

# **Community Christian School**

*2020-2021 Middle School Course Catalog*



**COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL**

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Dear Community Christian Middle School Student and Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

***Congratulations!*** We are blessed that you chose to enroll at Community Christian School where our mission is to equip you with a “firm foundation of truth, knowledge, and virtue for a lifetime of service to God and man.” You now have the opportunity to educate your child from a wide variety of excellent courses taught by some of the best teachers in the state. In addition to equipping you with an exceptional academic education, CCS also provides students the opportunity to grow in their knowledge and relationship with God while developing Christ-like character and preparing them to change the world for Christ. We believe that God has designed everyone with specific gifts and abilities because He has a specific purpose for everyone’s life. Our hope and prayer for you is that you will discover that purpose while you identify your interests and develop your abilities. We are a leading school in ACT and NWEA test scores and PSEO classes are offered right here at CCS through our classroom teachers and through Ridgewater College, Northwestern University, and other colleges and universities throughout the state.

As you grow at CCS student, you begin to assume the responsibility of designing your personal plan of study by choosing your courses wisely. The important first step in registering for your CCS classes for the 2020-21 school year is to go through the course catalog. Please take the time to carefully read through the course descriptions. It is a good idea to discuss your options with your parents/guardians so they reflect your long-range educational, vocational and personal goals. Please consider the Honors Designation qualifications and the PSEO classes. The diversity of the CCS curriculum gives you a great amount of flexibility in pursuing your personal goals and plan for the future that God has designed for your life.

Once you have made your preliminary course selections, we suggest you follow-up with me, to make sure your plan meets graduation requirements as well as your own personal goals. It’s important you know that we sincerely care about you and your success during and after your career at Community Christian High School. We strive to give each student our time and attention in order to ensure an excellent academic year.

We make critical decisions about next year’s faculty placement, room utilization, and funding allocations based on your registration. So please, take extra care to choose wisely!

If you have questions about the registration process, please contact Lisa Strom at (320) 235-0592 to make this your **best** school year ever! We welcome you as an Eagle if you are new to Community Christian High School and welcome back our returning students!

In Christ,  
Lisa Strom-Principal

## Registration Guidelines

The middle school years are full of transition. Schedules change, the level of intensity changes, and the number of opportunities change. Community Christian School (CCS) walks with the students as they transition from their elementary school days to a high school and college preparation focus. Many of the required courses for middle school students are a direct preparation for high school graduation requirements – both those of CCS but also meeting state standards for diploma.

The purpose of this guide is to provide a general description of all courses, grade requirements, and prerequisites for our middle school curriculum. Specific course maps may be provided per request. It is strongly encouraged to keep the high school requirements in mind when considering middle school elective options. Our students get a jump start in mathematics by having the option to take Algebra I class in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Listed below are the requirements for both the Standard Diploma and Honors Diploma.

Schedule changes may be needed for a variety of reasons, including class load, class cancellation, failing grades or failure to meet prerequisites. Schedule changes made by parents and students will be considered by administration on a case by case basis where space is available. No schedule changes will be made after the first week into a new course unless the circumstances are exceptional (e.g. health related), and parent/guardian, administration, teacher dropping and teacher adding all agree. Careful planning will give students the greatest opportunity to succeed.

### High School Graduation Requirements

<u>Course</u>	<u>Standard Diploma</u>	<u>Honors Diploma</u>
Bible	4 credits	4 credits
English	4 credits	4 credits
Social Studies	3.5 credits	3.5 credits
Mathematics	3 credits	4 credits
Science	3 credits	3 credits
Physical Education	1 credit	1 credit
Foreign Language	1 credit	2 credits
Health	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
Financial Peace	0.5 credit	0.5 credit
Electives	<u>5.5 credits</u>	<u>5.5 credits</u>
Total	26 credits	28 credits

**Honors Diploma** – In order to receive an honors diploma the student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher and complete two years of the same foreign language and at least 4 math credits of Algebra I and higher.

