GRACE CHRISTIAN SCHOOL
Equipping Students for Life

Middle School Academic Overview Grades 6-8

2018 – 2019 School Year

The middle school program for grades 6-8 is designed to solidify the educational foundation of the elementary education while preparing students for the rigor of an excellent, college-preparatory high school academic program. Community outreach projects, fine arts, technology integration, sports and clubs are all designed for students to investigate their God given gifts, talents and interests.

Expected Student Outcomes
We expect GRACE Christian students to grow to:

- Be fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ
- Be academically prepared for the college or career of their choice
- Be engaged to impact their world positively through their own unique talents and abilities
- Develop a Christian worldview and thorough knowledge of Scripture to share and defend their faith
- Possess the critical thinking skills, creativity and confidence to handle opportunities and adversities
- Demonstrate the character of Christ in all areas of everyday life
- Love and serve others consistently

MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE OFFERINGS

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Math 6 or Pre-Algebra	Math 7/Pre-Algebra/Algebra	Pre Algebra/Algebra/Geometry
Life Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
World History	World History	United States History
Bible	Bible	Bible
English	English	English
PE/Health	PE/Health	PE/Health
School Success	Language Study, STEM, or Math Support	Spanish/Latin
Elective	Elective	Elective
Elective	Elective	Elective

6th Grade Elective Offerings Include:
Art, Band, Dance, Computer Science Fundamentals, Multi-Media, Spanish, Strategy Games, Theater, Vocal Ensemble

7th and 8th Grade Elective Offerings Include:
Art, Band, Intro to Computer Science Programming, Computer Science Middle School Advanced, Computer Graphics, Creative Writing, Cross Training, Dance, Engineering Language Study (7th only), Strategy Games, Library Aid, STEM, Study Hall, Theater, Vocal Ensemble. The first level of foreign language (Spanish or Latin) is offered in eighth grade.

GRADE LEVEL DISTINCTIVES

6th Grade

Bible
This survey course provides a basic introduction to the structure and themes of the Word of God. As students journey through this study of the key people, events and themes from the Old Testament, they discover the truths and

applications God has provided in each book of the Bible. God's gracious work is clear—from creation to the cross to the consummation of time.

English
Students are exposed to a multi-level English curriculum including grammar, composition, and literature. Instruction includes an emphasis on crafting writing to describe and persuade; character analysis; point of view; personal narrative; research paper; and creative writing. Literature studies include fiction and nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Literature content includes reading skills; literary analysis; vocabulary; conventions; writing; speaking and listening; and research and technology.

Math: Math 6 or Pre-Algebra

Math 6: This course is designed to prepare students for pre-algebra by ensuring a foundation in basic arithmetic and geometry. Students will focus on building problem-solving skills and strategies; comparing and ordering positive and negative numbers; practicing operations with positive numbers, fractions, mixed numbers and decimals; using ratios, rates and percent; simplifying algebraic expressions, solving equations and inequalities, using coordinates to create graphs, writing linear equations and using tables and graphs to represent equations; finding the areas of polygons and circles, finding perimeter and circumferences, and finding the surface area and volume of three-dimensional shapes; applying statistical reasoning to data sets, and finding the mean, median and mode of data sets.

Pre-Algebra: This course is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra and reinforces skills of operating with whole numbers; fractions and decimals; ratios; rates; percentages; and proportions. Basic algebra skills include operating with negative numbers, using order of operations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, finding the slope of a line and solving systems of equations by graphing. The course introduces topics from plane and solid geometry, probability and data analysis.

Life Science
This course is the beginning of the middle school science sequence. Students are introduced to life science concepts further developed in the high school biology course. Course concepts include cells, genetics, and a creation versus evolution unit. Life Science is presented with an emphasis on God's creation. Students learn about the large variety of living things God has created including bacteria; protists; fungi; and plants and animals. The course concludes with an ecology unit about the interactions between living and non-living things.

