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## CCA Junior High School Academic Planning Guide

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2022-23



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*A firm foundation for building*

*next-generation disciples.*

*(Isaiah 28:16)*

Dear CCA Students,

In the pages that follow, you will have set before you everything you need to plan your courses for the upcoming school year as well as the academic requirements for your graduation from Cornerstone Christian Academy (CCA). While the rigors of our academic programs reflect our commitment to the virtues of a liberal arts education, our deepest commitment belongs to something much deeper.

CCA is committed to partnering with parents for the academic discipleship of students for the purpose of fostering the development of Christian disciples who would be ready to take on the challenges of the next generation, and do so with gentleness, respect, and superlative effectiveness. This is the school's mission from the Lord Himself. Acting under God's direction, therefore, our deepest commitment is to you, our students. You are the ones who will stand up for the Kingdom in the next generation; you are the ones who will fight the spiritual battles; you will be the ones to take on the charge for the following generation.

Consequently, this guide contains a training strategy, one that has been carefully created, honed to nurture the best of your academic virtues and minimize the most challenging of your weaknesses. It is your preparation, your bootcamp, training you to become formidable soldiers who combat the darkness under the Lord's protection, empowerment, and direction. This is more than a metaphor; it is the reality of holding a citizenship in Heaven while serving a purpose while here on earth.

Keep in mind that you were created unique. Your purpose and role in the Kingdom are equally unique, and therefore, your training to get there. As you navigate through your years here, as you choose your degree plan, as you choose your electives, do so in accordance with the direction of the Holy Spirit and the gifts you have been given. You are one of a kind; and your academic plan is also unique from everyone else.

My prayer is that you will take on the challenge with joy, embracing all God has for you here and eagerly marching in His direction. And my advice to you is that you get ready. PRAY that God will direct your life as you submit to Him. TRAIN with your whole heart as you take up the challenges ahead. FIGHT with all your might according to the training you have had and the empowerment the Lord has given. And finally, do everything for the glory of the Lord!

In His service and yours,

Dr. Jeff Guleserian  
Headmaster



CCA is committed to partner with parents in developing the academic, athletic, creative, and moral virtues of students to become Christian disciples who are ready to fulfill their specific God-given purpose.

## INTRODUCTION

This Academic Planning Guide has been developed to provide our students and parents with important information that will assist you in making informed decisions about programs and course choices throughout your junior high and high school years. We encourage students and parents to read this guide carefully.

The CCA Guide provides a detailed listing of the courses generally available to our junior high school students. However, it should be noted that not all the courses listed are scheduled every year. Sufficient numbers of student requests for specific courses may be a determining factor whether a course will be offered for the upcoming school year.

Students and parents should work together to explore CCA's course offerings. The course descriptions included in this Guide are arranged by subject. Each description will feature information about the grade level and the required prerequisites that must be satisfied prior to enrollment in the course. Some courses will require an additional fee and/or administrative and instructor approval. All course offerings may be subject to change.

Junior High and High School planning can be thought of as a six-year planning process, so it might be advisable to look also at the High School Academic Planning Guide, found in the Resources tab of our website.

Students who exhibit an aptitude for math and languages may be eligible to receive high school credit for the following courses in junior high: Algebra I and Spanish I. Eligibility to receive high school credit will be determined by consideration of standardized test scores, student grades, and teacher recommendations. Courses taken for high school credit in Junior High count for credit but are not figured into a student's high school GPA. Credits in Junior High may allow for more flexibility in high school planning but are not meant to reduce high school expectations. For example, taking Algebra in Junior High should not be used as a plan to not take a math course senior year. Rather, it should allow students to reach higher levels of math.

### Non-discrimination Policy

*Cornerstone Christian Academy admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to its students. CCA does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national or ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, athletic and other school administered programs, and employment policies.*

## **Course Selection Process**

Courses for the following school year will be selected during a course selection window in the Spring semester as established by the school. Information about the course selection process will be distributed in the Spring from the registrar's office. Students and parents are strongly encouraged to use this Guide and the course catalog contained herein to assist in making informed choices for the upcoming school year. Courses should be selected based on graduation requirements, student interests and abilities, and desired college and career outcomes.