### Graduation Requirements Detailed

Subject	Class Title	Credit
Bible	Old Testament	1
	New Testament	1
	The Inner Man	1
	Understanding the Times	1
Foreign Language	Spanish	1
Language Arts	English 09	1
	English 10	1
	English 11	1
	English 12	1
	Speech	0.5
Math	Algebra I 8 <sup>th</sup> or 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1
	Algebra II 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 Rotation	1
	Geometry 9 <sup>th</sup> /10 <sup>th</sup> Rotation	1
	Math Electives: Consumer Math, Fundamentals of Math, Pre-Calculus, Statistics, and Trigonometry	1
	Life Skills	What I Wish I Knew at 18 Dave Ramsey's Personal Finance College & Career Exploration
Physical Education/Health	Physical Education 9	0.5
	Physical Education 10	0.5
	Health	0.5
Science	Physical Science	1
	Biology	1
	Chemistry or Physics	1
Social Studies	US History	1
	World History	1
	Government	0.5
	Economics	0.5
	Geography	0.5
Electives	Other electives are: 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Media Arts, Advanced Fitness, Art, Band, Choir, Technology, Drama, PSEO, Spanish, The Boss, Strength Training, FACS, Teacher's Assistant, CTE, Worship Team/Band	3.25+
	<b>Standard Diploma</b>	<b>Total Credits: 26</b>
	<b>*Honors Diploma</b>	<b>Total Credits: 28</b>

## Bible

### **Winning the Race**

**Instructor: Kristyn Clark**

**Required course for grade 6**

**No Prerequisite**

Hebrews tells us of the great cloud of witnesses, those whose lives of faithful obedience encourage our enduring Christlikeness. With the Bible as our source for truth and the Spirit as our guide, believers can identify the schemes of the wicked one, access the help available to them, and look forward to their future with Christ in heaven. *Winning the Race* encourages students to earnestly pursue the race God has set before them. As they study the Scriptures, they will be reminded that running successfully comes from keeping their eyes fixed on Jesus.

### **Route 66**

**Instructor: Revis Nelson**

**Required course for grade 7**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will walk through the *Route 66 – Travel Through the Bible* curriculum by Mark Reed. Students will define and discuss biblical inspiration, list the literary divisions of the Bible, what God made on each of the days of Creation, and what God expected Israel to do with His law. Students will discuss the three memories, identify at least six judges, and trace Ruth's descendants to Jesus Christ.

### **The Life of Christ**

**Instructor: Stephanie Tollefsrud**

**Required course for grade 8**

**No Prerequisite**

Jesus has changed the course of history as has no other person or influence. John wrote his Gospel to persuade the reader that Jesus is the Christ, the giver of life. With the help of the Spirit, studying through John's Gospel will help us know Christ more personally so that our faith will increase. Students will be challenged to observe the compassion, courage, and power of Jesus and then to respond in humility and faith. The lesson content helps students understand the historical, cultural, and geographical context to the teaching and miracles of Jesus.

More than just knowing the facts about the life of Christ, students will be encouraged to practically demonstrate that they believe that Jesus lived, died, and rose again for them personally.

### **Advisory**

**Led by Principal Strom and special speakers**

**Required activity for grades 6-12**

H-Hour is an opportunity for our school to gather each morning. The American flag pledge, Christian flag pledge and Bible pledge are memorized and repeated. Students start their day with prayer, worship, and devotions. Student recognition, athletic announcements, and other announcements are often made at this meeting.

### **Chapel**

**Instructor varies**

**Required activity for grades 6-12**

**No Prerequisite**

Chapel meets biweekly and starts with music. Students are welcomed with speakers from the community and typically focus on our core values and virtues. This is an opportunity to hit the tough topics of today with a Biblical worldview. Chapel typically ends with a "Do or Discuss" opportunity and ends with student led prayer.

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**Mentor Groups**

**Instructors: See below**

**Required course for grades 6-12**

**No Prerequisite**

Mentor groups meet the opposite Thursday as Chapel. Mentor groups are sorted both by grade level and gender. During this time students focus on a book study or devotion to grow deeper in their faith with their peers. Mentor groups often will end with a time of fellowship and fun.

NOTHING CAN KEEP US FROM THE LOVE OF GOD

**UNSTOPPABLE**

ROMANS 8:38-39

## Language Arts & Foreign Language

### **6<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts**

**Instructor: Kristyn Clark**

**Required course for grade 6**

**No Prerequisite**

In this class, students will learn genres of fiction, informational text, narrative nonfiction and poetry. Students will learn to find the character, setting, plot, sequence and theme in narrative text. Sentence structure and spelling will continue to be improved. Students will integrate biblical principles into their lives by considering the responsibilities God has given us here on earth as well as considering how we face challenges in our lives. Students will write daily paragraphs, write an explanatory essay, write an autobiographical sketch using a process approach as well as other weekly reading, grammar and spelling assessment to demonstrate mastery in this area.

