

SEVENTH Grade: Curriculum Summary

BIBLE - Gospel of Matthew - Examines the life and teachings of Jesus through the study of Matthew's gospel. Focuses on Jesus as the one who came into the world in the most humble of circumstances and submitted His will to the Father in all things. Students will learn that God created us to live lives of love, forgiveness, self-control, and truth. Students will also recognize that faith is a process, and that there is a difference between knowing about God and truly knowing God. Finally, students will understand that by his death Jesus became the perfect sacrifice, and that the resurrected Christ is now interceding on our behalf at the right hand of God.

ENGLISH - Focuses on writing as an essential facet of God's gift of communication. Approaches writing as a process combining spelling, usage, grammar, and other mechanics with organizational techniques and creative initiative. Literature is supplemented at intervals during the year. Students will read two novels during this course. Requires some summer reading.

Text currently in use: *Elements of Literature*, Holt, Rinehart, Winston; *Vocabulary Workshop Level B*, Sadlier-Oxford; and selected trade books. Students develop writing, language and reading comprehension skills through practice and independent reading.

HISTORY - Texas History & World Geography - During the fall semester students will study significant Texas events, peoples, and issues from earliest beginnings to present. This class examines historical and spiritual significance of political, economic, social, cultural, and geographic influences. In addition, students will learn map reading, outlining, note taking, and research skills. The study of world geography in the spring introduces students to the nature of geography, to the physical characteristics of the earth as created by God, to the interrelationships of the physical and cultural environments, and to the regions of the world, including major cultural, political, and economic patterns. Students will learn to identify natural and political divisions of the world.

Text currently in use: Fall semester: *Texas History*, McGraw-Hill. Students review concepts about the history and geography of Texas discussed in class. Spring semester: *Contemporary World Cultures*, Pearson. Students review geography concepts discussed in class.

MATH - Math or Pre-Algebra

- Math - Emphasizes mathematical skills and structures. Stresses fundamental operations with whole numbers, integers, decimal fractions, and common fractions. Examines metric measures, number theory, exponents, ratios, and percents. Explores geometry, statistics, and probability. This is a very important year in mathematics in that it is a time to master skills, particularly computation, which will be a basis for other math courses.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 2*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

- Pre-Algebra - Reviews fundamental skills of arithmetic. Introduces the basic language of algebra and the operations with directed numbers and utilizes this information to solve linear equations and inequalities in one variable. Places emphasis on problem solving. Covers radical expressions, graphing in the coordinate plane, and basic geometric facts. Prepares students for success in algebra.

Text currently in use: *Math Course 3*, McGraw Hill. Students practice concepts taught in the classroom.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION - Provides instruction in game rules and health and safety practices and develops Christian character and motor skills basic to participation in physical recreation and leisure-time activities. This class also includes a variety of individual, dual and team sports that develop fitness and skills basic to activity being taught, plus rhythm, fitness, and conditioning activities.

SCIENCE - Life Science 7 teaches students the intricacies of God's work from the microscopic level to the macroscopic level. First semester focuses on the microscopic basics of life and how it came to be. Second semester focuses on how those tiny basics of life come together to make the visible world around us. This year in science is to prepare the students for high school biology, as well as help them begin thinking about future scientific study.

Text currently in use: *Life iScience*, McGraw-Hill. Students explore scientific concepts through experimentation and direct instruction.

ELECTIVE OPTIONS

- **ART** - Exploratory experiences using a variety of media which may include drawing, painting, printmaking, and sculpture. Focuses on foundational skills and disciplines. Presents artistic expression as a gift of God and a reflection of His creativity, introduces general art history, and examines values and beliefs expressed by artists. An art fee is required for materials.
- **BAND** - Focuses on the development of fundamental wind/percussion techniques, the execution of rhythmically and melodically independent lines, the appreciation of music as one of God's gifts to his creatures, and the public performance of selected band literature. Some instruments are provided by the school for a modest rental fee. Most students rent or purchase their own instruments. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required.

