



# 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 a suburban area of Nashville, TN. 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 the Independent Schools of the Nashville Area (ISNA) and the Tennessee Association of Independent Schools (TAIS).

## Student Body

The total student population is 1,025 students. The middle school enrollment is approximately 240 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 30 teachers and administrators. In addition to this number, there are nine exploratory teachers who teach fine arts, computer, and introductions to Spanish and Latin. In the middle school, 70% of the faculty have advanced degrees. The teacher-to-student ratio is 1:10. The average class size is 18.

## Daily Schedule

In the middle school, there is an eight period day with classes lasting 45 minutes each. Each day, students take Bible, history, literature, math, science, and writing/grammar. Students also have a rotation of four exploratory classes during the year that include the fine arts, computer, and introduction to a foreign language. Academic coursework is rigorous at all levels. Accelerated classes in literature, grammar/writing, science, foreign language and math are offered in the eighth grade.

## A typical schedule in each grade will look similar to this:

Time	Period
7:45-8:40 a.m.	1st Period
8:43-9:28 a.m.	2nd Period
9:31-10:26 a.m.	3rd Period
9:31 - 9:40 a.m. (6th grade)	Break
10:17 - 10:26 a.m. (7th/8th grade)	Break
10:29-11:14 a.m.	4th Period
11:17-12:02 p.m.	5th Period
12:05-12:50 p.m.	6th Period
12:50-1:20 p.m.	Lunch
1:25-2:10 p.m.	7th Period
2:13-2:55 p.m.	8th Period
2:55-3:00 p.m.	Clean Up

## 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 our region. 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.

## Learning Services

Since the school has a commitment to serve students of various abilities, the middle school has a Learning Services Department staffed with a coordinator and a Learning Services teacher. They coordinate services for students with learning disabilities, attention deficits, and any other diagnosed condition that interferes with the learning process. Students in the Learning Services Program may receive special accommodations, including extended time on tests and participation in a directed study hall. The details of such accommodations will be documented on their Individual Learning Plans (ILP).

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## Academic Program

The middle school academic program is designed to challenge students at all levels. Our primary focus is providing 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 middle school study of literature includes a focus on understanding literary devices. Each grade includes studies in short stories, poetry, essays, non-fiction, 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 allow middle school 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 the 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 teams with all other subjects to form the basis for the development of Forties 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 go on to 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 go on to take Geometry.

A unique feature of CPA's Middle School Math Department is the continual oversight by faculty and staff of student 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 the "Math Lab." Math teachers are available during this time to help students with concepts from class that may need to be reinforced.

## ***Bible***

Bible classes work together vertically, with courses in grades 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 foundational components of the Christian faith. Great emphasis is put on Christian worldview and service.

On alternating years, seventh and eighth grade Bible begins with Joshua and works through II Chronicles in the Old Testament. The students identify their spiritual gifts as they read and study *Pilgrim's Progress*.

The following year, students explore the New Testament and celebrate the coming of the promised Messiah. Emphasis is placed on Christian worldview as it relates to the media. Serving through prayer, financial support, encouragement, and time are practiced as the students commit to a various service projects throughout the year.

## ***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. These introductory classes allow students the exposure to the language so they can be 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. This 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***

Though technology and computer application are woven throughout the middle school curriculum, students take a nine-week computer class each year to strengthen their typing and computer usage skills.

The focus of sixth-grade computer is to further develop word processing skills in preparation for high school. Typing speed is stressed, with the use of an online typing program.

Seventh-grade students develop an understanding of databases as sources of information that can answer specific questions. Internet search techniques are taught. Typing speed continues to develop in this class.

Eighth-grade students develop an understanding and use of spreadsheets. Through assigned projects students apply these skills, as well as develop the use of PowerPoint and word processing.

## ***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 theater and visual arts. Eighth-grade students participate in ballroom dance, the art of film, and art of performance.

Sixth, seventh and eighth graders can choose to participate in band as an alternative to the other fine arts classes. Seventh and eighth grade students also have an option of auditioning for Concert Choir. Concert Choir members meet during the last period of the day and also attend various competitive events throughout the school year.