History
In order to understand today's world, we must learn about the past. Ancient civilizations laid strong foundations for modern culture. In this class, students investigate, examine, and understand the development of civilizations from Mesopotamia and Mediterranean Civilizations through the Middle Ages. Students learn the five themes of geography: location, regions, movement, place, and interaction. Map skills are emphasized for geographic literacy and informational texts are studied to analyze the author's purpose, distinguish fact and opinion, identify evidence, and evaluate material. Students learn how the study of other people, cultures, and actions allow us to seek God's wisdom.

School Success
This required course emphasizes instruction on how to study, test-taking skills, geography skills, and vocabulary development. The course is designed to provide students with the organizational, study and technology skills to succeed in the classroom and set a foundation of good study habits and techniques for the progression through middle and high school. The course incorporates vocabulary and geography lessons that integrate with other sixth grade courses including history, English and Bible.

Highlights
- Field trips include Overnight Spiritual Retreat, Conservators' Center, Quarterly Middle School Social Events
- Laptops provided to all students for school and home use
- Various electives, clubs, including Book Clubs, Girls Who Code, STEM Club, Maker Space
- Student eligible to participate in the Middle School Athletics Program

7th Grade

Bible
In the continuation of this survey course from sixth grade, students read the New Testament in its entirety and respond to critical thinking questions about today's culture. Skits, workbook activities, discussions, and detailed outlining of all the books of the New Testament assist in the comprehension and application of the material.

English
Seventh grade literature provides leveled support and scaffolding for understanding increasingly complex texts. Informational texts are read across content areas with an emphasis on writing argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative texts. Critical thinking and higher-order thinking skills are presented in instruction. The course reinforces foundational skills in grammar and vocabulary skills development.

Math: Math 7, Pre-Algebra, or Algebra I

Math 7: This course is designed to prepare students for pre-algebra by ensuring they are grounded in basic arithmetic and geometry. The arithmetic focus is on addition; subtraction; multiplication and division using whole numbers; decimals; and fractions. The geometric focus is on properties of two and three-dimensional shapes; perimeter; area; and volume. Topics including percentages; integers; probability; and statistics are covered.

Pre-Algebra: This course is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra and reinforces skills of operating with whole numbers; fractions and decimals; ratios; rates; percentages; and proportions. Basic algebra skills include operating with negative numbers, using order of operations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, finding the slope of a line and solving systems of equations by graphing. The course introduces topics from plane and solid geometry, probability and data analysis.

Algebra I: This foundational course is for eighth or ninth grade students and is important for the other high school math and science classes. The course builds on the skills acquired in pre-algebra, and includes study in variables; functions; solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; systems of equations; probability; and the non-linear functions of quadratics, polynomials, exponentials, roots and rational functions.

Earth Science
Students learn the basic traits and functions of planet Earth. Topics include rocks; minerals; plate tectonics; natural disasters; water; weather; and astronomy. General science skills such as lab techniques, the standardized scientific process, time management, and methods of research are also explored. Intricacies of God's creation are discussed and explored.

History
In this World History survey class, students study the world from the Age of Exploration to contemporary times to understand the implications of increased global interactions. The focus remains on the discipline of geography by using the themes of location, place, movement, human-environmental interaction and region to understand modern societies and regions. Students are guided through patterns of change and continuity with a focus on conflict and cooperation, economic development, population shifts, political thought and organization, cultural values and beliefs, and the impact of environment over time. Through an investigation of the various factors that shaped the development of societies and regions in the modern world and global interactions, students examine both similarities and differences. The standards are organized around five strands: history, geography and environmental literacy, economics and financial literacy, civics and governance and culture.

Language Study
In this course, students will examine Latin-based roots that influence English as well as the Romance languages. Students will also study together current Latin influences in our society including terms, social structures, art, architecture, myths, and stories.

STEM
Students will explore, innovate, and experiment with new ideas and concepts in this course about Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics. Topics covered include but are not limited to digital footprint, 4C's, coding, force and motion, circuits, robotics, and the engineering process.

Math Support
In this course, students have the opportunity to obtain additional instructional support and reinforcement with concepts and instructional objectives for Math 7 and Pre-Algebra.

