
CENTRAL
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL



Course Curriculum

2023-2024

Grade 5 – Grade 8

Middle School Overview

Cultivating Godly Leaders...

Opportunities to develop good habits

- Learning and using *Seven Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey
- Honesty and integrity
- Teamwork skills
- Self-motivation and initiative
- Organizational skills
- Technology skills
- Building community within our school by our actions and words

Opportunities to learn

- Leading myself and others
- Communicating with friends and adults
- Setting personal goals
- Interacting in small groups
- Gaining life skills through exploratory classes

Opportunities to serve

- Through community service events
- By caring for those around us
- Helping others succeed
- Participating in and leading chapels
- Participating in student council and planning middle school events

Opportunities to grow in faith

- Input from chapel speakers
- Classroom devotions
- Bible classes where students learn about spiritual growth
- Learning to integrate faith with everyday living

Grade 5 Curriculum

Bible

Description:

Bible is based on the *Journeys with God* Bible curriculum. The study begins with creation and progresses into the period of the kings of Israel. The focus is learning what the Bible says, what it means, and how we can apply it to personal life. Memorization of related scriptures is part of the coursework.

Course Content:

- Creation and the fall
- Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph
- Exodus and wilderness wanderings
- The Promised Land
- Prophets, kings, and nations
- God saves His people and fulfills the promise of a Savior

Health

Description:

This course is a basic overview of health with an emphasis on personal choices and proactive behaviors. Students will learn to respect who they are and how these values intersect with God and His creation.

Course Content:

- Understand connection between physical and mental health
- Recognize stress and use strategies to manage and resolve conflict with others
- Employ basic safety measures to protect oneself
- Practice good choices in nutrition and exercise
- Understand importance of hygiene in disease prevention

Language Arts

Description:

Grade 5 Language Arts focuses on spelling and grammar, including parts of speech, as well as practice and skill building with punctuation done through regular writing exercises. Students participate in Literature Circle discussion groups.

Course Content:

- Literary text
- Writing process
- Writing applications
- Spelling
- Grammar and usage
- Communications: oral and visual
- Literature Circles

Grade 5 Curriculum

Math

Description:

Students build on prior skills as grade 5 math increases problem solving difficulty using basic computation. Emphasis is placed on teaching students how to analyze their own thinking skills in problem solving.

Course Content:

- Number, number sense, and operations
- Computation and estimation
- Measurement units
- Geometry, spatial sense, statistical methods
- Patterns, functions, and algebra

Science

Description:

This course is an overview of earth and physical sciences.

Course Content:

- Moon phases/day and night/ seasons
- Solar system and universe with an emphasis on creation
- Life sciences: beauty of creation, balance of cycles in nature, biomes
- Physical sciences: matter, motion, forces, light and sound, energy
- Scientific inquiry
- Interactions among living things (symbiotic relationships), food webs, food chains

Social Studies

Description:

Grade 5 Social Studies emphasizes the value of others as societies change and interact with one another. We are ultimately responsible to God as our King, but serve and respect leaders as a form of obedience to Him.

Course Content:

- History and chronology
- Settlement
- Growth
- Cultures
- Geography
- Human environmental interaction
- Mapping
- Places and regions
- Economics
- Government

Grade 6 Curriculum

Bible

Description:

Bible is based on the *Journeys with God* Bible curriculum, and follows the journey of the Jewish people into and out of exile, with focused studies on the Kingdom of God. Time is also spent looking at the ministry and teachings of Jesus.

Course Content:

- Old Testament review
- Exile of the Jewish people
- Promises of hope
- Kingdom of God
- Ministry of Jesus

Health

Description:

This course teaches the body systems, identifying the organs, problems, and care of each system. Students study the book *Sex and the New You*, gaining a greater appreciation of the reproductive system and learning skills to navigate through adolescence.

Course Content:

- Skeletal system
- Muscular system
- Respiratory/circulatory system
- Nervous system
- Cardiovascular system
- Digestive system
- Urinary system
- Endocrine system
- Lymphatic system
- Reproductive system

Language Arts

Description:

Language Arts focuses on spelling, grammar basics, and basic writing elements.

Course Content:

- Vocabulary
- Grammar: sentence parts, punctuation, nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions
- Writing: writing process, effective sentences, effective paragraphs, essay writing, technical writing, narrative writing
- Research: research process, plagiarism, finding/evaluating sources, formal documentation, note taking

- Reading: Various works of literature; myths, legends, and folktales; elements of short stories, elements of poetry
- Speaking/Listening: oral presentation

Math

Description:

Students build upon prior mastery of arithmetic skills, and begin to apply them in more complex ways.

