

# WELLINGTON CHRISTIAN SCHOOL SECONDARY COURSE OFFERINGS

## MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSES (GRADES 6 – 8)

Middle school is about more than academics. However, the academic program is central to the identity of a school. Wellington Christian School has two academic goals for our middle school courses:

1. Our middle school courses lay a solid academic foundation for high school and life-long learning, by offering challenging and demanding classes and giving students opportunities to excel in many areas.
2. Our middle school teachers are professionally qualified, but just as importantly they are devoted followers of Jesus Christ. In every course (not just Bible) teachers endeavor to present subject matter from a Christian perspective, modeling and verbalizing what it means to be a thinking Christian responding to issues in the discipline. We want our students to develop a broader intellectual horizon than they will encounter in most schools, a frame of reference that includes spiritual realities as well as physical ones.

Consistent with these goals, each year all middle school students take Bible, English, math, social studies, and science. In addition, sixth grade students take the wheel (described below) and one elective; seventh and eighth grade students take two electives.

### A. MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE SEQUENCE BY GRADE LEVEL

Please note:

- This is a standard sequence. Individual student schedules vary.
- The sixth grade wheel, middle school electives, and eighth grade honors courses are described in the section after this one.

#### GRADE 6

Bible 6  
English 6  
General Science  
Geography  
Math 1  
Wheel  
Elective

#### GRADE 7

Bible 7  
English 7  
Life Science  
American History  
Math 2  
Elective  
Elective

#### GRADE 8

Bible 8  
English 8 or  
English 8 Honors  
Physical Science or  
Earth Science Honors  
Civics  
Pre-algebra or Algebra I  
Elective  
Elective

## **B. WHEEL, ELECTIVES, AND EIGHTH GRADE HONORS COURSES**

### **SIXTH GRADE WHEEL**

- The components of this course vary from year to year. In 2009-2010, the four components are Writing Enrichment, Computers, French, and Health.
- Students take each component for one nine-week term.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES**

#### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE ART**

- This class meets every day and students encounter a wide range of materials used in art, explore art history, and learn how to take care of art media properly.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> GRADE BAND**

- This class is for students with one year of playing experience. Exceptions must be approved by the band director.
- Students must furnish their own instruments.
- Students will build their instrumental skills and will perform at least two concerts.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR (Grades 6 – 8)**

- The choir will perform inside and outside of school.
- Purchase of performance attire is required.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL ART (Grades 7 – 8)**

- Every other year the curriculum will change, so that students can take this class twice without finding it repetitive.
- Each class will emphasize different aspects and tools of art.
- Students will have opportunities to participate in art shows.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND (Grades 7 – 8)**

- This class is for students with one year of playing experience and their own instruments.
- Students will continue to develop musically and will perform at various times and places.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL COMPUTERS (Grades 7 – 8)**

- Students will take a hands-on approach to learning about computer hardware and terminology.
- Students will improve their typing proficiency and learn basic to intermediate skills using appropriate educational simulations and programs (e.g., MS Office Suite – Excel, Word, PowerPoint and Paint).
- Students will also learn safe and effective Internet research techniques.

#### **MIDDLE SCHOOL DRAMA (Grades 7 – 8)**

- Students will explore introductory drama skills.
- Enrollment is helpful but not required for students who desire to act in school plays.

### **MIDDLE SCHOOL PHYSICAL EDUCATION (Grades 7 – 8)**

- Students learn about and participate in different sports.

### **STUDY HALL (GRADES 7 – 8)**

- Students work on homework.
- Study hall does not meet every period, so availability is limited.

### **FRENCH 1A (GRADE 7)**

- Students begin a first year study of French.
- High school credit is *not* given for French 1A by itself.

### **FRENCH 1B (GRADE 8)**

- Students complete a first year study of French.
- To take this course, a grade of 70% or above is required in French 1A.
- Students who successfully complete French 1A *and* French 1B (70% or above in both) will receive one high school credit and take French II in ninth grade.

### **SPANISH 1A (GRADE 7)**

- Students begin a first year study of Spanish.
- High school credit is *not* given for Spanish 1A by itself.

### **SPANISH 1B (GRADE 8)**

- Students complete a first year study of Spanish.
- To take this course, a grade of 70% or above is required in Spanish 1A.
- Students who successfully complete Spanish 1A *and* Spanish 1B (70% or above in both) will receive one high school credit and take Spanish II in ninth grade.

### **SPANISH I (GRADE 8)**

- Students are considered for enrollment in this high school course based on their performance on an entrance test (80% or above).
- This course counts as one high school credit.

## **EIGHTH GRADE HONORS COURSES**

### **ALGEBRA I**

- The Orleans-Hanna algebra readiness test is administered to all seventh grade students. The score on this test (90% or above), grades in seventh grade math, achievement test scores, and previous teacher recommendation will determine which students are selected.
- Algebra I is taken with high school students and counts as one high school credit.

