



## Middle School *Academic Profile*

### The School

Founded in 1985, Christ Presbyterian Academy is a parochial, coeducational, college-preparatory school for students in grades Preschool-12. The Academy is a ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church (PCA). The physical facility for the school is located on 57.5 acres in Nashville, TN, on the Davidson and Williamson county lines. Christ Presbyterian Academy is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI). Membership is also held in Independent Schools of the Nashville Area (ISNA) and the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS).

### Student Body

The total student population is 1,100+ students. The middle school enrollment is approximately 320 students. With a diversity of both academic abilities and socioeconomic backgrounds, the school emphasizes small classes, close student-faculty interactions, and a commitment to help students develop their academic skills and personal abilities in a supportive Christian environment.

### Faculty

The middle-school faculty includes 42 teachers and administrators, along with nine exploratory teachers who teach fine arts, computer, and introductions to Spanish and Latin. In the middle school, 54% of the faculty hold advanced degrees. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1:6. The average class size is 16.

### Daily Schedule

A balanced bell-schedule is used in the middle-school and high school. Seven assigned classes meet at various times throughout the day, four out of five days a week. This schedule allows for students to have longer time for guided practice, labs, and group work. Students also have a study hall built into the daily schedule so they can begin homework and seek additional help from the faculty.

## CPA Middle School Bell Schedule 2012-13

(School Day 7:30 a.m. - 2:55 p.m.)

MONDAY L	TUESDAY I	WEDNESDAY O	THURSDAY N	FRIDAY S
7:30 - 8:40 [70] <b>CLASS A</b>	7:30 - 8:20 [50] <b>CLASS F</b>	7:30 - 8:40 [70] <b>CLASS C</b>	7:30 - 8:20 [50] <b>CLASS G</b>	7:30 - 8:20 [50] <b>CLASS D</b>
8:45 - 9:55 [70] <b>CLASS B</b>	8:25 - 9:35 [70] <b>CLASS G</b>	8:45 - 9:55 [70] <b>CLASS F</b>	8:25 - 9:35 [70] <b>CLASS D</b>	8:25 - 9:35 [70] <b>CLASS E</b>
10:00 - 11:10 [70] <b>CLASS C</b>	9:40 - 10:50 [70] <b>CLASS E</b>	10:00 - 11:10 [70] <b>CLASS G</b>	9:40 - 10:50 [70] <b>CLASS A</b>	9:40 - 10:50 [70] <b>CLASS F</b>
11:15 - 11:45 [30] <b>MS LUNCH</b>	10:55 - 11:25 [30] <b>MS LUNCH</b>	11:15 - 11:45 [30] <b>MS LUNCH</b>	10:55 - 11:25 [30] <b>MS LUNCH</b>	10:55 - 11:25 [30] <b>MS LUNCH</b>
11:50 - 12:35 [45] <b>CLASS E</b>	11:30 - 11:50 [20] <b>ADVISORY</b>	11:50 - 12:45 [55] <b>STUDY HALL</b>	11:30 - 11:50 [20] <b>ADVISORY</b>	11:30 - 11:50 [20] <b>ADVISORY</b>
12:40 - 1:35 [55] <b>STUDY HALL</b>	11:55 - 12:40 [45] <b>CLASS B</b>	12:50 - 2:00 [70] <b>CLASS B</b>	11:55 - 12:40 [45] <b>CLASS C</b>	11:55 - 12:40 [45] <b>CLASS A</b>
1:40 - 2:50 [70] <b>CLASS D</b>	12:45 - 1:30 [45] <b>CLASS D</b>	2:05 - 2:50 [45] <b>CLASS E</b>	12:45 - 1:30 [45] <b>CLASS F</b>	12:45 - 1:30 [45] <b>CLASS C</b>
*NO EARLY DISMISSAL FOR GAMES EXCEPT TOURNAMENTS	1:35 - 2:20 [45] <b>CLASS A</b>	*NO EARLY DISMISSAL FOR GAMES EXCEPT TOURNAMENTS	1:35 - 2:20 [45] <b>CLASS B</b>	1:35 - 2:20 [45] <b>CLASS G</b>
2:50 - 2:55 [5] <b>CLEANUP</b>	2:25 - 2:55 [30] <b>STUDY HALL</b>	2:50 - 2:55 [5] <b>CLEANUP</b>	2:25 - 2:55 [30] <b>STUDY HALL</b>	2:25 - 2:55 [30] <b>STUDY HALL</b>

## Grading and Course Selection

Christ Presbyterian Academy has a stringent grading system. CPA offers some honors and accelerated courses in middle school. Student selection for these courses is based upon successful completion of prerequisite courses, in-class performance, teacher recommendation, and standardized testing.

Any high school course taken during the seventh or eighth grade (Algebra I, Geometry, or a foreign language) will be listed on the student's high school transcript; however, the grade earned will not be included in earned credits, the cumulative high school grade point average, or class rank.

## Honor Roll

Honor Roll is determined based on nine-weeks grades, not on the semester average. The Headmaster's List consists of students who receive an A- or higher in all courses. The Honor Roll consists of students who receive a B- or higher in all courses. Any incomplete grade disqualifies a student from receiving Honor Roll or Headmaster's List status. Students are required to maintain these standards in their exploratory classes as well.

## Grading Scale

Grade	Numerical
A	95-100
A-	92-94
B+	89-91
B	86-88
B-	83-85
C+	80-82
C	77-79
C-	74-76
D+	71-73
D	68-70
D-	65-67
F	Below 65

## Testing Summary

Each year in April, middle-school students take the ERB achievement test. The student scores are compared to those in other independent schools throughout the country. Eligible seventh-grade students are invited to participate in the Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP). Eighth-grade students take the EXPLORE test in order to determine areas of strength and challenge as well as perceived areas of interest in preparation for high school.

