



Working Draft

Middle School Course Descriptions 2010-2011

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 practice spelling rules and patterns. In the area of literature, students develop vocabulary, comprehension, and critical thinking 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 short research report. Students also develop speaking skills through oral presentations.

Resources – CSI *World of Literature 6*, Warriners Introductory Course, and various trade books such as *A Single Shard*, *Johnny Tremain*, and *The Incredible Journey*

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 worldview. In the area of grammar, students continue to study parts of speech, sentence patterns, and rules of mechanics 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.

Resources – Scribner *Introducing Literature*, Warriners *Grammar Handbook First Course*, Saidler Oxford Level A and various trade books such as *A Christmas Carol*, *The Giver*, and *The Cay*.

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, nonfiction, 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 rules of mechanics 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 rhetorical modes, essays, and a short research project.

Resources – Scribner *Enjoying Literature*, Warriners *Grammar Handbook Second Course*, Saidler Oxford Level C, and various tradebooks such as *Count of Monte Cristo*, *Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and *Call of the Wild*.

HISTORY

SS006 - History 6

Sixth grade history covers the United States from 1877 to the present. Historical events 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 worldview. 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.

Resources – Glencoe *American Journey*

SS007 - Civics/Geography

Seventh grade civics/geography is a year long course that confronts and educates students about the political and physical studies of the earth. The course deals with the interdependence of a global community and places emphasis on the role of the United States in the world community. Students will examine their heritage and citizenship responsibilities as Christians and Americans. Students will gain understanding of the connection between people and the environments in which they live. Numerous instructional techniques will be used such as guest speakers, atlas drills, role-playing, geography lab work and lectures.

Resources – McGraw-Hill *World Geography and Cultures*

SS008 - World History Part I

The study of World History in 8th grade addresses the time period from Creation through the Reformation. The objectives for this course incorporate 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 as 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.

Resources – McDougal Littell *World History Patterns of Interaction*

MATH

MA006 – Mathematics 6

Beginning with a basic review of the Elementary math concepts, Sixth Grade Mathematics covers every aspect of whole numbers ranging from a brief fact review through all numerical operations ending with a review of Order of Operations. This in-depth coverage continues through decimals and fractions with all necessary data analyses exercises included therein. The geometry portion of the course visits all geometric concepts covered to date with extensions into even more applications in this intriguing venue of mathematics. Furthermore, the measurement explorations provided continue to reinforce the use of and familiarity with all applications such as the Metric and English Systems; Time; Money and Temperature with conversions of each type and between

types, where applicable, also incorporated. In addition, the problem-solving environment provided in this measurement realm is much more involved than in the elementary environment, striving to marry the complete coverage of numerical operations to the multitude of applications of such. The endeavors into discrete mathematics (ratios, proportions and percents) are also expanded to adequately prepare the student for exposure to it in nearly every other subject. Finally, the Sixth Grade Mathematics Course provides an introduction to integers and simple operations therewith, a necessary preparation for both Mathematics Applications and Pre-Algebra.

Near the end of their sixth grade year, all students are required to take a 6th Grade Math Skills Assessment to aid in determining a student's 7th grade placement in either the Mathematics Applications course or the Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra course.

Resources – Glencoe *Applications and Concepts Course 1*

MA006A – Mathematics Applications

The Mathematics Applications course begins with a review of some of the most basic mathematical concepts (addition, subtraction, multiplication and division) and progresses through all aspects of their applications to whole numbers, to fractions, to decimals and to percents. It then extends these applications into the concept of measurement with dimensional analysis and even further into the development of mathematical expressions and sentences. Other excursions take the student into a re-discovery of basic geometric concepts and some probability as well as a good deal of graphical analysis. The course concludes with a brief overture into the realm of Pre-Algebra with some integer manipulation and the introduction of simple equations and inequalities. The integration of all these concepts into real-world problems is nurtured through appreciation of how mathematics functions in God's world.

