

EIGHTH GRADE CLASS OVERVIEW

We have invested in what we consider to be the best, most effective curriculum available that is consistent with our philosophy of education that is also either biblically-based or does not conflict with our biblical values. We continue to utilize curriculum that is multi-sensory and engaging wherever possible. We will most likely have a 7th/8th combination class during the 2024-25 school year. Each grade will be taught from their appropriate grade level in math, but will be taught from the same curriculum in the other subjects as we have been rotating every other year since we've had a combination class. Some will be seventh-grade curriculum and others will be eighth grade.

Bible:

Summit Ministries Middle School series, Walking in the Truth, is used from 6th-8th grades. It presents a framework of biblical truth and values, encourages students to reflect upon it, and provides opportunities for students to apply what they have learned.



The eighth-grade curriculum focuses on Christianity in Action and a study of the Epistles. The Christianity in Action portion focuses on cultural engagement and life application of the Christian worldview within the discipline of theology, philosophy, ethics, psychology, sociology, biology, and history. The study of the Epistles focusses on Paul's counsel to the churches, the mentoring of Timothy, the superiority of Christ, faith lived out, humility and hope, love, faith, and the last days.

Literature:

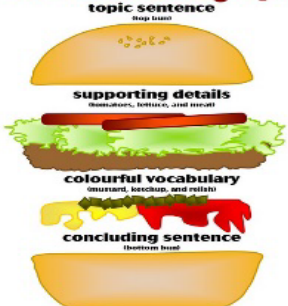
Modos Press Literature Anthologies that present both classic and modern literature and poetry selections, as well as a variety of engaging and age-appropriate literature from a number of sources are studied in eighth grade throughout the course of the year. Selections would include poetry, short stories, novel studies, fictional and non-fictional articles and stories.



Writing & Grammar:

The Institute for Excellence in Writing curriculum entitled, Teaching Writing: Structure and Style, is a highly structured and powerful methodology of teaching writing, and has students writing daily.

Parts of a Paragraph



Structure refers to organizational models for writing, which are explored and reinforced each year at ever-increasing levels of sophistication firmly internalized by students. The sequence of structural units teaches students a consistent method for composing clear and cohesive paragraphs as well as a reliable system for organizing narrative and expository writing.



Style is a collection of tools that students use to achieve variety and competence in expression. It is through the employing of the stylistic techniques that students become competent in using interesting vocabulary, employ a variety of sentence structures, and gain an

understanding of grammar. It is through this methodology that the writing process is broken down

into clear, easy to understand steps, and students of any ability are able to gain confidence and competence in writing in an organized manner, using strong imagery and examples with cohesive paragraphs. Grammar is taught within the context of good writing and embedded in the writing curriculum.

Spelling & Vocabulary:

Eighth grade spelling and vocabulary focuses weekly on learning to spell and define a variety of key words found within the context of other subject matter, rather than a specific curriculum for spelling and vocabulary. This will be teacher directed and communicated to both students and parents throughout the course of the year.



Math:

Big Ideas Math: Modeling Real Life 8th grade text is used in an effort to prepare students for the common core math terminology, concepts, and processes they will most likely face if they move into a public high school math setting. The curriculum



provides rigor that is balanced in three key areas: Conceptual Understanding, or discovering the “why”; Procedural Fluency, or learning the “how”, and Application, or knowing the “when” to apply. The curriculum encourages the development of mathematical mindsets. Students learn to ask why, and to reason and communicate with others as they learn. By developing proficiency in eight imbedded Mathematical Practices, students learn to become mathematical thinkers. This program provides

different types of learning opportunities to help motivate and engage students, apply and transfer what they’ve learned, differentiate learning as needed for those who need either additional instruction or challenge, and regular self-assessment. It also incorporates a STEAM approach to teaching and learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Math through the use of videos and other activities to make further connections to the mathematical content.

The topics taught in 8th grade extend the concepts taught in 7th grade and include the study of equations, various aspects of geometry, graphing & writing linear equations, systems of linear equations, data analysis & displays, functions, exponents & scientific notation, real numbers & the Pythagorean Theorem, and volume & similar solids.

Science:

Mosa Mack Science is utilized from grades 6-8 and is aligned with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). It contains units covering Life, Earth, Space, and Physical science as well engineering, technology, and the application



of science. Lessons utilize video and begin with a mystery to investigate and solve, “labs” comprised of a variety of hands-on experiences related to the lesson objectives, and engineering activities where students are challenged to design and build something related to the lesson objectives.



History & Geography:

Typically, 8th grade focuses on American History and uses Bob Jones University Press' *American Republic*, which unfolds the history of the United States through richly detailed narrative and a colorful, engaging presentation. This course has been designed to prepare students to become discerning citizens who can think critically about the events of history and learn from the successes and failures of the past to make wise decisions for today. To do this, students will survey the major events that have shaped American history, paying special attention to cultural shifts and influences. In each step of this journey, they will interact and engage with details of events so they can understand the context and the relationship it has to history. Starting with the discovery of the New World, the text traces the path of American history up to the present day. In addition to a historical account, *American Republic* demonstrates the distinctiveness of American values and government and emphasizes the importance of understanding and appreciating United States history, all through the lens of biblical perspective.



For the 2024-25 school year, both seventh and eighth grades will be taught from the seventh-grade World History curriculum since the 7th/8th combination class during the 2023-24 school year was taught from the eighth-grade curriculum.

World Studies looks at the civilizations of the world through the lens of a Christian worldview. God has planned all of human history. There is no historical happening that is out of God's control or that does not help to accomplish God's great purposes in the world. Throughout this course, students will be consistently challenged to ask the question, "What was God doing in this event?". While the answer to this question is often harder to answer than one might think, and often there will be no hard and fast answer based on historical or biblical fact, the question is an important one for Christians to ponder as they study history.

The study of world history begins with a brief review of history from Creation to the coming of Christ and progresses in a chronological journey around the world studying the ebb and flow of empires, cultures, Christianity, and world religions, concluding with an examination of the trends of the emerging 21st century. A number of historical fiction novels may also be used either in conjunction with or in place of the textbook for some periods of history. The influence of geography on the development of civilizations is also included in their study of world history. We will be utilizing additional resources and tools to provide a general study as well.

