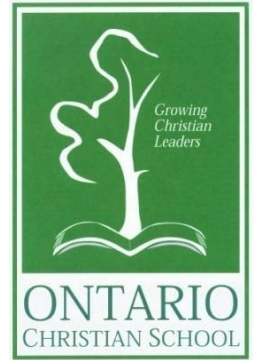


Exploratory Descriptions ('16-'17)

Exploratory descriptions are listed below. The exploratories with an asterisk (*) are ones that you can "sign up" for... and they take precedence. They may or may not have an application to fill out. All the rest will likely be offered at some time during this school year and will be filled with a balance of 7th/8th graders and male/female students. All of them are excellent and are "exploratory" in nature! If there is a particular exploratory that interests you, please email Mr. DeGroot (bdegroot@ocschools.org) and let him know of your interest.

"Sign-ups" for Band, Choir, Chapel Class, STUCO, Holocaust (8th Grade) Math Help, Study Skills will be done during the first week of school.



- * **Chapel Leadership Class:** Students in this class will be involved in planning and leading some of our Middle School chapels throughout the year. Class topics include: worship (how and why), planning and organization, music, sounds systems, PowerPoint, and more.
- * **Math Help:** A class offered all year – Math teachers will submit names, but if you know you struggle in Math and could use a little extra help, please sign up for this class!
- * **Holocaust:** (8th graders only) How could one man have the power to end 11 million lives and to imprison and torture many others without resistance from other nations? In the 1930's and 1940's, the lives of millions of Jewish men, women, and children were snuffed out due to the ideals of Adolf Hitler. In this class we will learn about the cruelties of the concentrations camps, the stories of some survivors, and the effect of this event in history on today's culture.
- * **STUCO:** Student Council is a one-semester exploratory class. Being a member of Student Council is both an honor and a challenge. The purpose of Student Council is to: encourage spiritual growth of the students, promote school spirit, coordinate student activities, and promote the general welfare of the school. At least one student from each advisement class will be chosen to be on Student Council (besides the three students who are on STUCO all year). Student Council needs hard working, creative, fun-loving students who can handle responsibility and be a good Christian leader within the school.
- * **Band:** We have a wonderful Band in Middle School! If you have not been in Band before, our recommendation is that you have had a minimum of 2 years of private lessons on an instrument before joining Band. Band meets 3-4 times each week... all year! The Band participates in three main concerts throughout the year, along with participating in the Fine Arts Festival every other year.
- * **Choir:** We have one choir in the Middle School, which combines 7th and 8th graders. There are no auditions or previous experience required - just a love of glorifying God through singing! Choir meets three times each week, and if you sign up for choir, you are part of the choir for the entire year. The choir participates in three main concerts throughout the year, and also sings for chapels and we may sing at Inland Christian Home. Every other year, the choirs perform at Fine Arts Festival.
- * **Study Skills:** This class is offered through our SIP program. For more information, contact Mrs. Hoekstra. Space is limited and is filled on a "needs" basis.
- * **Peer Tutoring:** Are you the type of student who loves to help others? Perhaps you have an interest in the teaching profession? Or maybe you really enjoy our buddy program at OC and working with younger children. If so, our new Middle School Peer Tutoring Exploratory may be the perfect fit for you!
- **Destination Christian Character:** Using the full-length movie **Joshua**, students will learn what it means to live as a Christian in today's world. **Joshua** is an inspirational story about a stranger whose mysterious "supernatural" powers inspire a small town.
- **Art Studio:** Art Studio is an exploratory class for students who like to draw, paint, sculpt, and create! This class will cover a variety of different art styles and techniques each quarter. If you like art, have an interest in learning more about art, want to improve your artistic skills and express your creativity, this class is for you!

