

2021-22 Middle School

Course Catalog



New Life Academy

New Life Academy Middle School Course Catalog 2021-22

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Course Registration Instructions

Step 1: Make a plan

Review the Course Catalog, watch the registration videos on Veracross or Schoology, and address any questions to the ACC office. Decide which electives interest you and which will be your backup choices.

Step 2: Check @newlifeacademy.org email address

On March 25 at 5:00 pm, students will receive an email with a registration link.

Step 3: Register for classes

Students will be pre-registered for Bible, English, Social Studies, Science, and the next Math in their progression. Students will need to rank Full Year Elective and Semester Electives. For Semester Electives, please rank your top four choices. You do not need to consider which semester, you will be enrolled in the semester that best fits your choices and class availability.

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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 give 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 and on-site opportunities. Parents and MS students do not need to arrange any other service opportunities, the school will provide all required hours. We see middle school as an opportunity to spark the interest and passion to serve.

Citizenship Codes

At New Life Academy we put a strong emphasis on academics and character. The Citizenship Codes are a tool to communicate, not only academics on the report cards, but how a student is doing as a member of our school community.

Citizenship Codes Policy

A New Life Academy student receiving an N will result in conference with the principal. The conference may include parents, but a communication to the family will come from the Principal.

A New Life Academy student receiving a U or more than one N will be ineligible for extra-curricular and athletic participation for a minimum of two weeks. In addition, they will be required to have a conference with the principal and at least one parent in attendance.

Ineligibility includes all extra-curricular activities. Citizenship codes will also be used to evaluate a student's participation in other school leadership, field trips or travel opportunities. (Sports, Drama, Clubs, Athletic Captainship and leadership positions at the school, National Honor Society, Student Council etc.)

E – Excellent

- Consistently displays a Christ-like attitude
- Goes above and beyond to encourage and help classmates
- Shows excellent participation skills, by both sharing and listening to others' remarks
- Demonstrates strong leadership skills

G – Good

- Respectful to the teacher and classmates
- Consistently displays a positive attitude
- Comes to class on time, properly attired, and prepared
- Remains respectful and attentive during instruction
- Willingly participates in learning activities

S – Satisfactory

- Generally shows respect to their teacher and classmates with few exceptions
- Shows a positive attitude most of the time
- Is prepared for class but is occasionally late, or out of dress code
- Participates in classroom activities and learning with some reminders

N - Needs Improvement

- Attitude and behavior negatively impacts class or disrupts learning
- Is disrespectful to teacher
- Discourages or makes unkind remarks to classmates
- Is occasionally late, unprepared for class, or out of dress code
- Requires repeated correction

U – Unsatisfactory

- Unwilling to cooperate or benefit from correction
- Repeatedly demonstrates a negative attitude and pattern of behavior
- Is a continual distraction to the learning process
- Is consistently late, unprepared for class, or out of dress code

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Academics

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

Academic, College, and Career Department

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 Homework Help

New Life Academy provides homework help through our National Honor Society members. If you would like support, watch for opportunities on Schoology or contact the Academic, College and Career Department.

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.

Techology

All 7th and 8th grade students are required to provide a device for use at school. 6th graders will be provided a school device and pay a technology fee.

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)	Walking with God and His People	Wisdom in Proverbs	The Life of Christ
English (3 credits)	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature	Grammar/Writing Literature
Math (3 credits)	Math Foundations or Pre-Algebra	Math Foundations, Pre-Algebra or Algebra I	Algebra I or Geometry
Science (3 credits)	Physical Science	Life Science	Earth Science
Social Studies (3 credits)	MN History	U.S. History	World History
Physical Education (3 credits)	PE	PE	PE
Spanish (1 credit optional)	N/A	Spanish 1a	Spanish 1b
Arts (3 credits)	Students choose one from: Art, Band, Choir, Drama. Meets opposite of PE every other day		
Electives (3 credits)	Art, Outdoor Education, Musical Theater, Personal Finance, STEAM, Team & Individual Sports, Multi-media, Ukulele, Guitar, Intervention Lab, MS Computer Discoveries, MS Lego Robotics		

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Daily Schedule

New Life Academy utilizes a modified block schedule in Middle School. We have 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. MS students needing academic support are required to work with teachers during FLEX time.

