



Middle School Course Registration Guide 2016-2017

Grades 6-8

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Online Registration Instructions:

1. Log into EagleNet
2. Go to the Home Page
3. On the left side you will see Class Registration, click on that
4. You will now be on the Class Registration page, select the courses you are interested in

The Guidance Office will register for students if they do not complete the online process by the deadline of March 14, 2015.

CURRICULUM

The table below gives an overview of the New Life Academy's middle school curriculum.

	6 th Grade	7 th Grade	8 th Grade
Bible	New Testament	Wisdom in Proverbs	The Life of Christ
English	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature
Mathematics	6 th grade Math Pre-Algebra	Pre-Algebra, Algebra I	Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, Geometry
Science	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science
Social Studies	MN History	U.S. History	World Geography
Physical Education	PE	PE	PE
Electives	Art, Band, Choir, Computer, Drama, First Aid/Outdoor Education, LTC Quest, Musical Theatre, Musical Theory, Personal Finance, STEAM Exploration, Team & Individual Sports, Yearbook		

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Bible	3
English	3
Math	3
Science	3
Social Studies	3
Health/Physical Education	3
Electives	3
Total Credits	19.5-21

BIBLE

Sixth Grade Bible

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: 2 semesters, 1 credit

Grade Level: Seventh

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: 2 semesters, 1 credit

Grade Level: Eighth

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).”*

ENGLISH

Sixth Grade English

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.

Grade Level: Seventh

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.

Grade Level: Eighth

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.

MATHEMATICS**Sixth Grade Math**

Course Description: This course focuses on building the foundation needed to help prepare students for the major concepts in Algebra. A special focus is given to numbers and operations, algebraic expressions and equations, and geometry.

Grade Level: Seventh and Eighth (based on placement)**Pre-Algebra**

Course Description: 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.

Algebra I

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. 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.

Geometry

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.

SCIENCE**Grade Level: Sixth/Physical Science****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.

Grade Level: Seventh / Life Science

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.

Grade Level: Eighth / Earth Science

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.

SOCIAL STUDIES**Sixth Grade History**

Course Description: The focus of this course is the history 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 as they relate to Minnesota, national, and world history. Students begin to develop and foster a lifelong interest in history.

Grade Level: Seventh / U.S. History

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.

Grade Level: Eighth / World Geography

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.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION**Physical Education**

Course Description: Physical Education is to provide fun opportunities to be physically active while developing knowledge of the variety of activities and learning about the importance of fitness as a part of a healthy lifestyle. 6th, 7th and 8th graders have physical education every other day for the school year.

FINE ARTS ELECTIVES (Full Year Classes)

**** 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 Guidance Office will automatically register Middle School students in the PE class.*

Please choose one class from the below Fine Arts Electives:

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: Middle School Band is offered to students committed to performing in small groups and large ensemble. The band performs two main concerts, one at Christmastime and the other in the spring. Other performances or activities are occasionally planned throughout the year. Small group or individual lessons given on a bi-weekly basis with the director are also part of the band curriculum.

Choir

Length of class: Full year

Course Description: Middle School Choir is open to any student in grades 6th-8th 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 choir performs at the Sounds of Christmas concert in December and the 6th-8th grade concert in May.

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.

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 acoustic guitar (finger-picking and chord strumming). No musical background is necessary, just a desire to learn, grow and share!

Before school opportunity

Adonai

Length of Class: Full year before school

Course Description: Adonai is a before school choir group. It will meet two times a week in the morning and an audition and director approval is required.

GENERAL ELECTIVES (Semester Classes)

**** The below classes 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: One 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.

Computer

Length of class: One semester

Course Description: Students will learn to use the computer as a tool to help them academically and as a Christian in today's technology-rich environment. Students will learn how to use Microsoft Office XP, web site development, photo shop, photo editing, movie production, sound creation, typing skill improvement and animation creation.

Drama

Length of Class: One Semester

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.

First Aid/Outdoor Education

Length of Class: One Semester

Activity Fee: \$95 - New Life Academy provides sleeping bags, pads, tents, snowshoes, compasses, and fishing poles/bait. Additional clothing or equipment you may choose to buy is completely optional.

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

First Aid Course Description: American Red Cross First Aid, CPR and AED curriculum is used in this class. Students will learn to recognize when an emergency exists and the precautions and steps to take. They will recognize and understand cardiac emergencies, breathing emergencies, environmental emergencies, as well as injuries to tissue, muscle, bones and joints.

Outdoor Education Course Description: The outdoor education course for New Life Academy's students compliments the existing First Aid course. Units of study include: camping skills, hiking, backpacking, fishing, mountain biking, orienteering, rock climbing, snowshoeing, and environmental ethics.

There are several field trips that will require you to miss class time in your other classes. You need to be sure you are able to keep with your other class workload. Field trips include snowshoeing to Carver Lake Park, Rock Climbing at Vertical Endeavors in St. Paul, navigating an orienteering course at Carver Lake Park, and an overnight camping/hiking experience to a Minnesota State Park.

LTC Quest

Length of Class: One Semester

***Open to students in grades 6-8, but recommended for grades 7 & 8*

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: One Semester

Activity fee of \$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 Course: One 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 will 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 Course: One 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: One Semester

Course Description: This course will provide students with opportunities towards understanding the importance of physical wellness. Units are designed around skill development, written tests, and game experience. Possible units include and are not limited to: fitness, soccer/volleyball (every other year), basketball, floor hockey, softball, Team Building, Archery, Badminton.

Yearbook

Length of Class: One 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: One Semester

*Students are placed in this course based on Administrative Recommendation

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.

Students receive a half-credit.