### **7<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts**

**Instructor: Jeannie Reid**

**Required course for grade 7**

**No Prerequisite**

In this course, students will learn to write a narrative paper, How To articles, argument papers and reflections. Students will learn to use parts of speech correctly and improve their grammar and vocabulary. God's continue to deepen their understanding of their responsibility to communicate with love and clarity, as God made us in His image. Students will read at least five books per quarter, with some assigned books to include *One Crazy Summer* and *The Giver*. Students will demonstrate understanding by participating in class discussions, submitting papers, and completing quizzes and tests.

### **8<sup>th</sup> Grade Language Arts**

**Instructor: Jeannie Reid**

**Required course for grade 8**

**No Prerequisite**

In this course, students will learn to understand the life of Corrie Ten Boom, to read and interpret drama, and to annotate poetry. Students will read and analyze *The Wednesday Wars*, complete an argument paper, and present information both in a written research paper as well as in a speech with visual aids. In Colossians 2:8 Paul warns us not to be taken captive by hollow philosophies, so we view all that we read with a Christian Worldview. Students will demonstrate understanding through class discussion, group activities, and testing.

### **Middle Spanish**

**Instructor: Rhonda Holien**

**Required course for grades 6-8**

**No Prerequisite**

God made all cultures, language/culture are part of The Great Commission. In this course, students will be exposed to Spanish vocabulary through a variety of topics. Students will build on and develop comprehension through a variety of resources, spiral reviews, and experiences. Students will develop a great appreciation for the Spanish language, Latin culture, and its people. Students will demonstrate understanding through practical application and assessments.

## Mathematics

### **Grade 6 Math**

**Required course for grade 6**

**Instructor: Rachel Smith**

**No Prerequisite**

Students will learn to write numbers in standard, expanded and word form. Students will learn to how to use place-value charts to read, write, and compare decimals in tenths and hundredths using money. Students will learn the order of operation, to understand fractions, and be introduced to basic geometric ideas including measuring and drawing angles as well as perimeter and area of different shapes. The Bible is full of numbers and the use of mathematics, from the design of the ark to the measurement of Jerusalem. God loves all the small details, and we are all uniquely made. Students will show mastery of the subject through classroom discussions, occasional games, textbook assignments and testing.

### **Accelerated Math/Pre-Algebra** **Required course for grade 7 & 8 (Teacher Recommendation)**

**Instructor: Brenda Thompson** **No Prerequisite**

In this course students will be exposed to the concepts of square and cube roots, scientific notation, graph relationships, and probability. Students will be able to evaluate and write algebraic expressions, solve multi-step equations, and use data to make predictions. Students will be able to use mathematics as a tool to explore and manage God's creation and to glorify God. Students will be assessed via in-class work, homework, and testing.

### **Algebra I**

**Required course for grade 8 or 9**

**1 credit**

**Instructor: Brenda Thompson** **Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra**

In this course, students will learn to classify real numbers, solve problems involving variables, and use tables, equations and graphs to describe relationships. Students will learn to solve problems involving ratios, rates and conversation, as well as use proportions to solve problems involving similar figures. Students will learn to identify functions, find domain and range, and use function notation, as well as to factor binomials and trinomials. Students will be able to use mathematics to glorify God, especially for His created order in mathematics. Students will be assessed via in-class work, homework, and testing. This class is the first class to begin the high school transcript; grade counts towards high school grade point average and eligibility to required higher math classes.

## Music

### **Middle School Band**

**Required course grades 6/7**

**Instructor: Stephanie Tollefsrud**

**No Prerequisite**

Music has a rightful place in the commemoration of historical events, celebrations of victories and other occasions. As the Psalms tell us, "Play skillfully unto the Lord." In this class students will review musical concepts, continuation of new musical ideas thru rhythm/counting exercises, scales and playing tests, classroom participation, performance preparation, participation and evaluation. Students will analyze how the audience and occasion influence creative choices and develop an artistic intent. Students will demonstrate understanding of the personal, social, cultural, and historical contexts that influence music by comparing and contrasting various works, their purposes and contexts and analyzing the meaning and functions of the music.