MA007 – Mathematics Applications 7

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Resources – Glencoe *Applications and Concepts Course 2*

MA008 - Pre-Algebra

The Pre-Algebra course begins with an abbreviated review of topics from the Mathematics Applications course, focusing on those topics that will be necessary in its preparatory mission goal. Confirmation that the student has immediate recall of multiplication facts through twelve will be conducted. Other review will include a working knowledge of integers; rational numbers and fractions; proportions and percents. The basic equation is also reviewed and expanded to use with functional relationships and graphical analysis. This leads to the manipulation of real numbers and some basic geometric relationships. Because Pre-Algebra is the bridge between concrete and abstract mathematics, the entire course focuses on conceptual relationships and problem-solving – that is, to have each and every concept presented not only as it relates to other concepts but also as a tool to be utilized in the solving of a problem *in a particular context, for a particular set of circumstances, toward a particular goal or solution*. The student is led to *recognize that context, those circumstances and that goal for which he must employ the particular concept*. Such *recognition* is the concluding goal of this Pre-Algebra course.

Resources – Glencoe *Pre-Algebra*

MA009 – Pre-Algebra 7th

Entrance into this course is determined by a sum of the following three measures: teacher recommendation, cumulative 6th grade mathematics GPA of 92, and a calculated score of 90 or higher on the 6th Grade Math Skills Assessment.

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In order to move on to Algebra I as an 8th grader, it is required that the sum of the following three measures be met: teacher recommendation, an cumulative PreAlgebra GPA of 89 and a score of 85 or above on the Pre-Algebra Skills Assessment; if such

requirement is not met in total, the student will be re-enrolled in the Pre-Algebra course as an eighth grader.

Resources – Glencoe *Pre-Algebra*

MA101 - Algebra I

Entrance into this course as an 8th grader is determined by a sum of the following three measures: teacher recommendation, Seventh Grade Pre-Algebra GPA of 89, and a calculated score of 85 or higher on the Pre-Algebra Skills Assessment.

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. Algebra 1 concludes with an introduction to rational functions in preparation for more advanced manipulation of all of the above topics in Algebra 2.

In order to move on to Geometry as a 9th grader, it is required that the sum of the following three measures be met: teacher recommendation, a Geometry GPA of 85, and a score of 80 or above on the Algebra Skills Assessment; if such requirement is not met in total, the student will be re-enrolled in the Algebra 1 course as a High School Freshman.

Resources – Glencoe – *Algebra I*

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.

Resources – *CSI Science 6*

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, a student 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.

Textbook – *BJU Life Science*

SC008 - Earth Science

Eighth grade earth science is a general survey course that investigates four main units - the celestial sphere, the atmosphere, the lithosphere and the hydrosphere. The content matter is investigated through hands-on labs, class demonstrations and other instructional techniques. One of the main focuses of the class is learning to use our "spiritual eyeglasses" to test and view the scientific world around us. Practical application and understanding of scientific principles in daily life is stressed.

Resources – *BJU Earth Science*

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.

Resources – *CSI House of Israel*, NIV Bible, *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 Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 70-87 and Isaiah 40. This course is a continuation of Bible 6.

Resources – *CSI Day of the Lord*, NIV Bible, *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

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. Westminster Shorter Catechism questions 88-107 are memorized along with various New Testament passages.

Resources – *CSI Light to the Gentiles*, NIV Bible, *Westminster Shorter Catechism*

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.

Resources – Heritage Music Press *Techniques for Band*

MU103 – Symphonic Band

Symphonic Band is the intermediate 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.

MU203 – Wind Ensemble

Wind Ensemble is the most advanced instrumental performing group. It differs from Symphonic Band by having only one performer on each part. All band instruments, including percussion, are needed in this ensemble. Skills are taught through the performance of a variety of high level band literature. This group is also active in concerts and music competitions. Students have opportunities to audition for All-State and District honor bands, university honor bands, and participate in the annual 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 part of their wholeness. In addition, responsibility and respect in personal behavior towards God, others, facilities, and ourselves will be stressed. Living lives that honestly represent one's statement of faith will also be challenged.

