

# Middle School Course Descriptions

## **ENGLISH**

### **EH006 - English 6**

The 6th grade English course consists of spelling, vocabulary, literature, and grammar studies that are designed to develop students' reading, writing, and speaking skills. In the area of spelling, students continue to develop writing skills as they learn additional spelling patterns. In the area of literature, students develop vocabulary, comprehension, and interpretive skills as they study various works of literature, including short stories, poetry, and novels. Particular emphasis is given to interpreting an author's message according to a Biblical worldview. In the area of grammar, students continue the study of parts of speech, sentence patterns, and mechanics rules as they refine their writing skills in order to become better communicators of God's truth. These writing skills are refined through various writing assignments, including a book report and a short research report. Students also develop speaking skills through oral presentations and poetry recitations.

### **EH007 - English 7**

The 7th grade English course consists of vocabulary, literature, and grammar studies that are 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 the area of literature, students continue to develop vocabulary, comprehension, and interpretive skills as they study various works of literature, including short stories, nonfiction, poetry, and novels. Particular emphasis is given to interpreting an author's message and intent according to a biblical world view. In the area of grammar, students continue the study of parts of speech, sentence patterns, and mechanics rules as they refine their writing skills in order to become better communicators of God's truth. Special emphasis is placed on grammar study as it relates to the development of good writing skills. These writing skills are refined as students learn to write various essays and a short research report. Students also develop speaking skills through oral presentations and poetry recitations.

### **EH008 - English 8**

The 8th grade English course consists of vocabulary, literature, and grammar studies which are 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 the area of literature, students continue to develop vocabulary, comprehension, and interpretive skills as they study various works of literature. These will include short stories, poetry, non-fiction, novels, and drama. Particular emphasis is given to interpreting an author's message and intent according to a Biblical worldview. Students also develop speaking skills through oral presentations and poetry recitations. Special emphasis is placed on grammar and writing skills in 8th grade English in order to prepare students for the increased writing requirements of the high school classes. Students will continue to study parts of speech, sentence patterns, and mechanics rules as they refine their writing skills in order to become better communicators of

God's truth. These skills are refined as students learn to write various paragraphs, essays, and a short research project.

## **HISTORY**

### **SS006 - History 6**

Sixth grade social studies focuses on the United States from 1877 to the present. Historical events studied by sixth graders include immigration, the Great Depression, world wars, and the struggle for civil rights. Emphasis is placed on the development of the Christian citizen and viewing American History from a Biblical world view. The class also examines the geographical, technological, and political changes that impacted life during these time periods, and the movement of the United States into the role of world leader.

### **SS007 - Civics/Geography**

Seventh Grade Civics is a semester long course that confronts such questions as What is civic participation and how can I be involved? What are my rights and responsibilities: How do I become a responsible citizen? What is my role as a Christian citizen in the community and nation, as a member of the world community? As a Christian, how can I make a positive difference? Numerous instructional classroom techniques include role-playing, debates, and hands-on situational activities.

Seventh Grade Geography is a semester long course that seeks to educate students about the earth and the God who created it for His purposes. The class studies all seven continents and the major landforms found on earth. Students will see the connection between the people and the environments in which they live. They will also appreciate the interdependence of global community and the role of natural resources. Special emphasis is placed upon the understanding of geography and the Great Commission.

### **SS008 - World History Part I**

The study of World History in the 8th grade addresses the time period from creation to the 1500s. The objectives for this course incorporate for this course incorporate the concepts of economics, geography, history, and political science, with an emphasis on the areas of history and geography. This course emphasizes the providence of God in history and is seen in the migrations of early peoples, the rise of civilizations, the establishment of governments and religions, the growth of economic systems, and the ways in which these events shaped the western world.

## **MATH**

### **MA006 - Math 6**

The class will help students master the basic mathematical skills necessary to move on to Pre-Algebra and other upper level math courses. The students will see God's wonderful hand in His Creation and the world around us from a mathematical perspective.

### **MA007 - General Math 7 and 8**

In this course a review of addition, subtraction, multiplication and division of whole numbers, decimals and fractions is given. Topics in geometry, number theory and equations are presented. Metric measurement, ratio and proportion, percent, and integers are also introduced.

### **MA008 - Pre-Algebra**

Pre-Algebra affords an opportunity for strengthening skills with basic operations on whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and integers. Also presented are topics in algebra, geometry, number theory, measurements, ratio and proportion, percent, and probability and statistics. Mathematical applications to practical situations are stressed.

### **MA101 - Algebra I**

Algebra I is the fundamental language of math. The objective of this course is to teach students algebraic skills and how to use those skills in today's changing world. Students should also gain an understanding of the mathematical order in the world that God created. In Algebra I students will study patterns, relations, and functions. They will represent and analyze mathematical situations and structures using algebraic symbols. Students will use mathematical models to represent and understand quantitative relationships and analyze change in various contexts. Some of the main topics of study include: order of operations in simplifying expressions, solving equations with coefficients, operations with powers and parenthesis, polynomials, complex fraction simplification, and solving systems of equations, word problems, factoring, and quadratic equations. An 89 or above is required in order to move on to Geometry or Algebra II as a 9th grader.