### **EARTH SCIENCE HONORS**

- Eighth grade students interested in applying for this class must request and complete a take-home entrance test.
- Students are selected for the course based on performance on the entrance test, the previous science grade (90% or above is desired), past class performance, and the previous teacher's recommendation.
- Students receive high school credit for this course.

## ENGLISH HONORS

- Students are selected for this course by the English department, based on the previous English grade (90% or above), past class performance, and the previous teacher's recommendation.

## HIGH SCHOOL COURSES

WCS has a successful record of preparing students for college and university studies. However, we want our students to do more in high school than merely create an impressive transcript. Throughout the intellectual, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual aspects of our program, we have two important goals:

3. Our challenging high school courses encourage students to go beyond memorization and rote learning, to meaningful engagement with and deep understanding of important ideas. This is the path to success in college and to life long learning.
4. Our teachers endeavor to present subject matter from a Christian perspective, modeling and discussing what it means to be a thinking Christian responding to issues in the discipline. We want our students to develop a broader intellectual horizon than they will encounter in most schools, and to develop a frame of reference that includes spiritual realities, and which prepares them to impact the world in ways that honor Christ.

Consistent with these goals, each year all high school students take a full schedule of five core courses and two electives. The core course sequences and elective courses are described below.

### A. CORE COURSE SEQUENCE BY SUBJECT AREA

#### BIBLE

<b>Grade 9</b> Bible 9 or Foundations *	<b>Grade 10</b> Bible 10 or Foundations *	<b>Grade 11</b> Bible 11 or Foundations *	<b>Grade 12</b> Bible 12 or Foundations *
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\* Foundations of Christianity: This course is designed for new students to WCS who have little experience in studying the Bible. Students will develop a foundational understanding of the Bible and the Christian faith, which will allow them to participate more fully in their studies at WCS.

#### ENGLISH

<b>Grade 9</b> English 9 or Eng. 9 Honors	<b>Grade 10</b> English 10 or Eng. 10 Honors	<b>Grade 11</b> English 11 or AP Eng. 11 *	<b>Grade 12</b> English 12 or AP Eng. 12 **
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\* AP English 11 = Language & Composition    \*\* AP English 12 = Literature & Composition

## FINE ARTS

- One credit of fine arts is required for graduation.
- A number of fine arts electives are available. (See the list of electives below .)

## FOREIGN LANGUAGE

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
French I	* French II	** French III Honors	** French IV Honors,
or	or	or	** Spanish IV Honors, or
Spanish I	* Spanish II	** Spanish III Honors	AP Spanish

\* 70% or above in French I or Spanish I is required in order to proceed to the second course.

\*\* 80% or above in French II or Spanish II is required in order to proceed to the third course (honors), and also in the third course in order to proceed to the fourth (also honors).

- The first high school foreign language course is taken in ninth grade.
- Two credits in the *same* foreign language are required for graduation.
- Students who successfully complete Spanish or French 1A and 1B in middle school (70% or above) will receive high school credit for Spanish I or French I and will take Spanish II or French II in ninth grade.

## MATHEMATICS

<b>Grade 9</b>	<b>Grade 10</b>	<b>Grade 11</b>	<b>Grade 12</b>
Algebra I	Geometry	Algebra II	Precalculus Honors
or	or	or	or
Algebra I Honors	Geometry Honors	Algebra II Honors	elective

- The math courses above comprise the standard sequence.
- Students who have accelerated the sequence (e.g., by taking Algebra I in middle school) and thus complete it early, or who do not wish to take Precalculus, may choose from several electives. (See the list of electives below .)

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION & HEALTH

- Life Management (a first semester health course) and Personal Fitness (a second semester physical education course) are required for graduation.
- Boys' and girls' physical education is also offered as a semester elective.

## SCIENCE

<b>Grade 9</b> Earth Science or Earth Sci. Honors	<b>Grade 10</b> Biology or Biology Honors	<b>Grade 11</b> Chemistry or Chemistry Honors	<b>Grade 12</b> Physics Honors, AP Biology, Marine Bio., Vert. Zoology
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- The science courses in grades nine, ten and eleven must be taken in this order. A student may take an elective early (listed under grade twelve) only if he or she takes it at the same time as biology or chemistry. (However, note in the elective list below that a student must complete chemistry before he or she may enroll in AP Biology.)
- Students who take Earth Science Honors in eighth grade are one year ahead in the sequence and will be able to take more elective courses.

## SOCIAL STUDIES

<b>Grade 9</b> Ancient World Hist. or A. W. Hist. Honors	<b>Grade 10</b> Modern World Hist. or M. W. Hist. Honors	<b>Grade 11</b> U.S. History or A.P. U.S. History	<b>Grade 12</b> Economics & Amer. Gov't. or AP Econ. (Macroecon.) & Amer. Government Honors
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- The social studies courses above comprise a required sequence.
- Electives are also available, which may be taken in addition to (but not substituted for) these courses. (See the list of electives below.)