Academic advising appointments will be offered for families needing assistance with special circumstances/requests or need help with the course selection process in general. It is imperative for parents and students to review their approved courses on Skyward once the selection process is concluded in the spring. Official approved course lists for the next school year will be available before students leave for summer break. Students who do not select courses will have their courses selected for them based on the student's required courses and elective availability.

**The window to request any course changes for the upcoming school year will be the 2-week period following release of the official approved course list.**

Course availability is based on enrollment numbers and/or instructor availability. Teachers and staff are hired, and the master schedule is set according to student selections. Therefore, staffing needs are dependent upon the integrity of the student selection process.

Student class schedules will be available for students to view two weeks prior to the start of the school year.

## Junior High Course Offerings

| <b>Grade 6 Required Core Courses</b>         | <b>Grade 6 Electives (Pick two):</b>            |
|--|---|
| English/Language Arts                        | Art   |
| Math   | Praise and Production                           |
| Science                                      | Physical Education                              |
| Social Studies                               | Bible   |
| <b>Grade 7 &amp; 8 Required Core Courses</b> | <b>Grade 7 &amp; 8 Electives (Pick two):</b>    |
| English/Language Arts                        | Art   |
| Math   | Praise and Worship                              |
| Science                                      | Spanish 1A/1B ( <i>see course description</i> ) |
| Social Studies                               | Physical Education                              |
|  | Bible   |
|  | Speech and Debate                               |
| <b>Electives open to all three grades:</b>   |   |
| Computer Science Discoveries                 |   |
| Independent Study in Music                   |   |

# **Course Offerings/Course Descriptions**

***NOTE: All classes are subject to availability. There are minimum and maximum enrollment requirements for each class.***

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## **English/Language Arts**

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### **English, Grade 6**

*(ENG 060)*

### **English, Grade 7**

*(ENG 070)*

### **English, Grade 8**

*(ENG 080)*

## **Mathematics**

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**A calculator with a square root function & caret/exponent key (TI-30XS Multiview recommended) is required in all math courses. Students must have their own calculator for use in the classroom and at home.**

### **Mathematics, Grade 6**

*(MAT 060)*

In Grade 6, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) connecting ratio and rate to whole number multiplication and division and using concepts of ratio and rate to solve problems; (2) completing understanding of division of fractions and extending the notion of number to the system of rational numbers, which includes negative numbers; (3) writing, interpreting, and using expressions and equations; and (4) developing understanding of statistical thinking.

### **Mathematics, Grade 7**

*(MAT 070)*

In Grade 7, instructional time should focus on four critical areas: (1) developing understanding of and applying proportional relationships; (2) developing understanding of operations with rational numbers and working with expressions and linear equations; (3) solving problems involving scale drawings and informal geometric constructions, and working with two- and three-dimensional shapes to solve problems involving area, surface area, and volume; and (4) drawing inferences about populations based on samples.

### **Pre-Algebra**

*(MAT PAL)*

In Pre-Algebra, instructional time should focus on three critical areas: (1) formulating and reasoning about expressions and equations, including modeling an association in bivariate data with a linear equation, and solving linear equations and systems of linear equations; (2) grasping the concept of a function and using functions to describe quantitative relationships; (3) analyzing two- and three-dimensional space and figures using distance, angle, similarity, and congruence, and understanding and applying the Pythagorean Theorem.

### **Math – Learning Lab (7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*(MAT 061, MAT 071, MAT 081)*

Learning Lab Math classes specialize in differentiated instruction in mathematic concepts and computation. All curriculum, class and homework assignments are matched to each student's instructional level. Teaching techniques

and learning expectations are individualized to address the unique learning needs and learning style of each student. Students enrolled in Learning Lab classes should not automatically purchase curriculum from MBS or the published CCA curriculum list; this will be determined after evaluation of needs. *These classes are available only to students enrolled in the Learning Lab and require prior approval from a Learning Lab instructor or CCA administrator.*

### **Algebra I Honors (8<sup>th</sup> Grade)**

*(MAT AL1) (1 HS Credit)*

**Prerequisite:** Students must meet all the following criteria: A in 7<sup>th</sup> -Grade math and teacher approval; Above Average on the Terra Nova 3; and pass an entry placement test.

Course coverage will include a review of symbols and expressions, along with the commutative, identity, associative, and distributive properties; integers and rational numbers; equations and formulas; inequalities, exponents and polynomials; polynomials and factoring; graphs and linear equations; systems of equations; inequalities and absolute value; rational expressions and equations; radical expressions and equations; relations and functions; and quadratic equations.