Course Content:

- Graphing
- Rates and ratios
- Geometry
- Decimals, fractions, and percentages
- Area and volume
- Functions, equations, and inequalities

Science

Description:

Grade 6 Science focuses on the study of the Modern Cell Theory. Students gain an understanding that all organisms are composed of cells, which are the fundamental unit of life. They will discover that living systems at all levels of organization demonstrate the complementary nature of structure and function. They will also discover that characteristics of an organism are a result of inherited traits received from parents. Students will describe how, in any particular biome, the number, growth, and survival of organisms and populations depends on biotic and abiotic factors. This course provides students with a greater appreciation for life, all planned by our Creator.

Course Content:

- The nature of science and technology
- Cells and heredity
- Bacteria to plants
- Animals
- Environmental science

Social Studies

Description:

Grade 6 Social Studies is the study of the Eastern Hemisphere (Africa, Asia, and Australia), its geographic features, early history, cultural development, and economic change. Students learn about the development of river civilizations in Africa and Asia, including their governments, cultures, and economic systems. The geographic focus includes the study of contemporary regional characteristics, the movement of people, products, ideas, and cultural diversity. Students develop their understanding of the role of consumers and the interaction of markets, resources, and competition.

Course Content:

- Geography
- Southwest and Central Asia
- Africa
- South and East Asia and the Pacific

Grade 7 Curriculum

Bible

Description:

Bible is based on the *Journeys with God* Bible curriculum. Students are introduced to the inductive Bible study method as a way to better understand scriptures. This course focuses on the life of Jesus as described in the Gospel of Luke.

Course Content:

- God's Word, a guide for living
- Tools for studying the Bible
- The world Jesus lived in
- *The Bronze Bow*

Health

Description:

Grade 7 students will learn how to be prepared for various life challenges and methods for living a productive life.

Course Content:

- Self-image and self-improvement
- Decision making
- Smoking and alcohol: myths and realities
- Influences of advertising
- Violence and media
- Drug abuse prevention
- Coping with anxiety and anger
- Communication skills
- Social skills

Language Arts

Description:

Language Arts focuses on reading, writing, and literature skills, with grammar integrated into the content.

Course Content:

- Vocabulary
- Grammar: direct/indirect objects, transitive/intransitive verbs, dependent and independent clauses, compound and complex sentences, punctuation, nouns, pronouns, verbs, adjectives, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, interjections, usage problems, parallel structure

Grade 7 Curriculum

Language Arts (continued)

- Writing: writing process, effective paragraphs, five paragraph essay, expository writing, narrative writing, speech writing, article writing
- Research: plagiarism, finding/evaluating sources, summarize/paraphrase information, work cited, MLA format
- Reading: elements of literature, elements of poetry, elements of drama, nonfiction, works of fiction, literature circle book study
- Speaking/listening: oral presentation of research, speech

Math

Description:

Students continue to build on arithmetic skills and applications.

Course Content:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| ● Problem solving | ● Patterns and number sense | ● Real numbers |
| ● Data analysis | ● Linear functions | ● Percentages |
| ● Geometry | ● Proportional reasoning | ● Integers |
| ● Equations and inequalities | | ● Probability |

Science

Description:

Grade 7 Earth Science studies various aspects of the earth and universe. Students describe how the positions and motions of the objects in the universe cause predictable and cyclic events. They gain an understanding of the process that contributes to the continuous changing of earth's surface through plate tectonics, earthquakes, and volcanic eruptions. The students identify rocks and minerals, and describe uses of both. The earth science content will help students better understand the world God created and how it works. Outdoor Fridays engage students in outdoor learning year round.

Course Content:

- Inside the earth: plate tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, minerals, rocks
- Astronomy: earth, sun, moon, and stars
- Atmosphere
- Earth's water
- Earth's changing surface
- Outdoor education: orienteering, wild flower, ornithology

Social Studies

Description:

Grade 7 Social Studies is an integrated study of world history from Ancient Greece to the First Global Age. Beginning with ancient Greece and continuing through global exploration, this study is used to illustrate how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors. Students develop their understanding of how ideas and events from the past shape the world today.

Course Content:

- Greek Empire
- Roman Empire
- Medieval Europe
- Renaissance
- Reformation
- Scientific Revolution
- Age of Exploration

Grade 8 Curriculum

Bible

Description:

Bible is based on the *Journeys with God* curriculum. Using the inductive Bible study method, students explore the beginning of the church as described in Acts, with an emphasis on the continuation of the church. This course includes a service learning trip to Lighthouse Ministries in Canton.