PE000 – Athletic Strength and Conditioning Physical Education

This PE class is required for all athletes in every sport at WCA and is specially designed to shorten time used after school for conditioning and game preparation in their sport. General and sport-specific conditioning/workouts will take place under the guidance of their coach or trained personnel.

MIDDLE SCHOOL ENRICHMENT SURVEY CLASSES

ENS01 - Middle School Music

This is a required sixth grade class. Middle School Music is a trimester course and will meet for 12 weeks. Students will be exposed to instrumental and vocal music. Basic music theory and music appreciation as well as music history will be covered. Students may have opportunities to perform in chapel and/or at other school functions.

ENS02 - Middle School Latin Foundations

This is a required sixth grade trimester class. Latin Foundations is a trimester course. Middle School 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 in word-building techniques. Content leading to cultural objectives is an integral part of the Latin readings and the English essays.

Resources – Holt *Ecce Romani IA*

ENS03 - Middle School Computer Keyboarding with Applications

This is a required sixth grade trimester-long class that teaches basic computer skills emphasizing proper keyboarding techniques. It also includes a brief introduction to word processing and PowerPoint to better prepare students to meet the academic demands of middle school and high school.

Resources – Microsoft Office 2003

ENS04 - Middle School Art

This a required trimester long course for all seventh graders. Middle School Art offers instruction to students by introducing them to several mediums and artists. Students expand their study by drawing, painting, and sculpting to express their own creativity.

ENS05 - Middle School Practical Living

This is a required trimester 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, Nutrition, Illegal Drugs, Why Abstain from Sex, Peacemakers, and other subjects that are relevant to the junior high student who professes to be a Christian. As time allows each 12 weeks, students may also learn some simple sewing and cooking skills.

Resources – Teacher created resources and projects

ENS06 Middle School German

This a required trimester long course for all seventh graders. German will be offered as an introductory language course. The curriculum will include basic language skills and development plus a study of the historical, social, and cultural aspects of the country. Students will also explore the contributions of the German people to our local community and their impact on the space program.

ENS07 - Middle School Logic

This a required trimester course for all 8th graders. This course is designed to help our students think critically about the world around them and become problem solvers. The course will guide students through a study of formal logic and an introduction to programming. In logic we will learn the skills that are essential for good critical thinking and reasoning. How to detect forms of fallacies, determine validity, and construct arguments.

Resources – Logic portion is based upon *The Argument Builder*, Classical Academic Press and teacher created materials

ENS08 – Middle School Computer Science

This is a required trimester class for all 8th graders. The course will guide students through an introduction to computer programming and basic computer skills. In programming students will learn how to design programs to solve problems and accomplish tasks. They will focus on digital citizenship and using applications as tools to enhance education.

Resources – Programming portion is based upon *How to Design Programs*, MIT Press, Web resource and teacher created materials

ENS09 – Middle School Introduction to Drama

This is a required trimester class for 8th graders. Students will be exposed to the art of drama. Students will learn basic acting techniques and staging as well as some history of drama and theater. Students may have opportunities to perform in chapel and/or at other school functions.

ENS10 - MS Latin I

This class requires teacher recommendation, parent approval, and appropriate grades in English and Math or Science. This class can be taken by 7th or 8th graders who meet the stated requirements and who are willing to put forth the effort needed for this class. Students can expect a minimum of 30 minutes of daily homework and regular tests and quizzes. Seventh graders who complete the class are eligible to take Latin II as an 8th grader.

ENS11 - MS Latin II

Pre-requisite: Middle School Latin I. This class may be taken by 8th graders who have completed Latin I as a 7th grader. Students must have an 85% or above in Latin I to continue in Latin II. Students must be willing to put forth the effort needed for this class. Students can expect a minimum of 30 minutes of daily homework and regular tests and quizzes. Students who complete Latin II with an 85% or above will be eligible to receive one high school credit toward the language requirement.