*Note: A TI-83 or TI-84 graphing calculator is required for this course. Students must have their own calculator for use in the classroom and at home.*

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## **Science**

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### **Science, Grade 6**

*(SCI 060)*

Grade 6 science is interdisciplinary in nature, however much of the content focus is on physical science. Students will develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world. Students will investigate matter, state of matter, energy, Earth's systems and weather. Additionally, students will explore minerals and rocks, the Earth's surface systems and biospheres, and plate tectonics. All topics will be examined through the lens of God's word and laboratory experimentation.

### **Science, Grade 7**

*(SCI 070)*

Grade 7 science is interdisciplinary in nature, however much of the content focus is on living organisms and habitats. Students will develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world. Students will examine the cell system, human body systems, reproduction, and growth. Students will also explore ecosystems, populations, communities and ecosystems, waves and electromagnetic radiation, and electricity and magnetism. All topics will be examined through the lens of God's word and laboratory experimentation.

### **Science, Grade 8**

*(SCI 080)*

Grade 8 science is interdisciplinary in nature, however much of the content focus is on physical and Earth science. Students will develop a rich knowledge of science in the natural world by becoming familiar with modes of scientific inquiry and the diverse ways scientists study the natural world. Students will be able to recognize that all matter is made of atoms and the organization of the periodic table. Students will investigate chemical reactions, forces and motion, space, climate, the Earth's systems as well as genes and heredity. All scientific topics will be examined through the lens of God's word and laboratory experimentation.

## **History**

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### **History, Grade 6: World History 2**

*(HIS 060)*

This course will survey the history of human civilization from the Middle Ages to the Modern Era, focusing on the key civilizations and events in order to give students an understanding of the foundational elements of our modern world and culture. The course will focus on important skills such as critical thinking, chronology, making connections, and the use of sources.

### **History, Grade 7: World Geography**

*(HIS 070)*

In this course students will study the physical and human geography of the earth. Students will develop an appreciation for the varied environments of Creation, and study some of the major cultures around the world to gain understanding of people from different backgrounds. A key emphasis of this course will be the interaction of humanity with our environment, both in the way geography can shape culture and in the way that humanity shapes the environment.

### **History, Grade 8: Civics**

*(HIS 080)*

The purpose of this course will be to familiarize students with the ways in which the U.S. government functions. Students will learn the major concepts that underlie our Constitution, as well as the economic and political principles on which the modern United States operate. The course will also seek to instill in students a recognition of the value of active citizenship.

## **Fine Arts**

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### **(FAR 060) Art – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

6<sup>th</sup> grade Art is an introductory art class surveying various 3-dimensional art. Students will explore a broad range of techniques and approaches to art through the collage, mixed media, drawing, painting and sculpting. Development of technical skills and artistic vocabulary will include drawing techniques, color wheel theory and 3 dimensional designs. Sketchbooks will be used by each student to explore project ideas, reinforce lessons from class and to practice drawing from various subject matters. Also, research, art appreciation from a Biblical perspective, art history, and art in our community will be regularly integrated as part of this course.

### **(FAR 070) Art - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

Junior high school art is an art and design class. Students will explore a broad range of techniques and approaches to art through the collage, mixed media, drawing, and painting. Development of technical skills and artistic vocabulary will include drawing techniques, explorations of various media and color wheel theory. Sketchbooks will be used by each student to explore project ideas, reinforce lessons from class and to practice drawing from various subject matters. Also, research, art appreciation from a Biblical perspective, art history, and art in our community will be regularly integrated as part of this course. The emphasis on critiquing in this class will be on original ideas, composition, artistic process, and aesthetic value of finished work.

### **(FPP 060) Praise and Production - 6<sup>th</sup> Grade**

This class is an introduction to the implementation of the components of elementary chapel. Students will engage in Bible study, create skits, and choreograph movement to worship music in order to lead the students in worship during our weekly chapel services. Students must demonstrate a desire to grow in their personal discipleship, be a good role model for other students, and have a willingness to get in front of large groups of students in a leadership role. Students must exhibit a high level of positive character. Teacher recommendation is required to join this class.