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 8:15 - 9:45	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 9:55 - 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 - 11:58	6th Hour 11:20 - 11:58	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 made up of 10-15 students. 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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Full Year Electives

All Middle School students will register for one, full year elective class. This class will meet every other day, based on the A/B day schedule. All students will be in PE on the opposite day.

Band

Band is offered to middle school students committed to performing in small groups and large ensembles, all while developing skills on their instrument. The band performs three main concerts at NLA, two 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

Middle School Choir is open to middle school students 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 NLA concerts, singing with the Twin City's Master Chorale, and going to the Mall of America at Christmastime. Students will be responsible for purchasing required concert attire.

Drama

Students will be introduced to theatre, its terminology, and stage presence. A variety of theatre games will be used to help students become comfortable in front of others and to learn to speak clearly, without inhibitions. Students will also discover the technical side of theatre and get to work with their hands creating the world of the stories that are read in class with set, prop, and costume design. In the classroom, students will perform monologues, storytelling, scenes, and create radio programs.

Middle School Studio Art

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 create expressive, but well-organized works of art. Students will become better informed about artists, art mediums, art movements, and artistic processes. Artists will also grow in their understanding of God as the Creator and how art, imagination, and creating is worship to God.

Middle School 3D Art

Pre-requisite course: Middle School Art class

This course is designed to give students a more in-depth experience into the three-dimensional art, also known as Sculpture. Students will learn the basic language of sculpture by understanding the Elements of Art and the Principles of Design to create expressive, but well-organized three-dimensional works of art. Artists will become better informed about sculpture as an art medium and the artistic processes to create 3D artworks. Additionally, students will understand and explore sculpture in history and culture. Artists will also grow in their understanding of God as the Creator and how art, imagination, and creating is worship to God.

Physical Education

This course will provide students with opportunities to improve their fitness through sports and exercise activities. In addition students will learn the different principles and practices around fitness. We will be using the Fitnessgram Healthy Fitness Standards as a guide to help test and track student fitness throughout the year.

Spanish I

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 listen, to ask questions, to describe, to narrate, to write on a variety of topics, and to converse on a variety of 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, clothing, food, sports, family, making plans, and culture of Spanish speaking countries.

Students who choose to take Spanish during 7th and 8th grade will receive one credit of Spanish towards their high school transcript and will be able to take Spanish II in 9th grade.

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Semester Electives

Enrichment

Pre-requisites - All previous year classes As and Bs, MAP scores in 85 percentil or higher for math and reading.

Enrichment class is an opportunity for students to explore a variety of interests and topics at a deeper level. This is a self-motivated learning classroom, where students will learn by participating in Project Based Learning (PBL), by researching, designing, and presenting their projects. STEM, crreative writing, computer coding, building miniature golf courses, memorizing countries of the world, learning a new language, building a toothpick structure, writing a book, creating games are just a few other examples of these PBL projects.

Guitar

This course is designed for students with no previous guitar experience. Areas of concentration include: correct posture, note reading, aural skills, flat-picking, singing songs, rhythmic patterns, chord study, finger-picking styles, musical forms, improvisation and performing experiences. Guitars will be available for student use.

Intervention Lab

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

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.

MS Lego Robotics

Lego Robotics is an introductory robotics course where students will learn how to build, test, and program an autonomous robot using Lego Mindstorms technology to solve a set of missions in a robot game. Using imagination and teamwork, students will work together to research and find a solution to a real-world problem such as food safety, recycling, energy use, etc. At the end of the semester, an unofficial competition will take place during class.

MS Computer Science Discoveries

Computer Science Discoveries is an introductory course that takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTMLS/CSS and data. Students in this course will be inspired as they build their own websites, apps, games and physical computing devices. Computer science prepares all students to be active and informed contributors to our increasingly technological society whether they pursue careers in technology or not.