### **High School Band**

**Required course grade 8**

**Instructor: Stephanie Tollefsrud**

**No Prerequisite**

In this class students will join the high school band. Students will continue to review and build upon previous musical concepts, be exposed to new musical ideas thru rhythm/counting exercises, scales and playing tests, classroom participation, performance preparation, participation and evaluation. God is pleased with excellence in musical performance which is done for His glory. Students will demonstrate knowledge of the foundations of music by analyzing the elements of music including melody, rhythm, harmony, dynamics, tone color, texture, form and their related concepts.

### **Middle School Music**

**Required course grades 6-8**

**Sarah Crowe**

**No Prerequisite**

Music is a gift from God; God made man's voice, the most complex of instruments. In this yearlong course, students will learn musical skills and to sing with proper vocal technique. The students will learn to listen and alter for correct intonation and blend, as well as be able to perform in a large group. Students will demonstrate understanding through teacher observation of individual musical concepts, singing a variety of music, and evaluating musical performances.

## Science, Technology & Entrepreneurial

### **Purposeful Design**

**Required course for grades 6**

**Instructor: Martha Johnson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this year long course, students will learn about biomes, the atomic model, states of matter, and the basics of natural disasters. Topics such as rock cycles, the muscular, skeletal and nervous systems, God's plan for procreation, and pubescent changes will be covered. The students will understand that God does not create chaos; therefore, organization can be seen in the systems of the body and God's design for humankind. All organisms are used to carry out God's plan and man must be respectful of God's creation and to have dominion over it. Discussions, worksheets, demonstrations, writing paragraphs and testing after each chapter will show mastery in each area.

### **Life Science**

**Required course for grade 7**

**Instructor: Martha Johnson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will gain an appreciation for God and the world He created. Students will study the environments, its natural laws, and to apply the laws of God and Man that relate to earth and how it works. Students will study the human body and study basic science skills used in scientific investigation as well as learn to critically compare the origin of man as told by the Word of God and as theorized by man. Understanding of this subject will be measured in a number of ways, including lab activities, discussion, and tests.

### **Earth and Space Science**

**Required course for grade 8**

**Instructor: Martha Johnson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will learn laws of God and man that apply to earth and how it works. Students will be able to critically compare earth's physical history, man's collected knowledge of God's universe, and examine earth's air, water and surface processes. The students will gain an appreciation for God and the world He created. Students will demonstrate understanding in this course in a variety of ways, including, lab activities, worksheets, and quizzes.

### **Technology**

**Required course for grades 6-8**

**Instructor: Libby Benson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will learn and continue to enhance basic computer concepts and operations. Students are exposed to and gain practice in using technological productivity tools/keyboarding, Word processing, and presentation software. Students will have the opportunity to learn technological problem solving, research, and decision making skills. This class prepares students for exciting careers in engineering, industry, or outreach and ministry. Students will demonstrate competency through timings, quizzes, and practical project completion.

### **The Boss**

**Required course for grades 7-8**

**Instruction: TBA**

**No Prerequisite**

This curriculum is designed to teach you the basics of entrepreneurship through actually creating a small business over the course of a semester. Not only will you learn the basics of starting a small business, you will also learn what the Bible says about financial stewardship, business ethics, and the Christian view of work.

Entrepreneurship isn't just about starting a business. It's a mindset that can be applied to any pursuit in life. The goal of the curriculum is that you will be able to tangibly see how you can simplify a seemingly complex pursuit into easily manageable pieces and build confidence through daily

progress towards a goal. Additionally, the hope is that you will be more equipped with Biblical truths in regards to finances, drive, and stewardship that you will be able to carry with you regardless of your ultimate career path.

Entrepreneurship is a broad topic and this course is designed to assist you in learning the fundamentals of entrepreneurship and achieve a practical understanding by starting your own small business. The curriculum is organized into six Modules that represent the basic steps of formulating, starting, and running a successful business. The course materials are presented in a weekly format and designed to be completed in 15 weeks, although your teacher may modify the course duration and pacing at their discretion.