## **SCIENCE**

### **SC006 - Science 6**

The sixth grade science curriculum is a broad-based study of topics ranging from animals too small to see to huge planets and galaxies. It explores forest communities, the environment, and ecology, as well as, sources of energy, motion and force, and electricity and magnetism. Students will also explore the vastness of our universe. This course is taught from a Christian perspective based on three important things: students will learn about God's creation, students will learn about themselves as a special part of creation, and students will learn about how powerful God is through his creation. Students will conduct in-class experiments and participate in activities to support the science curriculum.

### **SC007 - Life Science**

Students will learn about life science through a comprehensive course study and hands on experiments to support their observations. Science can be defined as man's observations of the world God created and man's use of those observations to make decisions (Life Science textbook). In this Christian Life Science course, you should learn what God has said about life and living things and how to build upon those principles. Students will conduct numerous in class experiments and participate in activities to support the Life Science curriculum.

## **SC008 - Earth Science**

This is a general survey course. Units of study will include the celestial sphere, the atmosphere, the lithosphere, and hydrosphere. One of the main focuses of the class will be learning to use our "spiritual eyeglasses" to test and view the scientific world around.

## **BIBLE**

### **BB006 - Bible 6**

The 6th grade Bible class is a survey of God's Word from Creation through the time of Solomon. This portion of the Bible is presented to students within the context of the entire Bible, which is the story of God's plan of redemption for mankind. Students are encouraged to see the Old Testament stories of Adam and Eve, Abraham, Joseph, Moses, and others, not as separate stories, but as parts of one interwoven story of God's sovereign plan of history. Sixth grade memory work includes various Bible passages, including the "heroes of the faith" of Hebrews 11, and questions 39-69 in the Westminster Shorter Catechism.

### **BB007 - Bible 7**

This course is a study of the kings of Israel and Judah, the Babylonian Exile to the end of Old Testament history, and the inter-testamental period. In addition, students are required to memorize catechism questions 70-87 and Isaiah 40. This course is a continuation of Bible 6.

### **BB008 - Bible 8**

The eighth grade Bible course is a course that studies the life of Christ and of the establishment of the Church and its early history. Catechism questions 88-107 are memorized along with various New Testament passages.

## **MUSIC**

### **MU102 - Concert Band**

Concert Band is an intermediate level Middle School band class. Intermediate instrumental techniques are taught through a variety of band literature and instrumental method books. Students should have one year of playing experience on their instrument to be in the Concert Band. The class meets daily. There will be performance opportunities throughout the year.

### **MU103 - Symphonic Band**

Symphonic Band is the most advanced instrumental performing group. Instrumental skills are taught through the performance of a variety of band literature. The varsity band is active in concerts and music competitions. Students have opportunities to audition for All-State and District Honor Bands and to participate in Solo and Ensemble competition. Dedication and commitment are necessary to successfully meet the requirements of this course.

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

### **PE007 - Middle School Physical Education**

The Middle School PE class is the culmination of the upper elementary emphasis on the sports and the transitioning into the lifetime sports of the upper school curriculum. A variety of activities will be used to bridge that transition which will include competitive, cooperative, and lifetime games as well as fitness activities. Students will begin to grasp the concepts of physical activity being an integral of their wholeness. In addition, responsibility and respect in our personal behavior towards God, others, facilities, and ourselves will be stressed. Living our lives, honestly representing our statement of faith will also be challenged.

### **AR205 - Dance**

Students will learn the basics of jazz, ballet, and modern dance with an emphasis on increasing flexibility and coordination. The class is fun and fast-paced.

### **Middle School Enrichment Survey Classes**

#### **ENS011 - Middle School Computer Keyboarding and Applications**

This is a required sixth grade semester-long class that teaches basic computer skills to include keyboarding, word processing and PowerPoint to better prepare them to meet the academic demands of middle school and high school.

#### **ENS02 - Middle School Music**

This is a required sixth grade class. Middle School Music is a one semester course. Students will sing a variety of music from many time periods and cultures. The primary emphasis will be on singing Christian choral music and hymns. Students will be introduced to part singing. Basic music theory and music appreciation will also be covered. Students will have opportunities to perform as part of the Middle School Choir.

#### **ENS01 - Middle School Practical Living**

This is a required semester-long course for all seventh graders. This course is designed to help the student incorporate a biblical worldview concerning practical issues. Subjects that will be covered include: Money Matters, Manners and You, How the Media Affects Us, Why Abstain from Sex, and other subjects that are relevant to the junior high student who professes to be a Christian. As time allows each semester, students may also learn some simple sewing and cooking skills.

#### **ENS03 - Middle School Art**

This a required semester long course for all seventh grades. MS Art offers instruction to students by introducing them to several mediums. Students expand their study by drawing, painting, and sculpting to express their own creativity.

#### **ENS07 - Middle School Computer Programming and Logic**

This is a required semester-long course for all eighth graders. It provides an introduction to classical logic and computer programming using scheme. This course is designed to teach critical thinking skills.

### **ENS08 - Middle School Latin**

This is a required semester-long course for all eighth graders. MS Latin is a beginning course in which the immediate objective is to develop the student's ability to read and comprehend Latin. This is achieved through the practice of precise and pure pronunciation in simple conversations which serve to establish patterns and develop style. New vocabulary and syntax are introduced through the conversations. In order to comprehend the language, the student must learn declensions, conjugations, and the rules of grammar. The student is trained thoroughly in word-building techniques. Content leading to cultural objectives is an integral part of the Latin readings and the English essays that are in the text, *Our Latin Heritage*.