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CHARLOTTE  
CHRISTIAN  
SCHOOL  
*veritas tota | homini tota*

# 2017-18 MIDDLE SCHOOL Electives



Artwork by  
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updated as of 3/16/16

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

Registration is open March 17 - April 2, 2017. Please note that final determination as to whether an elective course is offered during any academic year will be made by the administration based on interest, capacity, and scheduling. Placement in classes is determined by space, availability, and other scheduling considerations.

Some elective classes will receive a traditional letter grade and some electives will receive a pass/fail grade. Electives marked with an asterisk (\*) will receive a letter grade. In addition, please note that some fine arts electives require a prerequisite or audition.

The drop/add period is Aug. 23 - Sept. 1, 2017. Please wait until this time to contact the middle school regarding changes to original submissions. Changes to schedules must be approved by the middle school administration by Sept. 1, 2017. All class choices become final on Sept. 1.

For questions, please contact Debbie Bates, MS/US Registrar at [msregistrar@charchrist.com](mailto:msregistrar@charchrist.com).

# MIDDLE SCHOOL ELECTIVES

## DESIGN SQUAD

Design Squad will allow students to explore their own passions while encouraging creativity, critical thinking, and collaboration. Built around a design thinking model, this course will cover all aspects of design including brainstorming, prototyping, building an applicable solution to a real world problem, 3D printing, and designing digital breakouts. The semester will culminate in an evening of student-led solution presentations. The course will be offered for girls only during the fall and boys only during the spring.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course (girls can register for the fall section, boys can register for the spring section)

## DESIGN THINK

Design Think is an industrial arts course that will emphasize design and creation through focusing on STEM-based projects. Built around a design thinking model, this course will allow students an opportunity to create projects through designing, building, 3D printing, and more. This course will strengthen students' abilities to think critically and problem solve.

Grade 6 • full year course

## ENGINEERING

Engineering features a project-based curriculum designed to challenge and engage the natural curiosity and imagination of middle school students. Students begin by focusing their understanding on the engineering design process which includes defining problems, developing solutions, and optimizing design solutions. The knowledge that students gain and the skills they build will foster higher-order thinking, problem solving, teamwork, and innovation, as well as deepen their understanding of how engineering influences the world around them.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## FORENSIC SCIENCE

Fingerprints. Blood spatter. DNA analysis. The world of law enforcement is increasingly making use of the techniques and knowledge from the sciences to better understand the crimes that are committed and to catch those individuals responsible for the crimes. Forensic science applies scientific knowledge to the criminal justice system. This course focuses on some of the techniques and practices used by forensic scientists during a crime scene investigation (CSI). Starting with how clues and data are recorded and preserved, students will follow evidence trails until the investigation goes to trial, examining how various elements of the crime scene are analyzed and processed.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## INTRO TO SPORTS AND ENTERTAINMENT MARKETING

This course will explore basic marketing principles and how they apply to both sports and entertainment. Students interested in marketing and how advertising works will enjoy this course! We will spend time studying how professionals market athletes and well-known entertainers and will create our own advertisements and marketing campaigns.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT

Junior Achievement, a nationally employed program since 1919, combines "work readiness, entrepreneurship and financial literacy skills, and uses experiential learning to inspire kids to dream big and reach their potential." Students will learn and apply the "4 C's"- critical thinking, communication, collaboration, and creativity to solve real world problems.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## MIDNIGHT NEWS

MidKnight News is a broadcast journalism class that will teach students how to gather information, organize ideas, and format stories for an episode that will air once a week. This fast-paced class needs students of all interests including actors, directors, editors, camera crews, and more.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

## PEER COUNSELING

Helping people achieve their goals is one of the most rewarding of human experiences. This course explains the role of a peer counselor; teaches the observation, listening, and empathic communication skills that counselors need; and provides basic training in conflict resolution, and group leadership. Students will be prepared to work as a peer counselor and will learn skills that will enhance their own abilities to communicate effectively in personal relationships.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## ROBOKNIGHTS

