

8th Grade

The final year of middle school for CLA students is a special one. Eighth grade students take up to four high school level classes, indulge in a rigorous and deeply theological study of questions surrounding a Christian's purpose, and strive to polish skills started in sixth grade. The following courses are offered to eighth grade students.

Bible Leadership: This course is designed to help students establish a Biblical worldview through three in-depth studies: *Thinking Like A Christian* by Summit Ministries, the Old Testament book of Jonah, and the New Testament book of Colossians. These studies are designed to help students identify worldview in current events, compare and contrast some of the major worldviews seen today, and uncover the truths of the Bible as we look at the world. Specific days of the class are set out for leadership growth where students receive reinforcement on the seven habits of highly effective people while concurrently applying CLA's ten leadership traits. Finally, students conduct service projects to put their leadership ideas into action. All the while, students are memorizing scripture to continue their growth and ownership of their faith.

Honors Algebra One: CLA's math course for eighth grade students is Honors Algebra One and a high school credit course. In this course, students learn algebraic skills such as functions, inequalities, statistical models, polynomials, quadratic functions, and inverse relationships. Algebra One students are required to take and pass the Florida End of Course Exam (EOC) in order to earn the Florida public high school graduation requirement for the course.

Honors Cultural Geography: In this high school level class, eighth grade students study several different areas of the world through learning about people groups, cultures and practices that include economic regulations, heritage, customs, traditions, map studies, and many other aspects of societies from every continent. Students earn an honors high school credit for this course.

Language Arts: English/Language Arts in eighth grade has several subsections to engage each student's abilities in reading and writing. Students have regular discussions, assignments, and opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge in the following areas: spelling, vocabulary, literature analysis, grammar, writing (fiction and nonfiction), and reading comprehension (fiction and nonfiction).

Honors Earth and Space Science: Eighth grade students are enrolled in a high school credit honors science course titled Earth and Space Science. Students study the composition of the earth, the history and the dynamic of the earth, reshaping the crust and atmospheric forces, and oceans and space.

Honors Spanish IB: Students who take Honors Spanish 1A in seventh grade and Honors Spanish 1B in eighth grade earn a high school credit for Spanish 1 by the end of eighth grade. Students practice reading, writing, listening and speaking skills through a variety of activities, games, videos, songs and projects. Students also have opportunities to present special projects on various aspects of Hispanic culture. Even if this is a first experience with the Spanish language, students emerge from this class feeling confident in their budding foreign language skills!

Advanced PE: Eighth grade students have a choice to take PE twice per week. Five physical qualities make up the foundation of the program: Mobility/Flexibility, Speed, Strength, Agility, and Endurance. Students are pushed to the limits to reach health and wellness goals, all while having fun!

Study Hall: Eighth grade students have a choice to take an afternoon study hall twice per week. Middle school students who participate in extra/after school curricular activities as well as students needing extra reinforcement in their academics benefit greatly from having this time frame to ask questions and excel in independent assignments as they continue to learn time management.

Art: Eighth grade students use art as an opportunity to generate and conceptualize artistic ideas, organize and develop art using multiple mediums, and gain knowledge of art history. Likewise, students are challenged creatively to refine, analyze, and apply criteria to evaluate artistic work. Students have several opportunities to work with peers to synthesize personal experiences to make art.

Music: Our eighth grade music class focuses on how to recognize scales, harmonies, rhythm and notes in relation to each other. Students practice vocal warm-ups which help develop the sense of different tones. We have lots of fun playing different instruments and singing different memorization songs. All the while, students strengthen individual relationships with God through music and creativity.

Available to all middle school students is Florida Virtual School. Any class taken through Florida Virtual School is at no additional cost and is available to students who need reinforcement or who wish to accelerate their academic path. Prior approval by administration is required to pursue an FLVS class.