## Social Studies

### **World/MN History**

**Required course for grade 6**

**Instructor: Mike Elmhorst**

**No Prerequisite**

In this year long course, students will recognize the role of God in history, the contribution of godly men and women to history, as well as develop an historic and geographic literacy. Students will study Minnesota indigenous peoples, Minnesota exploration and settlement, and the structure and workings of Minnesota government. Students will delve into Genesis and recognize that the Earth was divided and learn of God's promise after the flood. Students will demonstrate mastery in a variety of ways, including through daily assignments, tests, and maps.

### **American History**

**Required course for grade 7**

**Instructor: Revis Nelson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will recognize God's hand in America's discovery, birth and growth. Students will learn to appreciate our Constitutional freedoms as well as learn about outstanding time periods, events, and people in U.S. history. God controls the rise and fall of rulers. This course will highlight the Providence of God and how that prepared the colonists for freedom in His own perfect timing. Students will demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways, including simulations, projects, and class lecture.

### **World History**

**Required course for grade 8**

**Instructor: Mike Elmhorst**

**No Prerequisite**

In this yearlong course, students will learn to recognize God's hand in world history, learn about critical historical time periods, events and figures, and to learn a Biblical view of world history. The students will study the creation of the world, the fall of man and the resulting consequences in world history, and how the church grew despite persecution. God used the English reformation to increase availability of Scripture; this is just one of many ways God has repeated Romans 8:28 throughout history. Students will demonstrate understanding in a variety of ways, including map studies, projects, and assigned text readings.

## Theater, Art & Physical Education

### **MS/HS Theater**

**Available grades 6-12 after acceptance through audition**

**Instructors: Kristyn Clark, Sarah Crowe, Jeannie Reid    No Prerequisite**

Creativity involves the power of choice; it's an indication of freedom, at least within limits. God made choices as He created, Noah made choices when he built, and Moses and the people of Israel made a choice when they built a tabernacle and its furnishings. In this yearlong class, students will create a theatrical performance to the glory of God. Students will be able to audition for a part, learn and memorize lines, and block scenes through stage composition, relationships to other characters, and the development of their own character. Students have the opportunity to demonstrate their skill during various dress rehearsals and performances, including on presented for the Willmar area community.

### **Art**

**Available grades 6-8**

**Instructor: Brady Pearson**

**No Prerequisite**

In this class, repetition, pattern, emphasis, contrast and balance are used to help represent this creation of art. Students will analyze how elements of visual art including color, line, shape, value, form, texture and space are used in the creation of, presentation of, or response to visual artworks. As it says in 1 Corinthians, we are to build upon what has already been given to us as a foundation, and as Genesis reminds us, creativity involves the power of choice. Students will demonstrate understanding of the subject matter by generating and conceptualizing artistic ideas and work.

### **Physical Education**

**Required course grades 6-8**

**Instructor: Amy Morrell**

**No Prerequisite**

Colossians 3:23 reminds us that whatever we do, work at it with all your as working for the Lord. In this yearlong class, students will participate regularly in physical activity in order to achieve and maintain a health-enhancing level of fitness. Students will be able to develop skills, knowledge, interest, and desire to independently maintain an active lifestyle. Mastery will be measured through timed races, practicing etiquette, and daily participation.

## 2020/2021 Grade Level Tentative Schedules

### Grade 6

Period 1: Bible

Period 2: Language Arts

Period 3: Math

Period 4: History

Period 5: Science

Period 6: Band (T/H), Music (M/W/F),

Period 7: Physical Education (M/W/F), Technology (T/H)

Period 8: Spanish (M/W/F), Art (T/H)

### Grade 7

Period 1: Bible

Period 2: History

Period 3: Science

Period 4: Language Arts

Period 5: Pre-Algebra

Period 6: Music (T/H), Tech (M/W/F)

Period 7: Spanish (M/W/F) S1, Art (T/H), The Boss (M/W/F) S2

Period 8: PE (M/W/F) and Band (T/H)

### Grade 8

Period 1: Bible

Period 2: Science

Period 3: History

Period 4: Technology (M/W/F) and Music (T/H)

Period 5: Language Arts

Period 6: Algebra 1 or PreAlgebra

Period 7: Spanish (M/W/F) S2, Art (T/H), The Boss (M/W/F) S1

Period 8: PE (M/W/F) and Band (T/H)



**Mission Statement:**

To provide a firm foundation of truth, knowledge, and virtue for a lifetime of service to God and man.

**Core Values:**

Truth, Knowledge, Virtue, Community



COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN SCHOOL