Highlights
- Field trips include Mission Trip to Kentucky, Quarterly Middle School Social Events
- Laptops provided to all students for school and home use
- Various electives and clubs offered
- Student eligible to participate in School Athletics Program

8th Grade

Bible
Students gain an understanding of introductory Christian doctrine and attain a clearer understanding of salvation, learn how to study God's Word, and recognize the power and necessity of prayer. Students learn how to share Christ and daily live out their faith and love toward God.

English
This course consists of vocabulary, literature, and grammar studies designed to help students enhance their reading, writing, and speaking skills. Students increase their vocabulary through specialized instruction in understanding word origin, context clues, and other vocabulary skills. In literature, informational texts are read across content areas with an emphasis on writing argumentative, informative/explanatory, and narrative texts. Critical thinking and higher-order thinking skills are presented in instruction. Emphasis is placed on grammar and writing skills to prepare students for the rigor of increased writing expectations in high school.

Math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra I, or Geometry

Pre-Algebra: This course is a bridge between arithmetic and algebra and reinforces skills of operating with whole numbers; fractions and decimals; ratios; rates; percentages; and proportions. Basic algebra skills include operating with negative numbers, using order of operations, solving and graphing equations and inequalities, finding the slope of a line and solving systems of equations by graphing. The course introduces topics from plane and solid geometry, probability and data analysis.

Algebra I: This foundational course is for eighth or ninth grade students and is important for the other high school math and science classes. The course builds on the skills acquired in pre-algebra, and includes study in variables; functions; solving and graphing linear equations and inequalities; systems of equations; probability; and the non-linear functions of quadratics, polynomials, exponentials, roots and rational functions.

Geometry: This course provides a comprehensive look at geometric concepts and logical reasoning based on knowledge of basic algebra and discrete mathematic concepts. Pure and applied mathematics is applied throughout the course while solving geometric problems. Multiple formats are supported through mastery including two column, paragraph, flow, and indirect proofs. Students learn to value the need to think logically and present ideas in a logical order. Traditional geometry concepts and logical reasoning are emphasized throughout, while measurement and applications are integrated to motivate students via real-world connections. Algebra is reviewed and integrated throughout. Algebra 1 skills are reviewed at point-of-use, ensuring students maintain these skills. Algebra integration within coordinate geometry topics, plus probability and statistics connections, are found throughout.

Physical Science
This course introduces the concepts and skills of chemistry and physics. Chemistry topics range from states of matter on a molecular level; the history of the atomic model; the arrangement of the periodic table; the language of chemistry; the pH scale; and chemical reactions. The physics portion of the course covers the relationships between matter and energy in the areas of forces, motion, waves, and sound; light and optics; electricity; and magnetism. These topics are taught using a mixture of inquiry, direct instruction, and computer research.

History
This United States history course covers geographic themes and discussion as well as events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction and the western movement, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered include exploration; colonization; the Revolutionary War; constitutional issues; nation building; the Civil War; Reconstruction; the western movement and the development of United States as a world power.

Foreign Language: Spanish I or Latin I

Spanish I: The course integrates communication, culture, cross-curricular connections, language comparisons, and a multilingual community approach to motivate and encourage students to explore the Spanish language and culture.

Latin I: High School Latin I presumes students have had no prior Latin instruction. The course sets the foundation for the mastery of Latin reading. The goal is to provide students with competence in reading elementary Latin before progressing to a more elaborate subordinated syntax in Latin II and III. Students learn proper pronunciation, the first three declensions, the indicative active present and perfect systems of all regular verbs, the forms and syntax of regular and irregular 1st and 2nd declension adjectives, and the form and syntax of definite pronouns and demonstratives. Students will acquire a vocabulary base of 263 words. Various elements of Roman history and culture will also be explained in conjunction with reading exercises.

Highlights

- Field trips include Mission Trip to Kentucky, Washington D.C. trip, Quarterly Middle School Social Events
- Laptops provided to all students for school and home use
- Various electives and clubs offered
- Student eligible to participate in School Athletics Program