

EIGHTH Grade: Curriculum Summary

BIBLE - New Testament Survey/Moral Decision-Making - The fall curriculum begins with the intertestamental period, focusing on Jewish faith and culture. Students will then study Paul's letters to the Ephesians and Galatians to understand and appreciate the centrality of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus for the Christian faith and to discuss the ways in which we should respond. During the spring semester students will survey different criteria involved in making moral decisions, analyzing the seven virtues and discussing how our decisions shape the kind of person we are becoming. Students will be challenged to envision and live the Christian life through their personal decisions, their interpersonal relationships, and in dealing with contemporary cultural challenges.

ENGLISH - Focuses on communications skill as a gift from God designed to communicate his purposes and his truth to mankind. Continues the study of language, composition, literature and research as processes which enable humans to communicate more effectively. Develops skills in grammar, spelling, vocabulary, research, critical thinking, and writing for a variety of purposes. Includes short stories, nonfiction, drama, poetry, and four novels. Requires some summer reading.

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

HISTORY - American History - Describes significant individuals, events, and political/social/economic changes from the period of exploration through the Reconstruction (approximately 1450-1877). Emphasizes the importance of the Christian heritage in the formation of the American character. Presents geography as a significant factor in the creation of the American story.

Text currently in use: *United States History to 1877*, McGraw-Hill. Students review concepts about the history and geography of the United States discussed in class.

MATH - Pre-Algebra or Algebra I

- 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.

- Algebra I (HS CREDIT: 1) - Introduces the basic abstract skills required to advance beyond mathematical intuition and counting application. Introduces the basic language

and properties of algebra, studies solutions and applications of linear equations and inequalities, develops operations with exponents and polynomials, introduces factorization of polynomials, and solves quadratic equations by factoring. Introduces studies of functions and relations and their graphs, systems of open sentences, the roles and uses of irrational numbers, the solution of quadratic equations by various methods and operations and problem solving using rational expressions.

Text currently in use: *Houghton-Mifflin Big Ideas Math – Algebra 1*. 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 - Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC) - Course covers study of matter, atomic structure, chemical bonds and reactions. Students will explore solutions, acids and bases, and examine carbon and nuclear chemistry. Motion, forces, work, power and energy will be investigated. Students will also study waves, magnetism, electricity, and optics.

Text currently in use: *Conceptual Integrated Science*, Pearson. 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.

- **SPANISH I** (HS CREDIT: 1) - Introduces students to the four basic skills of language learning (learning, speaking, reading, and writing), develops appropriate concepts, and emphasizes practical vocabulary building and conversation skills. Introduces students to the culture and civilization of Spain and Hispanic countries. Highly motivated students who can assimilate new material at an accelerated rate and who are able to spend extra time on homework may qualify to take Spanish I instead of study hall in eighth grade. An average grade of 85 or above for the year is necessary to receive high school credit for Spanish I. Texts currently in use: TPRS Readers by Blaine Ray; Autentico 1, Pearson. Students review vocabulary and concepts discussed in class.
- **CLASSROOM AIDE** – Teaches skills necessary to aid classroom teachers in room preparation, grading and filing, and preparation of teaching materials. Activities include assisting in reading to students or helping with learning activities. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as elementary classroom aides.
- **OFFICE AIDE** - Teaches skills necessary to assist office personnel with copying, duplicating, filing, and other secretarial activities. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as office aides.
- **LIBRARY AIDE** - Teaches skills necessary to aid librarian with shelving of books and magazines, filing, book repair, and preparation of teaching materials. Emphasizes personal responsibility, appropriate attitudes, and human relations skills. Only students with outstanding records in academics and citizenship may be selected to serve as library aides.