RoboKnights is the middle school robotics competition team. Students will be introduced to the engineering and programming process through the VEX robotics curriculum. RoboKnights is a hands-on course in which students build a working robot in order to compete during the spring semester in the nationally-recognized VEX robotics competitions.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

Grade 6 • full year course

### SHAPED TO SERVE

Students in this course will learn more about their SHAPE (Spiritual Gifts, Heart, Abilities, Personality and Experiences) and how they are uniquely designed to serve others. Students will learn how to identify needs, select projects that are personally meaningful, apply practical skills, reflect on their learning experience, and behave responsibly in a service setting. Activities include coordinating service projects for the middle school and problem-solving to create solutions for a local service agency or school.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

### STUDENT SENATE

Student senators will work to develop their leadership skills through a variety of exercises, debates, interviews, and discussions. Senators will spend the semester delving into various leadership styles, developing their own “leader self,” exploring the importance of “followship” as servants, and working to improve the middle school through acts of service. Senators will be charged with answering the question “How can we make the middle school a shining light to others?” Students who participate in this class will also participate in the Student Senate club in the spring.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

### STUDY HALL

This class is for students who are self-motivated and have demonstrated the ability to work independently on their homework in a quiet environment. Students will be expected to work on school work or read independently for the entire class period.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester or full year course.

Grade 6 will incorporate study hall with their World Language choice unless the student wants to participate in three fine arts classes.

### WORLD RELIGIONS: EXPLORING DIVERSITY

Throughout the ages, religions from around the world have shaped the political, social, and cultural aspects of societies. This course focuses on the major religions that have played a role in human history, including Buddhism, Christianity, Confucianism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Shintoism, and Taosim. Students will trace the major developments in these religions and explore their relationships with social institutions and culture. The course will also discuss some of the similarities and differences among the major religions and examine the connections and influences they have.

Grades 7 & 8 semester course

# WORLD LANGUAGES - Full Year Course

World Languages introduces students to the unique qualities of three language options: French, Latin and Spanish. In addition to vocabulary and basic oral skills, students will experience the cultural and traditional aspects of each language. The expectation is that students will commit to this language choice for all three years of middle school.

Rising seventh and eighth graders will be automatically enrolled in the language they are currently taking.

GRADE 6	GRADE 7	GRADE 8
Latin 6	Latin 1A	Latin 1B
Spanish 6	Spanish 1A	Spanish 1B
French 6	French 1A	French 1B

### FRENCH 6

Students will be introduced to French and the culture of the French speaking world with a conversational approach. Reading, writing and grammar will be added throughout the course of study.

### SPANISH 6

Spanish 6 focuses on mastery of the basics of the language and culture. The learning objectives include development of listening, reading, speaking, and writing skills. Students will study the culture to better understand the Spanish-speaking world.

### LATIN 6

Latin 6 students will be introduced to the language, history, and culture of the Ancient Romans. Reading, writing, and grammar will be the core part of the course, supplemented with some hands-on projects.

### FRENCH 1A

French 1A focuses on development of listening to and speaking the language and begins integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. Grammar structures and biblical principles are interwoven with cultural information, language learning tips and realia. As they understand contextual directions, commands, key words and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read.

### LATIN 1A

Latin 1A focuses on the basic grammar, vocabulary and structure of Latin. Emphasis is placed on Latin and Greek derivatives as a part of building vocabulary and enhancing a student’s language arts strength.

### SPANISH 1A

Spanish 1A focuses on development of listening to and speaking the language and begins integration of reading and writing. Students use basic language to communicate with their peers and teacher about familiar topics. As they understand contextual directions, commands, key words and phrases, students are able to make inferences from the materials they hear or read.

### FRENCH 1B

French 1B builds on the lessons of French 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of the French culture, products, perspectives, and practices, and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers. Recitation of scripture in French is thematically related.

