



CHES Christian School Course Descriptions 2024-2025

MIDDLE SCHOOL CORE

Fifth Grade

Fifth grade students will enjoy a high level of engagement and collaboration with peers while also acquiring a higher level of independence as they begin their first year of changing classes each period. Students will require diligent support as they develop strong organizational and time management skills during this time.

History

History in fifth grade features an introduction to American civics, highlighted by hands-on projects and presentations and discussions about current events. Students will grow in understanding of the nation they live in and of their rights and responsibilities as citizens and as believers.

Curriculum: Notgrass History, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1-3 hours or more each week)

Language Arts

Fifth grade Language Arts encompasses a block of subjects: reading and literature, grammar, and writing. Through a Biblical worldview, students will explore and engage with literature from a wide variety of genres and will strengthen grammar and writing skills.

Curriculum: BJU Press, student-choice literature, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 hours or more each week)

Math

Students will continue to engage with a variety of math topics: operations, whole numbers, fractions, decimals, measurement, and data. They will begin to use Google Classroom and other online resources for at-home learning and practice after receiving instruction and support from the teacher on class days.

Curriculum: BJU Press, Khan Academy, teacher-created resources. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: Heavy (3 or more hours per week)

Science

Science in fifth grade will cover a variety of topics, including minerals and rocks, fossils, matter and heat, sound and light, weather, biomes, ecosystems, and some human body systems. Students will engage in hands-on learning experiences and will develop critical thinking skills as they continue to develop a biblical worldview in the context of science.

Curriculum: BJU Press, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1-3 or more hours each week)

Worldview

Students will engage in classroom discussion and practice prayer, gratitude, and reflection as they learn about biblical stewardship and study the gospels. Other topics regarding the Bible and the Christian faith may be introduced and will vary according to the needs and interests of the class. Curriculum: Summit ministries, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy: (1-3 hours or more each week)

Sixth Grade

Sixth grade students will continue to grow in independence and confidence, taking increased ownership of their learning experience in a safe and supportive environment and strengthening relationships with peers. Students may continue to require strong support as they strengthen organizational and time management skills.

History

In History, sixth grade students will engage in collaboration and discussion as they survey world history from the days of Creation. Hands-on projects will reinforce knowledge of people, events, and changing geography throughout the history of the world.

Curriculum: Notgrass History, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1-3 or more hours each week)

Language Arts

Sixth grade Language Arts encompasses a block of subjects: reading and literature, grammar, and writing. Using a Biblical worldview, students will explore and engage with literature from a wide variety of genres and will strengthen grammar and writing skills.

Curriculum: BJU Press, student-choice reading, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 hours or more a week)

Math

Math in sixth grade will continue to build on skills from previous years (in multiplication, division, decimals, fractions, number theory, and geometry), while introducing and developing Pre-Algebra skills. Students will continue to use Google Classroom and other online resources for at-home learning and practice after receiving instruction and support from the teacher on class days.

Curriculum: BJU Press, Khan Academy, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours each week)

Science

Through reading, experimenting, and hands-on learning, students will study a variety of science topics through a Biblical worldview, including fossils, rocks, minerals, matter and heat, weather and biomes.

Curriculum: BJU Press, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1-3 or more hours each week)

Worldview

Worldview in sixth grade will lead students through the book of Acts, while also introducing them to worldview concepts of God, the universe, truth, and morality. Students will read the Bible and will practice prayer, reflection, and critical thinking. Other topics regarding the Bible and the Christian faith may be introduced and will vary according to the needs and interests of the class

Curriculum: Summit Ministries, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy: (1-3 or more hours each week)

Seventh Grade

Students in seventh grade will continue to strengthen independent learning and interpersonal skills while beginning to prepare for high school-level courses. They will enjoy increased responsibility, engagement, and interaction in supportive classroom environments and community. Parents should expect to oversee student organization and should provide accountability and support at home as needed.