## Academic Program

The middle school academic program is designed to challenge students at all levels. Our primary focus is providing a college-preparatory curriculum and expectations that develop and support a biblical worldview. Students receive from their teachers the "best practices instruction" recognized by the National Middle School Association. A unique aspect of the academic program is the effort to weave the curriculum in such a way that units of study incorporate multiple subject areas.

## English

English classes at all middle-school levels integrate the skills learned in grammar, writing, vocabulary, and literature. Skills are presented sequentially as middle-school students grow developmentally in their communications skills. The study of literature includes a focus on understanding literary devices. Each grade includes studies in short stories, poetry, essays, nonfiction, multicultural writings, and memoirs. Writing is featured in all aspects of literature and grammar studies.

## History / Geography

Sixth graders take World Geography as part of a two-fold academic plan. (1) Knowledge of the design and functions of various world countries and cultures allows students to gain understanding as they actively participate in service/outreach projects. (2) Foundational understandings in World Geography are critical in preparing students for seventh-grade World History.

Seventh graders take World History. This course parallels units in seventh-grade Bible and English classes. Students visit the [Nashville] Parthenon, a culminating event after the study of ancient Greece and Rome, as well as a study of mythology in literature. History and literature classes provide a basis for the development of the Greek Festival, a cross-curricular seventh-grade event.

Eighth graders take American History and Government. This course parallels units in Bible and English classes. Eighth-grade students visit Washington, D.C. in the spring and complete a packet of assignments designed to blend what they have learned with what they experience during the trip. Eighth-grade American History class combines with all other subjects to form the basis for the development of '40s Day, a cross-curricular, eighth-grade event.

## Mathematics

Sixth-grade math includes a review of basic operations, decimals, variables, fractions, ratios, proportions, data, graphs, tools of geometry, integers, probability, equations, and inequalities. Students who qualify through previous fifth-grade coursework performance and standardized testing are placed in Pre-Algebra. These students spend a brief period of time reviewing the basics presented in Math 6. They are expected to perform at the same level as seventh-grade Pre-Algebra students.

Seventh-grade students take Pre-Algebra. Seventh graders who have already successfully completed Pre-Algebra in sixth grade take Algebra I.

Eighth-grade students who completed Pre-Algebra in seventh grade take Algebra I. Students who successfully completed Algebra I in seventh grade take Geometry.

A unique feature of CPA's Middle School Math Department is the continual oversight by faculty and staff of each student's progress. This allows for students to be placed accurately from one year to the next based on their developmental level and achievement. Students are also provided with a daily opportunity to receive additional help in math through "Math Lab." Math teachers are available during this time to help students with concepts that may need to be reinforced.

## Bible

Bible classes work together vertically, with courses in the grade above and below, to create an entire study of the Bible. The primary emphasis in the middle school is to help develop and cultivate a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. In sixth grade, students study the fundamental components of the Christian faith. Great emphasis is placed on Christian worldview, service and the *Westminster Shorter Catechism*.

Seventh grade Bible begins with Genesis and works through Malachi in the Old Testament. Students identify their spiritual gifts and study the book *The Pilgrim's Progress*. The following year, students explore the New Testament and celebrate the coming of the promised Messiah. Emphasis is placed on worldview as it relates to media and service. Both years, students study the *Westminster Shorter Catechism* as it relates to the various areas of the Bible curriculum.

## Science

Sixth graders study earth science, including structure and formations, geologic history, space, planets, oceans, and weather.

Seventh graders take Life Science. Units of study are scientific method, cells, heredity, genetics, bacteria, viruses,

protists, fungi, the human body systems, animal body systems and frog dissection.

Eighth graders take either Physical Science or Introduction to Physical Science (IPS). Physical Science includes units on matter, solids, liquids, gases, atoms, periodic table, chemicals, motion, forces, machines, energy and power. IPS units of study are volume, mass, closed systems, characteristic properties, identifying substances, solubility, separation of mixtures, compounds, and a final sludge test requiring a complete analysis of matter. Placement in Physical Science or IPS is based on prior performance and test scores in math and science.

## Foreign Language

Sixth and seventh graders are introduced to Spanish and Latin, respectively. Eighth graders also have an optional conversational Spanish class. These introductory classes familiarize students with the language so they are better prepared for the options available in eighth and ninth grades.

Spanish I and Latin I are high-school-level classes offered to eighth-grade students who qualify. Each class meets the same requirements as its high-school counterpart. Students who take Spanish I or Latin I do not take the nine-weeks exploratory classes.

## Technology

The integration of technology is a core priority at CPA. Technology and computer applications are woven throughout the middle-school curriculum. Each class takes part in the integration of various skills that are taught in the middle-school years. Among the wide variety of applications taught are word processing, spreadsheets, multimedia applications, and blogging.

Eighth-grade students also have an option of taking a quarter-long computer class to help sharpen their computer skills in preparation for high school.

## Fine Arts

Students experience a variety of art forms through exploratory classes. Sixth-grade students participate in performing arts and visual arts. Seventh-grade students participate in theatre and visual arts. Eighth-grade students take Media in the Arts.

All middle-school students can choose to participate in band as an alternative to the other fine arts classes. Seventh-grade and eighth-grade students also have an option of auditioning for Concert Choir. Both band and Concert Choir meet during the regular day and attend various competitive events throughout the school year.

## **Mission**

Christ Presbyterian Academy, an educational ministry of Christ Presbyterian Church, assists Christian families in helping students come to know God, evaluate all knowledge and all life by His truth, and live transformed by His truth for His glory.

## **Motto**

*Soli Deo Gloria*

To God Alone be the Glory