### LATIN 1B

Latin 1B builds on the lessons of Latin 1A. This course introduces students to the language of ancient Rome with an emphasis on Roman culture, vocabulary, etymology and basic Latin grammar. Students learn how to decline nouns and conjugate verbs, as well as translate simple Latin sentences.

### SPANISH 1B

Spanish 1B builds on the lessons of Spanish 1A. From consistent reinforcement of oral skills and performance of the most basic functions of the language, students progress to develop basic reading and writing skills. Students increase their knowledge of the Spanish culture, products, perspectives, and practices, and expand their ability to communicate with teachers and peers. Memorization of scripture in Spanish is thematically related.

# FINE ARTS ELECTIVES

\*Electives that receive a traditional letter grade (not a pass/fail grade)

## \*ACT 2

ACT 2 provides focused and rigorous acting and stage training for theatre students as they prepare drama pieces for presentation in chapels and at outside events including competition in the North Carolina Theatre Conference (NCTC) in and the Wingate Shakespeare Recitation Competition in the spring. This team serves the school and the community and must commit to the class and team for the entire year. Please note that attendance at outside rehearsals, festivals, and competitions is required for students enrolled in this course. Students who are currently on the team do not need to re-audition but should register for the class. Students who wish to audition should also sign up for the class. Audition dates will be communicated to registrants. The final cast list will be sent prior to the registration deadline.

Grades 6, 7 & 8 • full year course

## \*ART LEVEL 1

Art Level 1 introduces the creation of art through the use of art media and the basic elements of art. Students gain an appreciation of arts, crafts and artists. This course also emphasizes principles of visual composition and advances understanding of art history, art appreciation, art materials, and methods. Several projects are integrated with other disciplines to illustrate the relationship of art to other studies.

Grade 6 • full year course

## \*ART LEVEL 2

Art Level 2 involves knowledge and skills gained in Level 1 Art with an increased variety of art materials and methods. Emphasis is on developing original solutions to visual challenges. Students will gain understanding of the history, purpose and function of the visual arts related to other subjects and to culture. Prerequisite - Art Level 1 or teacher recommendation.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

## \*ART LEVEL 3

Art Level 3 utilizes knowledge and skills gained in levels 1 and 2. Students will further develop their visual problem-solving skills with an emphasis on increasing technical skills and creative solutions. New art materials will be introduced. Quality work will be created for exhibition and competitions. Prerequisite - Art Level 2 or teacher recommendation.

Grade 8 • full year course

## \*BAND - Grade 6

Grade 6 Band is open to students who play flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. Two years of lower school band or equivalent experience is required. Students in 6th grade band work to master fundamental technique on their instrument and perform grade appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course. In order to facilitate more specialized instruction for young musicians, this course meets in two separate sections: woodwind/percussion and brass.

Grade 6 • full year course

## \*BAND - Grades 7 & 8

Grade 7 & 8 Band is open to students who play flute, clarinet, bass clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, french horn, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion. Three years of band or equivalent experience is required. Students are challenged with more rigorous technique in preparation for upper school band and perform grade appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

## \*CHOIR - GRADE 6

Choir 6 is designed to instill a love of singing in an ensemble. Students will learn fundamental singing techniques, music reading skills, and part-singing - skills that are all necessary to the foundation for developing musicianship. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

Grade 6 • full year course

## \*CHOIR - GRADES 7 & 8

Choir for grades 7 and 8 gives students the opportunity to develop their vocal and musicianship skills as part of a choral group. Students perform music in a variety of styles at concerts and outside events during the school year. Additionally, students develop a foundation of vocal technique and grow in their ability to understand and express music. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

## DIGITAL MUSIC

Students will create original music by learning the basic concepts of electronic music and will be introduced to and develop proficiency in GarageBand® music recording and editing software. Students will use the fine arts iPads supplied by the school.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## \*EXPLORATORY ART

Exploratory Art stretches the definition of what we can create and how it is created. This is a process-focused class using digital photography, print-making, clay, found objects, and painting. Visual problem-solving will use brainstorming, play, and discovery.

