



≡ MIDDLE SCHOOL ≡

VACAVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

2020-2021

STUDENT COURSE CATALOG

FALCONS ARE:
FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS OF
CHRIST. **A**CHIEVERS OF
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE.
LIFELONG LEARNERS.
CRITICAL THINKERS.
OUTSTANDING
COMMUNICATORS.
NURTURING, GODLY
LEADERS. **S**ERVANTS
OF OTHERS





ABOUT VCS

OUR MISSION at VACAVILLE CHRISTIAN SCHOOLS

VCS exists to provide, in partnership with home and church, a distinctive, Christ-centered education in a nurturing environment that equips young people to excel in life and in service to Jesus Christ.

ACCREDITATION and COLLEGE BOARD MEMBERSHIP

VCMS maintains dual accreditation from the Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The Accreditation process reviews a school's condition as it relates to philosophy and to the structure and organization of the school, including admissions, school governance, finance, personnel, instructional program, resources, student services, guidance services, health, safety, food services, school facilities, etc. An excellent accreditation review results in a 6-year renewal. VCS was awarded a 6 year renewal in June 2015.

OUR CAMPUS

We enjoy a beautiful, 26-acre campus in Vacaville, CA. Our facilities include well-equipped classrooms, a college-level equipped science lab, a 32+ unit computer lab, a media technology center, an HD radio/TV station, a multipurpose facility, an extensive library, a band rehearsal room with 3 practice studios, and a fully staffed kitchen and hot lunch program. Our athletic facilities include football and soccer fields, baseball and softball diamonds, a full-court basketball gymnasium, a second full-court basketball court, a weight room, and large locker rooms.

EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS

VCMS offers a complete, excellent range of academics, designed to prepare students to excel in high school and college. Every student takes mathematics, English, science, history, PE, and Bible, in addition to an elective course. Each teacher offers tutoring workshops throughout the week to assist students or answer questions. Parents have PowerSchool, an online program, that enables them to check assignments, grades, and attendance to monitor their son/daughter's course work and progress.

Middle School Advanced Courses

Math 6 Advanced
Pre-Algebra Advanced
Algebra 1
English 6 Advanced
English 7 Advanced
English 8 Advanced

SPIRITUAL EMPHASIS

At VCS, we integrate Biblical truths into each subject area taught. Daily Bible classes and biweekly Chapels supplement the Christian growth experience. We are blessed to have a Middle School Worship team lead us in worship during Chapels and local pastors that present messages. Annually there is a spiritual retreat in September. Sixth through eighth graders go to Koinonia for a spiritual emphasis retreat. Retreats are a wonderful place to develop new friendships and for spiritual growth. In addition, each September, all of our 6th-8th graders visit Koinonia for the annual spiritual emphasis retreat.

ELECTIVES

We offer a wide variety of electives to enhance the curriculum and give students a chance to broaden their education and discover their God-given talents and abilities. A description of each course can be located in this Course Selection Catalog.

Art	Intro to Spanish
Chapel Leadership	Math Lab
Digital Media Art	Radio Broadcasting
Digital Photography	Spanish 1
Instrumental Music	Yearbook
Intro to Psychology	Choir
Coding & 3D printing	

OUR EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletics

VCMS has established an extensive athletic program with 11 middle school teams. Our sports include the following:

Volleyball - Girls
Cheerleading
Cross Country- Boys and Girls
Soccer- Boys and Girls
Basketball- Boys and Girls
Track- Boys and Girls
Junior Falcon Football

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

8th Grade Washington DC Trip
Student Council
Middle School Christmas Party
Band Festivals
Missions Projects
8th Grade Grad Party
Dances
Spirit Week/Rallys

CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

Student Government
National Junior Honor Society (NJHS)
Lunchtime Bible Studies
Critter Club
Science Club
Shakespeare Club
Lunchtime Sports
Multi-Cultural Club

EVERY MS STUDENT IS ENROLLED IN SEVEN COURSES:

1. Math
2. English
3. Science
4. History
5. Bible
6. PE
7. Elective

PROGRESSION OF COURSES

Math: Math 6, Advanced Math 6, Pre-Algebra, Advanced Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1(Geometry for those who have completed Algebra 1).