History: American Republic

Seventh grade history overviews American history from the colonies to the present, providing students with more focused study and preparing them for high school history courses. Other topics include: American geography, government, economics, religion and culture.

Curriculum: American Republic (BJU), teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours a week)

Language Arts

Using a Biblical worldview, students in seventh grade Language Arts will explore and engage with literature from a wide variety of genres and will strengthen grammar and writing skills. Students and parents should note that Language Arts encompasses a block of subjects: reading and literature, grammar, and writing. Expectations for time spent completing home assignments should be adjusted accordingly.

Curriculum: Student-choice reading, teacher-created materials.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours)

Math

This course will reinforce fundamental math skills, develop basic Algebra and Geometry concepts, and prepare students for Pre-Algebra and high school mathematics courses. Students will continue to use Google Classroom and other online resources for at-home learning and practice after receiving instruction and support from the teacher on class days.

Curriculum: BJU Press, Khan Academy, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours a week)

Science: Life Science

Science in seventh grade offers an overview of life sciences, engaging students with more focused study and preparing them for high school science courses. Topics will include: definitions and patterns of life, biblical vs. naturalistic worldviews, microorganisms and plants, the animal kingdom, the human body, ecology, and cytology.

Curriculum: Life Science (BJU), teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours a week)

Worldview

Seventh grade Worldview will discuss the books of Romans and 1st and 2nd Corinthians, while comparing and contrasting the key tenets of Christianity to Islam, naturalism, and new spirituality. Students will also examine the concepts of redemption, reconciliation, justification, and edification as they build an understanding of how to construct their own biblical worldview. Scripture reading and memorization, prayer, and reflection will also be encouraged and developed.

Curriculum: Summit Ministries, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1-3 hours a week)

Eighth Grade

Students in eighth grade will continue to strengthen independent learning and interpersonal skills while finishing their preparation for high school-level courses. They will enjoy increased responsibility, engagement, and interaction in supportive classroom environments and community. Parents should expect to oversee student organization and should provide accountability and support at home as needed.

Math: Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra offers students a strong foundation for success in Algebra. Students will review and reinforce foundational math skills while also adding abstract reasoning and real-world problem solving. Topics covered will include: the number system, expressions and equations, geometry, polynomials, statistics and probability

Curriculum: BJU Press, Math Medic, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1 to 3 or more hours a week)

History

This course provides an overview of Geography concepts and skills, presented through a Biblical lens. Topics covered will include: physical and human geography, geographic surveys and map skills, and geography in relation to historical events, economics, religion, and culture.

Curriculum: Cultural Geography (BJU Press), teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHES philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1 to 3 or more hours a week)

Language Arts

Using a Biblical worldview students in Eighth grade Language Arts will explore and engage with literature from a wide variety of genres and will strengthen grammar and writing skills in preparation for independent essay writing in high school. Students and parents should note that Language Arts encompasses a block of subjects: reading and literature, grammar, and writing. Expectations for time spent completing home assignments should be adjusted accordingly.

Curriculum: Student-choice reading, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHESSE philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours a week)

Science

Science in eighth grade offers an overview of the earth sciences, engaging students in more focused study and preparing them for high school science courses. Topics will include: biblical vs. naturalistic worldviews, biblical dominion, introduction to physical sciences, maps and cartography, the earth's interior and tectonics, minerals and earth's materials, water and oceanography, and the atmosphere.

Curriculum: Earth Science (BJU), teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHESSE philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: heavy (3 or more hours a week)

Worldview

Eighth grade Worldview will explore the Epistles and the worldview concepts throughout various disciplines, including philosophy, theology, psychology, and sociology. Classroom discussions may vary in scope and will encourage students to use critical thinking as they reflect and ask questions.

Curriculum: Summit Ministries, teacher-created materials. Other publishers and resources in keeping with the CHESSE philosophy of education may be incorporated *or substituted* as needed.

Outside commitment: moderate to heavy (1 to 3 or more hours a week)