Grade 8 • semester course

## HANDBELL ENSEMBLE

If you like music but you don't want perform alone or be the star of the show, handbells may be for you! Handbell Ensemble is designed for the student who already reads music and wants to develop their love of music in a small group setting. Students in this class will learn basic handbell ringing techniques and perform handbell choir arrangements from a variety of styles, including traditional, pop, and worship music. Students interested in this course should have completed at least one year of band, orchestra, or choir.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

## INTRODUCTION TO THEATRE

This hands-on course is designed for the beginning actor who will experience the basics of acting through a variety of games and exercises. The students will also participate in the play production process. The culminating project is the performance of a one-act play.

Grades 6, 7, 8 • full year course

## MUSIC WORKSHOP

Music Workshop offers students the ability to create music by discovering concepts in music of all styles, from Bach to rock. Students will develop an appreciation for music through listening, improvisation, and analyzation and will compare and contrast music of many world cultures. Through class projects, students will apply what they have learned to compose original music.

Grade 7 & 8 • semester course

## \*ORCHESTRA - Grade 6

Grade 6 Orchestra is open to students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Two years of lower school orchestra or equivalent experience is required. The orchestra performs grade appropriate music for concerts, chapels, and special events. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

Grade 6 • full year course

## \*ORCHESTRA - Grades 7 & 8

Grades 7 & 8 Orchestra is open to students who play violin, viola, cello, or bass. Three years of experience is required. The orchestra performs grade appropriate music for concerts, chapels and special events. Please note that concert attendance is required for students enrolled in this course.

Grades 7 & 8 • full year course

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

Public Speaking fosters the ability to communicate confidently and effectively to a group. Students will present a variety of in-class presentations throughout the year. Topics explored will include, but not be limited to, informative speech, persuasive speech, improvisational speech, expressive reading, famous speeches throughout history, and the skills of debate. Students will also learn to utilize technology to support their presentations.