A minimum grade of C- is required both semesters in math in order to proceed to the next level math class.

English: English 6, English 7, English 8.
Students will take Core English classes, or apply for the Advanced English classes.

Science: Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science

History: History 6, History 7, History 8

Bible: 6th graders examine an overview of the Bible and study the structure and Word of God. All 7th graders explore the identity of Christ, His ministry, and kingship. 8th graders study church history as well as how to defend their faith.

PE: PE 6 (Co-ed; PE uniforms, athletic shoes and socks are required)
PE 7 /8 (Gender specific; PE uniforms, athletic shoes and socks are required)

COURSES REQUIRING APPLICATIONS

- Advanced English 6, 7, 8
- MS Chapel Leadership
- MS Yearbook



COURSE SELECTION

The purpose of this catalog is to provide descriptions for the many incredible core, advanced, and elective courses offered by Vacaville Christian Middle School. Each listing should include a basic description and, in some cases, prerequisite and/or special application requirements.

Course Descriptions — Core Subjects

DEPARTMENT OF BIBLE

It is our desire, through Bible classes, weekly Chapels, Fall Retreat, spiritual emphasis activities, and day-to-day interactions, to encourage students to draw closer to the Lord Jesus Christ and to develop their personal relationships with Him.

Service Hours

All Middle School students are required to perform 20 service hours for their Bible classes (a minimum of five hours per quarter). Service Hour forms are available from the Bible teachers and in the Middle School office. We highly encourage students to look for opportunities to serve at their churches and in their communities. Service hours comprise 10% of the semester grade.

Bible 6

The Grade 6 curriculum presents a thematic approach to Christian living. Concentrating on the Old Testament, the units focus on such topics as God's covenant and his promise of a Savior.

Units on Inter-Testament Times and Biblical Archaeology give students additional insights into life into biblical times and Bible history. The unit on Literary Genres will assist students as they learn to read Scripture in different ways. The patterns and features of the literary techniques in the Bible will add another dimension to the students' biblical understanding. The Prophets unit explores how their messages speak to us through the ages and follow a pattern: a warning of judgment for sin, a call to repent, and a message of hope.

With the numerous issues confronting our youth in today's society, this Bible Curriculum will also cover issues affecting Middle School students such as: bullying, racism, school violence, social media, integrity, barriers in having a personal relationship and walk with God, how to establish a positive prayer life, and other relevant issues that may surface during the school year.

Text: Holy Bible, NIV Version, *Walking with God and His People*

Bible 7

The Grade 7 curriculum presents a thematic approach to Christian living. Concentrating on the Old Testament, the units focus on such topics as Creation, Fall, and Redemption. God promises restoration and a new covenant based on forgiveness. The unit on Proverbs is a source of divine wisdom that we can learn from and apply directly to life. The Feasts of Israel unit helps students make connections between the feasts and the work of Jesus Christ in the New Testament.

The final quarter will focus on spiritual themes in popular literature and how to find parallels to Biblical truth.

With the numerous issues confronting our youth in today's society, this Bible Curriculum will also cover issues affecting Middle School students such as: bullying, racism, school violence, social media, cheating, barriers in having a personal relationship and walk with God, how to establish a positive prayer life, and other relevant issues that may surface during a school year.

Text: Holy Bible, NIV Version, *Walking with God and His People*

Bible 8

Students in Grade 8 will continue the thematic approach to studying the Bible by using the Bible Curriculum "Walking with God and His People". The class will focus on the New Testament, beginning with the birth of Jesus Christ and continue through his early ministry, death, and resurrection. A unit on New Testament writings give students an opportunity to note the various challenges facing the New Testament churches and compare them with today's challenges. The curriculum will cover such topics as: The Early Church in the New Testament, Church History, The Synoptic Gospels, The Gospel of John, and Apologetics. During the series of units on the Church History, the students will learn what happened to the church after the conclusion of the New Testament and follow its progression through the centuries to issues facing the church today. Students will recognize how God continued to work in the lives of His people throughout the history of the church and is present with us now, just as He promised.