Course Content:

- Review of the inductive Bible study method
- Church of Jerusalem (Acts 1-7)
- Church spreads throughout Judea and Samaria (Acts 8-12)
- Roman World (Acts 13-28)
- Church in my community (Acts 29)
 - Service trip to Lighthouse in Canton

Health

Description:

Grade 8 students will learn how to be prepared for various life challenges, including self-discovery. They will also learn about bacteria, food sourcing, and making healthy choices.

Course Content:

- Nutrition
- Farm to table
- Bacteria
- "Who am I? This is me" project

Language Arts

Description:

Language Arts focuses on reading, writing, literature and grammar skills, building on content mastered in grade 7.

Course Content:

- Grammar: Greek and Latin roots; active/passive voice; subject-verb agreement; clauses: adjective/adverb/noun; phrases: prepositions/participles/gerunds/infinitives; punctuation; usage problems; eliminating redundancy
- Writing: writing process, elements of a five paragraph essay, descriptive writing, expository essay, narrative writing, persuasive writing, speech writing
- Research: thesis, plagiarism, finding/evaluating sources, summarize/paraphrase/synthesize information, work cited, in-text citation, MLA format
- Reading: elements of literature, elements of poetry, nonfiction, various works of fiction
- Speaking/listening: oral presentation of research, speech

Math: 8th Grade Math

Description:

Pre-Algebra builds upon the math skills learned through middle school and concentrates on preparing students for Algebra I.

Course Content:

- Geometry
- Patterns and number sense
- Statistics and probability
- Problem solving
- Systems of equations
- Real numbers
- Functions, equations, and inequalities
- Introduction to Algebra

Math: Algebra I

1 high school math credit

Description:

Algebra I is offered in eighth grade to provide challenge and enrichment for prepared, motivated students. The course introduces students to the language of algebra, and prepares students for geometry and higher mathematics. It also exposes students to the many uses of algebra in real world settings and situations.

Course Content:

- Connecting patterns to algebra
- Addition and subtraction in algebra
- Multiplication and division in algebra
- Reasoning with equations and inequations
- Define and use slope, slope intercept formula, and other linear equations

- Factoring monomials and polynomials
- Exponents, exponential functions, and scientific notation
- Quadratic equations and functions

Science

1 high school science credit

Description:

Physical Science is designed to give students a better understanding of the world in which we live. Students will be introduced to key concepts and theories that provide a foundation for continued study in other sciences. We study the physical world as it relates to fundamental concepts about classification of matter, energy and motion, atoms, periodic trends of elements, waves, electricity and magnetism.

Course Content:

- Introduction to physical science
- Motion, forces, and energy
- Sound and light
- Electricity and magnetism
- Chemical interaction
- Robot Friday: robotics

Social Studies

Description:

Grade 8 Social Studies covers exploration through reconstruction. The historical focus begins with the study of European exploration and the early years of the United States. This study presents a chronological view of United States development. Students examine how historic events are shaped by geographic, social, cultural, economic, and political factors.

Course Content:

- PreEuropean America
- Three worlds meet
- Creating a new nation
- The early republic
- A changing nation
- Civil war to modern America

Middle School Exploratory Classes

Art (Grades 5-8)

Description:

Students will create artwork that demonstrates understanding of materials, processes, tools, media, techniques, and available technology. They will understand how to use art elements, principles, and images to communicate their ideas in a variety of visual forms.

Course Content: (Grade 5)

- Handmade paper
- Chalk and pastel drawings
- Quilling
- Profile portraits
- One-point perspective
- Block letters

- Wire sculpture
- Study of historical and current artists (Vincent van Gogh)

Course Content: (Grade 6)

- Design T-shirt logo for outdoor ed
- Watercolor study/tree painting
- Positive and negative space
- String art
- Alphabet letters study
- Blind contour drawings/human form proportions
- Torn paper representations of figures in motion
- Study of historical and current artists (Escher, Modigliani)

Course Content: (Grade 7)

- Grid drawings
- Grid portraits
- Still-life watercolor
- Landscape watercolor
- Tree of Life painting/collage
- One and two-point perspective
- Drawing 3-dimensional spheres
- Study of historical and current artists (Chuck Close, Georges Seurat, Gustav Klimt)

Course Content: (Grade 8)

- Calligraphy
- Genealogy fraktur
- Optical illusions
- Elements of design
- 1/2 drawn pictures
- Torn paper visual representations of the Holy Spirit
- Sewing felt bird ornaments
- Portraits of classmates
- Study of Expressionists - Munch, Chagall and Impressionists - Renoir, Monet

Careers (Grade 8)

Description:

Careers is designed to motivate students to actively take control of their lives by exploring who they are becoming. Students work to refine a career plan with an emphasis on curriculum choices made during high school and how those curriculum choices relate to future goals.