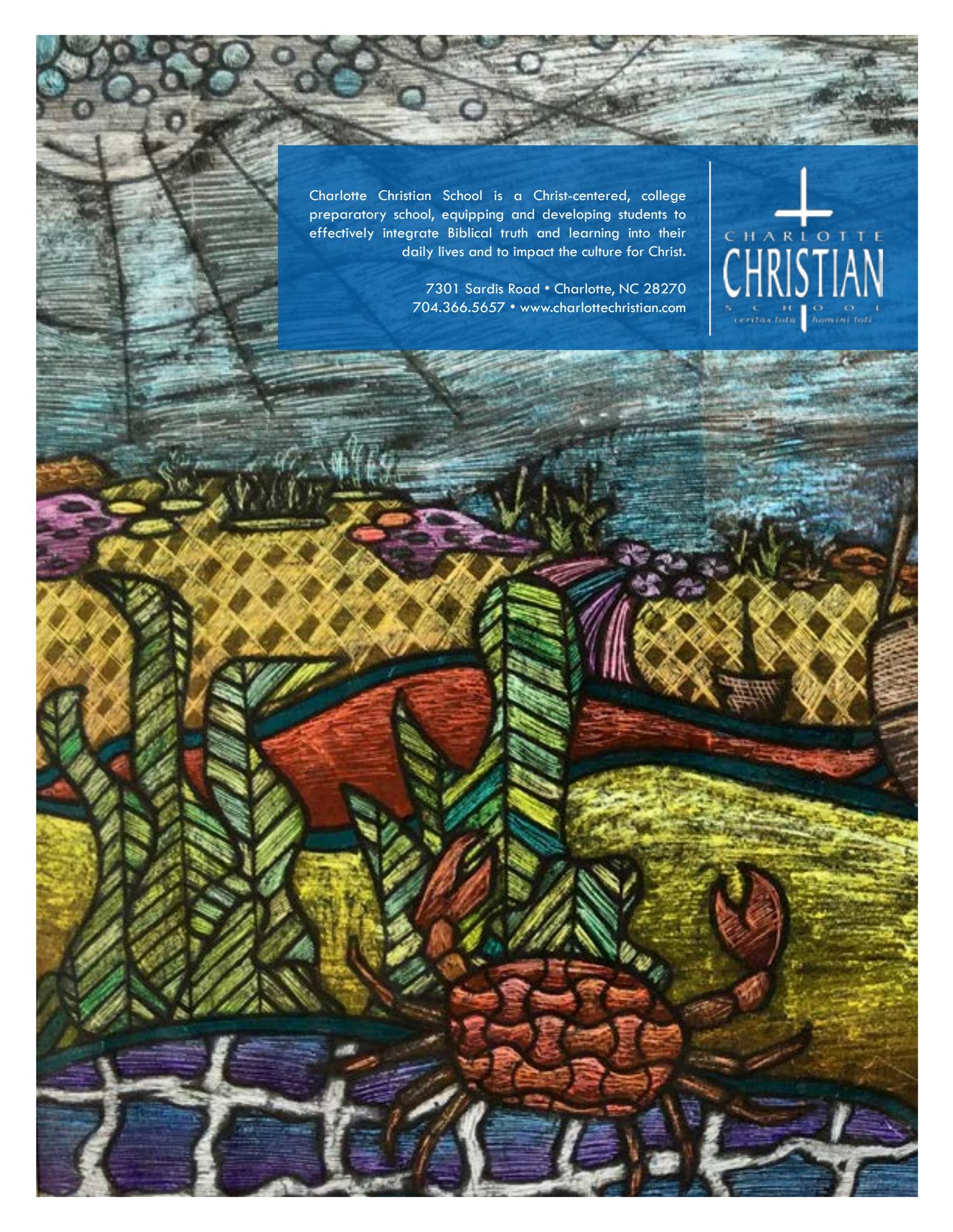
Grade 6 • full year course

## UKULELE ENSEMBLE

Do you want to learn to play the ukulele? The semester-long middle school ukulele ensemble course is designed for the student who wants to develop their love and appreciation of music by building basic ukulele skills including single note playing, strumming patterns, chords, and reading standard music notation. Ukulele students will learn full arrangements of songs across all genres, including folk, pop, traditional, and worship music. Students interested in this course must provide their own ukulele and should have completed at least one year of band, orchestra, or choir.

Grades 7 & 8 • semester course

Semester 1 Only	Semester 2 Only	Semester 1 & 2	Year Long
Exploratory Art (7&8) Design Squad Girls (7&8) Forensic Science (7&8) Handbell Ensemble (7&8) Sports & Entertainment Marketing (7&8) Student Senate (7&8)	Design Squad Boys (7&8) Junior Achievement (7&8) Music Workshop (7&8) Peer Counseling (7&8) Shaped to Serve (7&8) Ukulele Ensemble (7&8) World Religions (7&8)	Digital Music (7&8) Engineering (7&8) Study Hall (6, 7, 8)	ACT 2 (6, 7, 8) Art Level 1 (6) Art Level 2 (7&8) Art Level 3 (8) Band (6) Band (7&8) Choir (6) Choir (7&8) Design Think (6) MidKnight News (7&8) Orchestra (6) Orchestra (7&8) Public Speaking (6) RoboKnights (6) RoboKnights (7&8) Intro to Theatre (6, 7, 8)

The background of the entire page is a vibrant, textured illustration. It depicts a landscape with a winding river in shades of red and orange. On the left, there are tall, green, leafy plants with a woven texture. In the foreground, a large, brown crab is shown on a purple and white patterned ground. The sky is a mix of blue and green with circular patterns, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The overall style is reminiscent of a stained-glass window or a mosaic.

Charlotte Christian School is a Christ-centered, college preparatory school, equipping and developing students to effectively integrate Biblical truth and learning into their daily lives and to impact the culture for Christ.

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