- **BOOK CLUB** - Provides students an opportunity to read a wide variety of books. Focuses on responding to books in different ways, including oral response, written response, and artistic expression. Book Club class is a place for students to develop the life-long skill of reading for pleasure. A Book Club class fee covers the purchase of books.
- **CHOIR** - Introduces basic singing techniques, emphasizing proper vocal production and development of the changing male and female voices. Presented as a gift of God which can be used to mold human hearts and minds. Attention given to individual and group performance and music reading skills. Attendance at performances and rehearsals outside school hours is required.
- **COMPETITIVE MATH** - The Competitive Math class is designed for students who would like to strengthen their mathematics skills and expand their knowledge of mathematics beyond what is included in the normal curriculum. The focus will be on problem-solving, calculator applications, and number sense skills. Students will prepare for and possibly participate in virtual meets as well as on-site meets through PSIA and TCSA. The preparation and the competitions are designed to help students discover and develop their God-given talents in the area of Mathematics.
- **COMPUTER I** - By the time students enter middle school they will have already been given a school email account, and had some experience with Google Apps for Education's productivity tools. Students are then expected to work towards mastery of those tools, including Gmail, drive, docs, slides, and spreadsheets, but now with a global audience in mind. Time is dedicated to helping students understand how to be safe and make responsible and ethical choices online, and to recognize online threats to their privacy and actions that could harm their digital footprint. In addition, students will design, develop, and publish media to share with others, including online content such as webpages, websites, blogs, and fully utilize Google Classroom, which prepares students to transition to receiving and submitting assignments online with ease. Students are expected to create, share, and utilize collaborative workspaces, documents or other digital tools for asynchronous and synchronous collaboration. Students also begin creating digital content, using more complex applications such as Adobe CS6 (Photoshop, InDesign, and Illustrator). In addition, computer programming becomes more intricate using Hour of Code, followed by Scratch. Students will program their own interactive stories, games, and animations to share their creations with others in an online community, using either block-based visual programming or a text-based language. Differentiation is key, as students dive deeper into Computer Science related fields. Students will submit projects/assignments online, participate in online discussions, post/reply to comments, and view content for class.

Texts currently in use: EasyTech www.learning.com; SCRATCH <https://scratch.mit.edu/>
Code.org at <https://code.org>

- **COMPUTER II** - Computer Science Discoveries (CSD) is appropriate for 7-8th grade students and is seen as an extension of the content covered in Computer I. It is a year-long introductory course dedicated to Computer Science and covers topics such as programming, physical computing, HTML/CSS, and data. The first semester of CSD introduces students to Computer Science as a vehicle for problem-solving, communication, and personal expression, through app development, web development, and animations and games. During the second semester of CSD students explore the impact of Computer Science on society. Students will see how a thorough user-centered design process produces a better application, how data is used to address problems that affect large numbers of people, and how physical computing with circuit boards allows computers to collect input and return output in a variety of ways
- **DRAMA** - Introduces dramatic arts as one of many forms of expression with which humans have been endowed by the divine Creator. Covers basic acting techniques, improvisation, and mime. Teaches oral interpretation of literature, including prose, poetry, and Scripture. All students will participate in a readers' theatre production. Outside performances and limited after-school rehearsals are required.
- **JOURNALISM** - Introduces students to the journalistic process through a broad, hands-on experience. Enables students to become critical observers of their environment as a means of seeking to understand, discuss, and determine truth within the context of Christian perspective and experience. Defines what constitutes news, introduces the concept of journalistic responsibility, and begins development of writing skills used in production of newspaper, yearbook, and other journalistic writing tasks.
- **DRILL TEAM** - Required for students who successfully tried out for the Lady Bellas. Students will rehearse routines for pep rallies, games, and other performances. Outside rehearsals and performances are required.
- **SPANISH** - Introduces 6th and 7th grade students to the process of acquiring a second language, with a focus on listening, comprehension, and reading. Basic vocabulary is developed through songs, stories, and games to form a solid foundation for Spanish 1. This class meets on alternate days.
- **STUDY HALL** - Required for all middle school students (four days per week during Bridge period). Provides opportunity for homework preparation, study, and reading in a supervised setting. Offers training in study skills. Grade will be given for maintenance of notebook system and proper use of time.
- **MASTERING THE STANDARDS** - Provides differentiated instruction in a smaller class. Designed to increase student capability and confidence by reinforcing fundamental math facts, improving equation manipulation, building problem-solving skills, and increasing

understanding of key concepts and ideas through differentiated and multi-sensory instruction.