Multimedia

Multimedia is a class created in order to work with several media and technology based outlets. Students will exercise their creativity through projects based on photography, graphic design, creative brainstorming and execution, filmmaking and journalism. The year-book will be created in this time as well, but it will not be the subject of the entire class. Projects will be done individually but also in collaborative groups. Much of the class will be done on the computer, but real-world application will also take a large role in learning. Applications that will be used in class are Adobe Premiere, Photoshop, Jostens Online and Lightroom.

Musical Theatre

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

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 theatre through acting, singing, dancing, and study of the history of musical theatre. All students will perform in a full stage musical near the end of the session. Recommended: Any previous drama class. Roles will be chosen through an audition process.

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Outdoor Education

Activity Fee: \$100 (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 ice fishing. 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.

Personal Finance

Open to grades 7-8

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

STEAM Exploration

The STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Math) Exploration course will allow students the opportunity to engage in different areas: Robotics, Sewing, Video Production, Creating, Circuitry, 3D design and printing, engraving, and more. After exploring the different areas, students will pick an individual focus and execute projects of their own choosing. There will also be a few themed projects throughout the semester. Projects will be self directed with the teacher as coach and involve research, planning, design, trial and error, and reflection.

Team and Individual Sports

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, and pickle ball. Students may take this class one semester each year.

Ukulele

This course serves as an introduction to the instrument and will provide students with an instant access to making music on the ukulele. Focus points will be strumming and rhythms, reading music, improvising, and beginning songwriting. Ukuleles will be provided for classroom use.

Extracurricular

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

Adonai

Adonai is a before school choir selected from members of Middle School choir. It will meet one time a week in the morning and an audition and director approval is required. Adonai will sing at two New Life concerts and at other venues as opportunities arise.

Pep Band

Students in 6th-12th grade are welcome to be a part of this ensemble that plays for multiple home sporting events (Fall through the Winter). We play upbeat, energetic pieces to keep the teams' spirits high and the fans cheering! We have rehearsals after school 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

Walking with God and His People - 6th Grade

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 lives as a middle school student. They can then use this knowledge to build a stronger foundation for their relationship with Christ. Students will also cover health topics that include nutrition, disease, drugs, and alcohol from a Biblical perspective.

The Life of Christ - 7th Grade

This course is designed to help students personally know Christ better by studying the book of John with cross-references to other gospels and specific Old Testament texts. We focus on the life transforming power of Jesus' words and ask good questions about what this means for the Christian walk. Like John 20:31 states, we study Christ's life "so that [we] may believe that Jesus is the Christ and the Son of God and that by believing, [we] may have life in His Name."

Wisdom Literature - 8th Grade

This course will help students read and understand the wisdom of God as told by the wisdom literature books in an effort to help students make God-honoring decisions.

English Courses

Sixth Grade English

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

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

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 Courses

Math Foundations

Open to Grade(s): 6, 7

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

Open to Grade(s): 7, 8, or by teacher recommendation

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

Length of Class: Full Year Open to Grade(s): 7, 8 Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

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): 8, 9 Prerequisite: Algebra I

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 Courses

Physical Science - 6th Grade

The sixth-grade science program focuses on physical science. The engineering design process and critical thinking are emphasized in the exploratory activities. These concepts are investigated through hands on activities and labs that allow students to gain first-hand experience with scientific concepts and God's creation.

Life Science - 7th Grade

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.

Earth Science - 8th Grade

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?). Topics covered in this class include layers of the Earth, plate tectonics, geology, weather, space, and natural resources. 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 Courses

Minnesota History - 6th Grade

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.

U.S. History - 7th Grade

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.

World History - 8th Grade

8th graders enrolled in the exciting class of World History class will explore the development and impact of ancient civilizations, investigate medieval societies, and evaluate the Renaissance's role on our modern world. Through this course, students will develop skills like thinking chronologically, searching for cause and effect, locating the impact of events on the future, and recognizing turning points in history.

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Academic, College, Career Department

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**New Life
Academy**