- **No Easy Answers:** Using the Ten Commandments to Make Good Decisions in an Anything Goes World - Even if you think you already keep the Ten Commandments, do you really? Let's look at some real life situations and find out the right decisions to make.
- **God of Wonders:** Join us on a remarkable journey of discovery as we explore the Creator's handiwork and what His creation reveals about His character. God of Wonders (video based) is a breathtaking tour of God's creation wonders, visible and invisible, and the greatest wonder of all – His redeeming love! This link: <http://godofwondersvideo.org/chapters.htm> has a great preview!
- **Film and Novel:** Read a novel, watch the movie made based on the novel, and examine how the director decided to interpret what the author wrote.
- **Engineering 101:** Students will gain an understanding of design related to building simple structures (e.g. boats, buildings, roller coasters, bridges). The class will be taught around multiple projects and lots of hands-on experimenting.
- **Christian Film in Modern Culture:** Students will view and discuss a number of Christian themed films that have made their way in mainstream media and entertainment. Students will explore the impact these films have on society and also what responsibilities Christians have in living out their faith in a world that is increasingly turning its back on God.
- **Advanced Fitness Challenge:** Above and beyond the regular fitness challenge you experience during PE, a great exploratory to get you ready or keep you in shape for the rigors of interscholastic sports
- **Drama:** Writing and delivering monologues, learning the history of theater, exploring the difference between theater and film, doing skits and plays, and learning about different facets to theater make-up.
- **Life Skills:** Learning, practicing, and developing skills you will utilize now and into the future. Some examples of activities we will do are planning healthy meals, etiquette, budgeting, simple sewing and many others.
- **Cross Fit:** A class full of exciting ways to be active! Box jumping, free weights, running, etc.
- **Mavis (Keyboarding):** Have you ever wished that you typed faster? When you are typing the assignments and projects for your class, do you ever wish you could type fast and get the projects done faster? Keyboarding is a class that will give you the opportunity to increase your typing speed, as well as learn the entire keyboard. Our computer teacher will recommend students for this class! We will give priority to students who could use the extra help the most. If that is you, please sign up!
- **Voyage of the Dawn Treader:** Come along on the journey of the Dawn Treader. We will be reading through the book and watching the movie as we dig deep into the lessons and unpack the Biblical parallels and allegories within the readings.
- **Advanced Sports Theory:** Using popular, common sports, the student will have opportunities to explore more deeply the rules, strategies, and coaching techniques associated with those sports in an environment focused on playing the game.
- **Love Dare:** Using the book "The Love Dare" and the movie "Fireproof" as a backdrop, students will explore a variety of ways that they can improve their interpersonal relationships in a Christ-like manner
- **Creative 2.0:** Exploring God's World using technology and sharing what we learned
- **Business 101:** In this exploratory Students will get a chance to manage and run their own business. This is a very hands-on class that is focused on learning by doing. We will explore many different things in the business world such as Marketing, Budgets, Sales, and much more. Students will spend a large portion of the time working with a group of their peers with whom they will be selling a product and will be earning actual money. It is informative and gives each student a chance to be involved in ways that are suited toward their individual talents.
- **Teen Hot Topics:** Each week students and I will discuss, google, and reference scripture to discuss topics like: bullying, health, gossip, peer pressure, fear, friends, drugs, grades.
- **God's Time and Money:** each week students will look at, analyze, and discuss God's time and money according to Scripture.
- **Case for Christ:** We will be reading "The Case for Christ" and gain a new understanding of what it means to defend your faith in our world.

- **Advanced Engineering:** For students who have already taken Engineering 101... expanding on Engineering 101, students will build more complex structures followed by stress testing of their projects.
- **3D Printing Around the World:** We will explore the modern and ancient wonders of the world... and then replicate them.
- **Current Elections:** Students will gain an understanding of elections, requirements for each office, voting, and publicity for the elections. Students will be able to impartially and subjectively discuss what they have gained from discussion as well as their classmates... while considering what God says about our leaders and their positions.
- **Digital Animation:** We will explore different ways to use a computer for animating.
- **Yearbook:** Interested in design, layout, taking pictures... all aspects of our yearbook preparation? This exploratory will put your skills and interests to good use!