# CHRIST

PRESBYTERIAN ACADEMY

## College Acceptances 2007-10

- |  |                                      |   |   |
|--|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| The University of Alabama                                | Earlham College                      | Miami University, Oxford  | Samford University                                  |
| The University of Alabama - Birmingham                   | East Tennessee State University      | University of Miami   | Savannah College of Art and Design                  |
| The University of Alabama - Huntsville                   | Eastern Kentucky University          | Middle Tennessee State University                                   | School of the Art Institute of Chicago              |
| The American Academy of Dramatic Arts                    | Eckerd College                       | Miller-Motte Technical College                                      | School of the Museum of Fine Arts                   |
| The American Musical and Dramatic Academy                | Elon University                      | Mississippi College   | Sewanee: The University of the South                |
| American University                                      | Emory & Henry College                | Mississippi State University  | Smith College                                       |
| Anderson University                                      | Emory University                     | University of Mississippi   | University of South Carolina                        |
| Appalachian State University                             | University of Evansville             | University of Missouri-Columbia                                     | Southern Methodist University                       |
| University of Arkansas                                   | Flagler College                      | University of Montana-Missoula                                      | University of Southern Mississippi                  |
| Asbury College   | Florida Gulf Coast University        | University of Montevallo  | Sweet Briar College                                 |
| Auburn University  | Florida State University             | University of Murray State University                               | Syracuse University                                 |
| Austin College   | University of Florida                | New College of Florida  | Tennessee Technological University                  |
| Austin Peay State University                             | Furman University                    | New York Conservatory for Dramatic Arts-School of Film & Television | University of Tennessee, Chattanooga                |
| Azusa Pacific University                                 | Gardner-Webb University              | New York University   | University of Tennessee, Knoxville                  |
| Ball State University                                    | George Mason University              | University of North Alabama   | University of Tennessee, Martin                     |
| Baylor University  | George Washington University         | The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill                        | Texas A&M University                                |
| Belhaven College   | Georgetown College                   | University of North Carolina-Charlotte                              | Texas Christian University                          |
| Bellarmino University                                    | Georgia Institute of Technology      | University of North Carolina-Greensboro                             | Transylvania University                             |
| Belmont University                                       | University of Georgia                | North Carolina State University                                     | Trevecca Nazarene University                        |
| Berry College  | Grove City College                   | Northwestern University   | Tulane University                                   |
| Bethel College   | Hampton University                   | Norwich University  | Union University                                    |
| Biola University   | Hanover College                      | Oglethorpe University   | United States Military Academy                      |
| Birmingham-Southern College                              | Harding University                   | University of Oklahoma  | Vanderbilt University                               |
| Boston University  | Indiana University at Bloomington    | Olivet Nazarene University  | Villanova University                                |
| Brevard College  | Iowa State University                | O'More College of Design  | Virginia Military Institute                         |
| Bryan College  | John Brown University                | Oxford College of Emory University                                  | Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University |
| Butler University  | University of Kentucky               | Pellissippi State Technical Community College                       | University of Virginia                              |
| California College of the Arts                           | King College                         | Point Park University   | Wagner College                                      |
| California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo | LaGrange College                     | Purdue University   | Wake Forest University                              |
| Calvin College   | Lambuth University                   | Queens University of Charlotte                                      | Warren Wilson College                               |
| Carson-Newman College                                    | Lee University                       | Radford University  | Washington and Lee University                       |
| University of Central Florida                            | Liberty University                   | Randolph-Macon College  | Washington University in St. Louis                  |
| Centre College   | Lincoln Memorial University          | Reed College  | Webster University                                  |
| Chapman University                                       | Lipscomb University                  | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute                                    | West Virginia University                            |
| The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina      | Louisiana State University           | Rhodes College  | Western Kentucky University                         |
| Clemson University                                       | University of Louisville             | Rice University   | Westmont College                                    |
| College of Charleston                                    | University of Maryland, College Park | University of Rochester   | Wofford College                                     |
| Colorado State University                                | Loyola Marymount University          | Rollins College   | International Admissions                            |
| Cornell University                                       | Loyola University Chicago            | Roosevelt University  | University of British Columbia                      |
| Covenant College   | Martin Methodist College             | Saint Joseph's College of Indiana                                   | Queen's University                                  |
| Davidson College   | Maryland Institute College of Art    | Saint Louis University  | Wilfrid Laurier University                          |
| Denison University                                       | University of Maryland, College Park | Saint Peter's College   |   |
| University of Denver                                     | Marymount Manhattan College          |   |   |
| DePaul University  | Maryville College                    |   |   |
| DePauw University  | University of Memphis                |   |   |
|  | Memphis College of Art               |   |   |
|  | Mercer University                    |   |   |

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