

## Middle School Curriculum: Course Offerings



### A Middle School Philosophy

The Middle School is a structured yet relaxed environment where each student is challenged through world-life Christian instruction. The students challenge authority and crave acceptance and approval by their peers. Each student will develop habits of positive, productive behavior, both as a student and as a Christian citizen. While work will be presented in ways appropriate to the developmental age and learning style of the students, a high expectation will be held for all. The students are taught a strong base of skills and knowledge to last a lifetime. The Middle School philosophy emphasizes a variety of subject material taught using a variety of methods (e.g. block scheduling, teaming, integrated units, projects). This is different from a junior high approach in which everything is taught using a mini-high school approach.

In preparation for the transition to high school, faculty and staff work together to nurture and develop students' academic, personal, social, emotional, physical, and spiritual growth. A wide variety of exploratories are offered which gives the students opportunity to better understand social challenges and individual choices. Exploratories may include (but are not limited to) Art History, Drama, Spanish, Choir (7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Grade), Band, Yearbook, Business, Money Management, Geography, Heroes, Fitness, Media, First Aid, Science Olympiad, Graphic Design, History of Team Sports... just to name a few. Various classes may include community service projects that reach outward into the neighborhood. Several study-skills related classes are offered to new students and those especially needing that help.

### B History/Social Studies

Seventh graders study World Geography using research and critical thinking skills. Eighth graders study American history from the Colonial period to the present. Various projects, videos, group work, discussions, and research help keep history alive and exciting.

### C Language Arts

Literature provides the basis for the Middle School Language Arts curriculum. The teaching and learning of reading and literary skills are used, including analyzing, evaluation, and responding to text. Text consists of fiction in all genres, nonfiction, poetry, and drama. Students will also read novels throughout the year to enhance their study of theme and genre. Grammar, writing, spelling, and vocabulary skills are derived through explicit instruction. Middle School uses accelerated reading in their evaluation of novels read in their classes including individual and group work.

### D Math

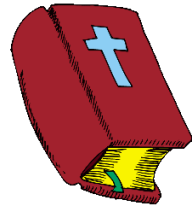
Middle School Math is a transition from the basic operations to preparation for algebra. Seventh graders are introduced to basic algebra concepts and problem solving. Eighth graders build a solid foundation for high school algebra. Students are placed in classes that challenge them at their ability level. This means that some students will be working with material that is a year above their current grade level, concluding with some eighth graders completing the first course of high school algebra.

## **E Science**

The seventh grade studies are based on a year of life science including populations and ecosystems. Units include those on life, heredity, diversity of life, plants, animals, ecology and the human body. The eighth grade emphasizes earth and space. The curriculum touches on most aspects of the earth, such as ecology, geology, weather and climate, and the Earth's waters. The course discusses how life and the earth have changed. Units include those on energy and motion, the nature of matter, kinds of substances, interactions of matter and waves, light, and sound. The students will be utilizing a "hands on" approach in dealing with the experiments in the class.

## **F Bible**

The Middle School Bible curriculum is based on the Christian Schools International (CSI) curriculum. Seventh grade students study the Old Testament from the divided kingdom through the inter-testamentary period. Eighth grade students study the New Testament as well as some church history. We require that students not only study the curriculum but apply that knowledge of the Bible to the world in which they live. Videos, research, projects, and some field trips compliment this curriculum.



## **G RCL**

Responsible Christian Living material is taught during our Advisement Class (Monday through Thursday... last hour). This material includes topics relating to our lives as responsible Christians. These may include (but not be limited to) study habits, friendship, worship, sex education, drinking and drugs, cults, abortion, suicide, smoking, gambling, money issues, death and dying, spiritual warfare, and spiritual growth.

## **H Art**

Each middle schooler takes one semester each year of Art (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). A variety of projects are learned and discovered. OCMS Art is quite comprehensive and students are exposed to a variety of art topics. Fine Arts Festival each year highlights some of our students' work.

## **I PE**

Middle School students take one semester of PE each year (Monday, Wednesday, Friday). Topics include fitness training, team sports and individual sports.



## **J Computers**

Each Middle Schooler receives one semester of computer training each year (Tuesday, Thursday). Students' typing skills are enhanced along with their knowledge of various Microsoft Office programs. Our computer class attempts to support the core classes as they do research and complete various reports and papers.