covered include the classroom and school environment, daily life, activities and sports, family, and making plans.

### **Physical Education**

#### **Physical Education**

Length of Class: Full Year Required in Grades: 6, 7, 8

Course Description: This course will provide students with fun opportunities and activities to improve their fitness. In addition, students will learn the importance of fitness and how they can maintain that throughout their lives. We will be using the new President's Youth Fitness Program as a guide to help test and track our students' fitness throughout the year.

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### General Electives

#### Outdoor Education/First Aid

Length of Class: 1 semester Activity Fee: \$95.

Priority will be given to students who have not yet taken this class in previous years.

Outdoor Education is an experiential class with the goal of introducing students to life long outdoor activities and to inspire possible careers in the outdoors. Units include: camping, fishing, rock climbing, mountain biking, snowshoeing, hiking, archery, orienteering, team building, and first aid. Highlights include an overnight camping trip to a state park and weekly off campus field trips to experience each unit. Class fee covers: food, equipment rentals, transportation, and rock climbing costs.

#### LTC Quest

Length of Class: 1 semester

Open to Grade(s): 6-8, recommended for 7th and 8th

Course Description: LTC (Learning, Thinking, Communicating) Quest is an elective course offered to Middle School students. This class is unique in that everything that is learned is applicable to life outside of the classroom. This successful curriculum (Top 20) takes Biblical truths and makes them relevant to students in all aspects of their lives. Real world skills based on Biblical principles will include: learning from mistakes, conflict resolution, listening skills, organization techniques, understanding brain development, recognizing the importance of sleep, navigating relationships, and applying the Armor of God.

#### Musical Theater

Length of Class: 1 semester

Activity Fee: \$75

Requirements:

- Students will be responsible to provide his/her own costumes (specifics given during the course)
- Parental help with sets and props

Course Description: This practical introduction to musical theatre will help students build confidence, develop new skills and expand upon existing knowledge of the genre. Students will explore the foundations of musical theater through acting, singing and dancing. All students will perform in a fully staged musical near the end of the session. Recommended: Any previous Drama class with roles chosen through an audition process.

#### Personal Finance

Length of Class: 1 semester

Open to grades 6-8; recommended for 7th & 8th

Course Description: It is never too early to start thinking about your personal finances. Even though you may not have an income yet, this class will teach you how to avoid debt, make a budget, invest your money (even if you don't have a job!), and use all that God has given you to live your life generously for Jesus. Units include: Saving & Budgeting, Credit & Debt, Education & Careers, Investing, Insurance, & Identity Theft, Global Economics, and Marketing & Consumerism.

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In addition to these units created by financial experts Dave Ramsey and his daughter, Rachel Cruze, the class may include guest speakers, service projects, and dynamic self-directed projects to help students understand that:

1. God owns everything
2. He wants us to use our resources to help others live a life that is filled with the love of Jesus.

### **STEAM Exploration**

Length of Class: 1 semester

Course Description: The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Technology) Exploration course will allow students the opportunity to engage in different areas: Robotics, Sewing, Video Production, Creating, Circuitry, Crochet, 3D design and printing and more. After exploring the different areas, students will pick an individual focus. Students will be spending the majority of the semester designing and executing projects of their own choosing. Projects will be self directed with the teacher as coach and involve research, design, trial and error and execution.

### **Team and Individual Sports**

Length of Class: 1 semester

Course Description: This course will provide opportunities to be active while developing specific sports related skills and rules of a number of team and individual sports. Possible units include: soccer, volleyball, basketball, football, floor hockey, softball, archery, badminton, pickle ball.

### **Yearbook**

Length of Class: 1 semester

Course Description: Yearbook is an elective offered to Middle School students who desire to be part of the team that develops NLA's yearbook and newspaper. Students will exercise creativity while developing skills in project planning, desktop publishing, photography, journalism, marketing, and sales. Yearbook is a fun, yet challenging class, as students are required to follow specific guidelines for project consistency, independently manage their time and resources, and complete top quality assignments by all deadlines set. The yearbook team is ultimately responsible for collecting memories throughout the year and will work together to record them in an unforgettable way.

### **Intervention Lab**

Length of Class: 1 semester

Requirement: Students are placed in this course based on Administrative Recommendation

Course Description: Course Description: Intervention Lab is an opportunity to revisit subject matter to ensure proficiency. The lab provides a small structured time period for students needing additional education support who are recommended based on academic progress and standardized test data. The class contains components in the areas of study skills, individual meetings to set goals and student self-advocacy.