### **(FPW 070) Praise and Worship - 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

This class is an introduction to music Production and Performance of the individual and collaboration of a group. Students will engage in a study of worship, style, music fundamentals, creative process, sound production, and rehearsal techniques. Students taking this course will be responsible for planning and leading the music for

Higher Ground and select school functions and therefore will be expected to exhibit a high level of personal discipleship. Students do not need to be musically gifted to participate in this class. Rehearsals outside of school hours may be necessary as determined by the teacher.

## Foreign Language

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### (FLS 070, FLS 080) Spanish IA – 7<sup>th</sup> Grade (Part 1)/JH Spanish IB – 8<sup>th</sup> Grade (Part 2)

This is a high school-level Spanish 1 course spread over the course of two years. Prior approval must be granted before enrollment in these courses. Students will build their Spanish skills in the areas of speaking, writing, reading, and listening. The class will utilize an eclectic methodology that will encourage participation and immersion in the Spanish language. Ultimately, the goal of the CCA Spanish program is to create students who are not only bilingual, but bicultural. Included in the course goals is to develop and train the cerebral linguistic centers to improve overall learning potential, critical thinking skills, and cultural adaptability. This is a two-year course, beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade and culminating in 8<sup>th</sup> grade. Upon successful completion of both years, students will have earned 1 high school Spanish I credit.

**Prerequisite for Spanish IB:** JH Spanish IA

## Physical Education

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### (PE 060) Physical Education – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

This class is open to all 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and social development through physical activity. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, and aerobic sports. Students enrolled in PE could experience activity levels of moderate to high intensity. The students will be bussed daily to a nearby gymnasium location.

### (PE 070) Physical Education – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

This class is open to all 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Students will acquire the knowledge and skills for movement that provide the foundation for enjoyment and social development through physical activity. Physical activity will include lessons from team sports, individual sports, and aerobic sports. Students enrolled in PE could experience activity levels of moderate to high intensity. The students will be bussed daily to a nearby gymnasium location.

## General Electives

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### (HUM 060) Bible – 6<sup>th</sup> Grade

This course focuses on Biblical truths and practical application for Christian living.

### (HUM 070) Bible – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

This course focuses on the study of foundational truths of the Christian faith. As students study the story of God from the Old Testament through the New Testament, an emphasis will be placed on major themes and the context for the books of the Bible. Students will be introduced to the basic methods of Bible study, with an intentional focus on personal application. *Students who take this class in 7<sup>th</sup> grade cannot repeat the course in 8<sup>th</sup> grade.*

### (STM CSD) Computer Science Discoveries - 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

This course takes a wide lens on computer science by covering topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. Students engage with computer science as a medium for creativity, communication, problem solving, and fun. No previous experience is required. The course inspires students as they build their own websites, apps, games, and physical computing devices. This course requires that students provide their own laptop computer that will be used in class beginning the first week of school. The course is not compatible with tablets or mobile devices - a full keyboard and mouse (or touchpad, like on a MacBook) are required along with a more recent browser and operating system. Chromebooks are compatible. iPads or other tablets with a keyboard attachment are not compatible. For a complete list of compatible devices, please refer to <https://code.org/educate/it>. *Students who take this class, cannot repeat the course in junior high.*

### (SPD 070) Speech and Debate – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades

The goal of this course will be to help students develop their abilities in public speaking and debate. The course will focus on skills such as researching, presenting arguments both orally and on paper, and interacting with others in a formal debate style. The first semester will begin with a focus on the basic skills of speech and debate, such as understanding logic and fallacies and different ways to present an argument. It will then focus on large scale, formal debate. The second semester will focus on smaller scale, one-on-one debate, as well as the rhetorical skills of public speaking. Students will develop these skills using both speeches written by others, and finally, by preparing and delivering a speech on a topic of their own choosing. Based on student interest, students may participate in a speech competition in the Spring.

## **Extracurricular Courses – Optional** (additional fees apply)

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### **(IS MSC J) Independent Study in Music – 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> Grades**

CCA's music department offers private music lessons in bass, drums, guitar, piano, and voice during the school year. There are a limited number of available slots and they fill quickly. Students enrolled in the program will receive weekly private lessons at CCA with the music instructor. Once enrolled, the music instructor will contact parents during the summer to schedule a mutually agreeable lesson day/time for the student. See the private music lesson policies for more information regarding the policies, procedures and fees associated with this program.