

EUGENE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

MIDDLE SCHOOL PROGRAM

Top 10 Most Frequently Asked Questions

1. What makes this middle school unique?

- a. The middle school experience is one of the most formative and exciting times of a young person's life. We are committed to a middle school that is built on quality relationships with staff and peers, academic growth, and a primary focus on spiritual development and leadership. In short, any family wanting to know why "we should be excellent in all things for Christ" will find this to be an outstanding middle school experience. We treat each student here as a God-infused and talented young person. Through our creative instructional model and range of elective and enrichment opportunities, our students form life-changing relationships and emerge with a target person to pursue: King Jesus.

2. How is the day structured?

- a. Classes are offered within a modified block schedule. Students start the day with a 35 minute Bible class, followed by 3 x 90 minute hybrid periods of math/science and humanities. Time is also built in the schedule for mentoring with each individual student. With the exception of Wednesday's enrichment and chapel schedule, every day ends with two elective periods (2 x 40 minutes). (See master schedule.)

3. How do students stay organized and current with assignments?

- a. Every middle school teacher is assigned as a mentor to a group of students. We have a daily mentoring period where teachers coach, help set goals, and monitor the academic success of our students.

4. Is the middle school rigorous and will it prepare my child for high school?

- a. We monitor the academic growth of our students through a nationalized assessment program (MAP or Measurement of Academic Progress). The MAP testing data gives us excellent feedback to adjust classroom instruction and placement to prepare students for success on the high school ACT and SAT. Our academic program is aligned with state and national standards to ensure consistency as students move through the system. We expect students to complete assignments in and outside of the classroom, integrate technology, and become proficient in research-based writing, science inquiry, mathematical problem solving, historical analysis and hold a Biblical worldview through the subject areas.

5. Is there an instructional model used throughout the program?

- a. While our courses range in style and methodology, most of our teachers offer a small-group or rotational style of teaching. For example, a class might start with whole group instruction and then students are broken into smaller groups during Personalized Learning Time (PLT) for targeted teaching, student discussion, online adaptive learning programs, and/or hands-on learning experiences.

6. Are students grouped by age or ability?

- a. Currently, our core academic classes are placed into four proficiency levels. Students can enroll in any of the four levels and occasionally students move levels throughout the year. The proficiency levels allow us to provide targeted instruction to students working through the curriculum. While not always possible, our instructional model allows students to remain with similar age groups while simultaneously providing above or below grade level work to students needing a personalized learning experience. Our elective periods are open to grades 6, 7 and 8.

7. What kind of elective courses are offered?

- a. On Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, our students select two electives and also attend a Wednesday enrichment class. The electives range from music to computer programming to sports and theatre, and Wednesday enrichment classes are developed to be unique and tied to teacher/student interests and hobbies. (See catalog.)

8. Do you offer any sports, clubs, field trips or other outside of school activities?

- a. ECS participates in the Willamette Valley Youth League, and currently we offer girls volleyball (fall), girls and boys basketball (winter), and track and field (spring). The WVYL is open to all ability levels. Student-initiated clubs are offered throughout the year and our students participate in Oregon Battle of the Books and ACSI science fairs and math competitions. In addition to academic field trips, our entire middle school is a part of an overnight outdoor school experience that focuses on various academic themes and spiritual formation.

9. Does bullying exist and how do you create a positive social environment?

- a. We combat “bullying” and other harassment behaviors by being proactive with what we want students to become (question # 10). The first problem we notice in our general culture is that many middle school students are not developed as leaders, express boredom, and have evolving attitudes and emotions. Therefore, we first establish that every middle school student is to be a leader within our building and to give them capacity to positively influence others. Second, our students are taught to immediately report bullying and similar behaviors to teachers and our Dean of Students. Third, our approach is to “discipline in love” and coach students by setting goals, monitoring established expectations, and communicating with parents. Finally, we cover our entire behavioral system by modeling the behaviors that we are expecting and hold students accountable when those behaviors are not met.

10. How do you develop Kingdom leaders at ECS?

- a. We hold the view that all of our students influence others through their immediate social context. Understandably, students transform into the image of King Jesus in various seasons of life and we testify that middle school students’ beliefs about God and others are being molded on a daily basis. First, we surround our students by educators who are living the “Biblical worldview” and learning to seek first the Kingdom of God. Second, our chapel and discipleship themes are designed to challenge the status-quo and paint a picture of God’s beautiful Kingdom. Third, we offer opportunities to serve through a ECS-based leadership program, SALT Shakers, and other service projects throughout the school year. Our Kingdom leadership is evident when our students are choosing to seek the will of the Father in their academics and relationships regardless of time or location.