## B. ELECTIVE COURSES

- The number of credits for each course is in parentheses next to the course name. One-credit courses (1cr) run all year. One-half credit courses (0.5cr) are semester courses.
- Students may not drop or add full year classes in the middle of the year.
- Some of these courses count toward core graduation requirements (i.e., the four credits required in math, English, etc.) and others do not; they count as elective credits only. If there is no note in the course description below, contact the Guidance Director to be sure that you know what kind of credit an elective gives.
- Some electives are not offered every year.

## ENGLISH ELECTIVES

### Creative Writing (1cr)

- Students will develop both academically and creatively as writers, in units that focus on short stories, screenwriting, and poetry.
- This is an ideal environment for students to polish their writing skills.
- This course does *not* count toward the four English credits for graduation.

### **Yearbook (1cr)**

- Students must apply for this course and be selected by the teacher.
- Students will sell ads, write, take pictures, and design the secondary yearbook.
- Some students will be invited to attend a yearbook summer workshop.
- This course does *not* count toward the four English credits for graduation.

### **Jane Austen: Novels & Films (0.5cr; second semester)**

- Students will read and discuss Jane Austen's novels, as well as watch and analyze the corresponding films.
- This course does *not* count toward the four English credits for graduation.

## **FINE ARTS ELECTIVES**

### **Art I (1cr)**

- This introductory class explores various elements in drawing, painting, printmaking, sculpture, and collage.
- Students are encouraged to participate in local and regional art shows.

### **Art II (1cr)**

- Pre-requisite: Art I or teacher permission
- Students are encouraged to enhance the skills learned in Art I. The course concentrates on painting, using different media.
- Students are encouraged to participate in local and regional art shows.

### **Art III (1cr)**

- Students will study more advanced art skills and work on developing an art portfolio.
- Students are encouraged to participate in local and regional art shows.

### **Art IV (1cr)**

- Pre-requisite: Art III
- The class will focus on the individual needs and skills of students in the class.
- Students will finalize their art portfolios and present their work in a special art show.
- Students are also encouraged to participate in local and regional art shows.

### **Concert Band (1cr)**

- Students must have prior playing experience and must furnish their own instrument.

### **Jazz Band (1cr)**

- Students must have prior playing experience, although not necessarily in jazz.
- An audition is required. (See the band director for details.)

### **Choir (1cr)**

- Students will grow musically, learn about worship, and have opportunities to perform.

### **Drama (1cr)**

- Students will learn drama styles and techniques.
- Students may only take this course once.

### **Digital Photography (0.5cr)**

- Prerequisites: Art I or teacher approval
- Students will learn the basics of digital photography, with a focus on taking artistic photographs.
- This course does *not* count toward the fine arts credit for graduation.

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGE ELECTIVES**

### **French III Honors (1cr)**

### **French IV Honors (1cr)**

### **Spanish III Honors (1cr)**

### **Spanish IV Honors (1cr)**

## **MATHEMATICS & COMPUTER ELECTIVES**

### **AP Calculus AB (1cr)**

- Prerequisite: satisfactory performance in Precalculus

### **AP Calculus BC (1cr)**

- Satisfactory performance in AP Calculus AB

### **Computers (0.5cr)**

- Students will take a hands-on approach to learning about computer hardware and terminology.
- Students will improve their typing proficiency and gain advanced skills with appropriate educational simulations and programs (e.g., MS Office Suite – Excel, Word, PowerPoint, Database and 3D design software).
- The course will reinforce safe and effective Internet research skills, and skills needed for doing research papers in MLA style.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION ELECTIVES**

### **Physical Education (0.5cr)**

- Prerequisite: completion of Life Management and Personal Fitness

## SCIENCE ELECTIVES

### Marine Biology (0.5cr; first semester)

- Prerequisites: completion of Biology, concurrent enrollment in Chemistry
- Students will study the ocean and its living things, which surround Florida.
- This course *does* count toward the science credits for graduation but may not replace earth science, biology, or chemistry.

### Vertebrate Zoology (0.5cr; second semester)

- Vertebrate zoology is the study of animals with backbones: fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals.
- This course *does* count toward the science credits for graduation but may not replace earth science, biology, or chemistry.

### Physics Honors (1cr)

- Prerequisites: concurrent enrollment in Chemistry and Algebra II
- Students study the fascinating concepts and mathematical patterns underlying the structure and function of the universe. Understanding physics can change the way you drive, play your sport, and more.

### AP Biology (1cr)

- Prerequisite: completion of Biology and Chemistry (honors courses preferred)