



# COURSE GUIDE

MIDDLE SCHOOL 2017-2018



**New Life Academy**

[www.newlifeacademy.org](http://www.newlifeacademy.org)



# MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE REGISTRATION

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

Subject	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Bible	New Testament	Wisdom in Proverbs	The Life of Christ
English	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature
Mathematics	Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I or Geometry
Science	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science
Social Studies	MN History	U.S. History	World Geography
Physical Education	PE	PE	PE
Fine Arts	Students choose one from: Art, Band, Choir, Drama, Musical Theory Meets opposite of PE every other day		
Electives	Art, First Aid/Outdoor Education, LTC Quest, Musical Theater, Personal Finance, STEAM, Team & Individual Sports, Yearbook, Intervention Lab (parent or teacher recommendation)		

## Required courses

### Middle School Course Requirements:

- Bible (3 credits)
- English (3 credits)
- Math (3 credits)
- Science (3 credits)
- Social Studies (3 credits)
- Health/Physical Education (3 credits)
- Fine Arts (3 credits)
- Electives (3 credits)

### Online Registration Instructions

1. Log into myEagleNet
2. Go to the Home Page
3. Click on Class Registration (left side menu)
4. You will now be on the Class Registration page, select the courses you are interested in

# ✝ 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)."





# SCIENCE COURSES

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 core nature of this physical world through inquiry and hands-on learning
- gain a foundational understanding of the core principles in each subject so that students can visualize and apply their knowledge to this world.
- learn the practices of doing science through the use of scientific instruments and technology
- see that all aspects of this physical world point to a designer and creator of the universe

## Sixth Grade Physical Science

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.

## Seventh Grade Life Science

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.

## Eighth Grade Earth Science

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.



# MATH COURSES

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 for 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.

## Pre-Algebra

Length of Class: Full Year

Open to Grade(s): 6, 7

This course is intended to solidify the fundamentals of mathematics. Along with this, the basic concepts of beginning algebra are introduced. Special emphasis is placed on working with fractions, mixed numbers, decimal numbers, and integers within addition, subtraction, multiplication and division. Students will also work with ratios and exponents. Basic algebra vocabulary and graphing within a quadrant system ( $y=mx+b$ ) will be introduced. Order of operations and rules of algebra will be used in solving equations with a variable. Setting up and solving equations based on word problems is also a key component of this course. .

They will be introduced to functions and functional notation. Solving and graphing linear functions will be emphasized. Working with quadratic formula will be introduced. Students will understand the basics of simplifying radicals and solving simple radical equations.

## Algebra I

Length of Class: Full Year

Open to Grade(s): 7, 8

Course Description: Through problem solving, visual and interactive learning, students will develop a strong foundation for Algebra. Students will solve equations and inequalities and systems of equations and inequalities.

## 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.

# 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 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.

# SOCIAL STUDIES



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

## 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.

## Middle School Social Studies

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, student's will focus on either Minnesota History, U.S. History or World Geography. Through these studies, student's 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

# 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.



# 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 the foreign language we strengthen our relationship with God and are able to communicate his message to others close to home and around the world.

## Spanish I

Length of Class: Full Year

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.

Please note: This is a high school course and will be on the student's high school transcript. High School students will still be required to take two additional Spanish classes.

# FINE ARTS ELECTIVES (FULL YEAR)

Students are required to register for one Fine Arts Elective which will be a full year class and run for two semesters. This class will rotate with a PE class full year. The Counseling Office will automatically register Middle School students in the PE class. .

## 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.

## Band

Length of Class: Full Year

Course Description: Band is offered to students 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 or activities are also planned throughout the year, such as performing at the Mall of America 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 in the Christmas concert in December and the 6th–8th grade concert in May. One of the highlights is going to Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

## Drama

Length of Class: Full Year

Requirement: 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 once a week during the Fall, with occasional rehearsals during the Winter. Free admission to the games.

# GENERAL ELECTIVES

The classes below will be offered each semester. Students are required to register for a total of two of the following General Elective courses (first semester and second semester). The Semester class needs to be different from your Full Year Class.

## Art

Length of Class: 1 semester

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.

## First Aid/Outdoor Education

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. Students will enjoy a variety of classroom activities such as

role play, creative projects, conflict circles, and interactive discussion groups.

## 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.



## Personal Finance

Length of Class: 1 semester

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. 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 and
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 activities 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 junior high 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.





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.