Course Content:

- Explore skills, accomplishments, and interests
- Identify a network of supporters
- Practice and increase decision-making
- Develop an action plan to be successful
- Examine skills for success
- Learn employable skills
- Explore high school graduation requirements
- Review and update portfolio entries

Choral (Grades 5-6)

Description:

Through a variety of activities, students will meet and exceed the national standards of learning for middle school choral music. Students will be competent in the fundamental elements of music theory, history, literacy, and performance. The choral music curriculum facilitates worship, social skills, and connections between real life and music.

Course Content:

- Inner hearing of simple intervals, identify sol-fa syllables
- Creating vocal warm-up exercises
- Unison and two-part harmony
- Understanding music in relation to Christian faith
- Theory and rhythm
- Exploring the connections between music and other subject areas

Choral (Grades 7-8)

Description:

Through both performance and general music activities, students learn essential foundational musical concepts. All students are required to take choral music, laying the foundation for a successful high school musical and social experience, as well as lifelong music-making and understanding.

Course Content:

- Elements of music theory are reinforced through reading, writing, listening, and dictating
- Rhythm: terms, meter, duration
- Melody: pitch, steps, accidentals, intervals, major/minor scales, and improvisation
- Harmony: major and minor chords, inversions, triads
- Terms: dynamics, tempos, articulation, style
- Singing: know and use Solfeggio sight reading system; develop good choral tone, singing in unison up to 4 parts
- Develop a confident singing voice as an act of Christian stewardship and community expression

Physical Education (Grades 5-8)

Description:

Students participate in a variety of individual games and team sports, with an emphasis on participation, attitude, sportsmanship, teamwork, leadership, cooperation, fitness and athletic skills.

Course Content:

- Explore a wide variety of physical activities such as archery, roller skating, flag football, badminton, floor hockey, pickleball, and tennis

Strings (Grades 5-8)

Description:

String education continues from elementary with bow techniques, dynamics, and student awareness of the interdependence of each section of the orchestra. Counting, hand-eye coordination and applying music theory are taught through specific pieces. 5th grade string students may continue with violin, or switch to another stringed instrument (viola, cello, or bass). 5th graders may also switch to a wind instrument. 6th to 8th grade strings players will add 3rd position and vibrato techniques.

Course Content:

- Theory
- Rhythm
- Working independently and with a group
- Understanding the individual role of each player in an orchestra
- Following the director

Winds (Beginning and Intermediate)

Description:

In class, students learn instrument assembly and care, producing a tone, identifying and defining basic musical symbols, rhythms, note patterns and scales. Students gain an understanding of the history and use of music through interactive discussion. Students play together as an ensemble and learn about the issues that arise in an ensemble; balance, dynamics, intonation, blend, and taking cues from a conductor.

Course Content:

- Learn how to play an instrument, and improve through practice and rehearsal
- Learn to work together as an ensemble in musical tasks such as creating, performing, listening to and analyzing music
- Learn that making music and performing together is fun and beneficial for life

World Language Spanish (Grade 7)

Description:

The focus of this class is an introduction to Spanish language and culture.

Course Content:

- Basic vocabulary, writing and reading
- Everyday speaking skills
- Hands-on activities and games that focus on multiple intelligences
- Use of the Total Physical Response method of teaching

World Language German (Grade 8)

Description:

The goal of this class is for students to experience an introduction to German language and culture.

Course Content:

- Basic vocabulary, writing and reading
- Everyday speaking skills
- Hands-on activities and games that focus on multiple intelligences
- Use of the Total Physical Response method of teaching

Heart of Central

Heart of Central is a non-academic group time that intentionally focuses on building strong positive relationships between peers and teachers for each grade level and all students at CCS. Heart of Central is a time for building and growing community. Research shows that the intentionality of relationship building or “school connectedness” can positively impact creating a safe school environment. CCS students develop self-awareness, social awareness, life competencies, personal faith, and leadership qualities through a regular, intentional, non-academic group time of learning and engagement with peers and teachers.

Middle School Mini-term

During the first two weeks of January, students explore many different topics and life skills. Students rotate through academic classes in the morning and participate in a wide variety of activities during the afternoon. These activities may include arts and crafts, sports, cooking, archery, service opportunities, robotics, and various other life-skill opportunities. Students are assigned to classes according to their interests. The mini-term experience provides an opportunity for student interaction in settings outside the traditional classroom.