The class will also cover a unit on Prayer, which is intended to lead students into a deeper relationship with God – one in which they will learn to trust God more and to submit to Him more willingly. The students will have daily meditations and devotions to encourage meaningful devotional habits to strengthen their relationship with God and help them grow in faith and obedience.

With the numerous issues confronting our youth in today's society, this Bible curriculum will also cover issues affecting Middle School students such as: bullying, racism, school violence, social media, integrity issues (cheating), barriers in having a personal relationship and walk with God, and other

relevant issues that may surface during the school year.

Text: Holy Bible, NIV Version, *Walking with God and His People*

DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

History 6: Discovering Our Past: Ancient History

Using the texts, supplementary readings, and class activities, students learn about, analyze, and experience cultural life around the world in the 2000 years before the birth of Christ. From the rivers of Mesopotamia to the pyramids of Egypt and in the Far East of India and China, students analyze lifestyles, religions, and thoughts of the great philosophers in the ancient world. We'll look at Greek history, philosophy, mythology, and art. Our year closes with the start of the Roman empire and the rise of Christianity. Particular attention is paid to early civilization's search for God and how He reveals Himself to those who seek Him.

History 7: Discovering Our Past: Medieval and Early Modern Times

Seventh grade history focuses on the Roman Empire (AD 500) to the Enlightenment (AD 1800) We'll examine the rise of Islam, Empires of Africa, feudal Japan, Medieval and Renaissance Europe, and the Reformation. Different cultures and beliefs will be compared with our Christian beliefs. The class will examine the changing role of the church in history.

History 8: Discovering Our Past: American History: AD 100 - WWII/ The Great War

Students will study the exploration of the Western Hemisphere and the colonization and establishment of American government. During their study students will look at Manifest Destiny, the Civil War, the Gilded Age, and the Wild West. As they proceed into the 20th Century they will study the Great War. Our year ends with an optional trip to Washington



DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

All Middle School students will choose a novel from a provided list and complete a brief assignment during the summer. It will be due the first day of school.

English 6 Core

The objective of sixth grade language arts is to introduce and thoroughly explore various aspects of the English language through literature, writing, class discussions, and grammar exercises developed to teach and reinforce vocabulary, reading comprehension, and communication skills. Through the study of carefully chosen, excellent novels, students will begin to look at their world through the Christian, Biblical world-view.

English 6 Advanced

Special Application Required: YES 3/31 deadline
Summer Assignment is required

In addition to the core assignments, students in this course will read additional novels that find major and minor characters in a perpetual state of motion. This class delves into Shakespeare (*As You Like It*), reading and acting out scenes, writing alternate endings, and discovering a whole new understanding of Shakespeare.

English 7 Core

Seventh grade English is designed to teach truths that will produce emotional, intellectual, and spiritual growth in students' lives. Students will work to master the written use of the English language, expand vocabulary, analyze the components of literary works, conduct grammatical analysis, and practice public speaking. Students will read *The Hobbit*, *Gathering Blue*, and an array of short stories focusing on specific literary genres. Students will work on a year-long autobiographical project titled "Writing Your Life". Students will further develop their critical thinking skills and the ability to communicate effectively in writing.

English 7 Advanced

Special Application Required: YES 3/31 deadline
Summer Assignment is required

Along with stories listed in English 7, students in this course will read William Shakespeare's

Much Ado About Nothing and a preassigned summer reading novel. Students will respond to literature through writing literary analyses, persuasive essays, and skits. They will publish their own fictional stories, research historical figures, and investigate God's truth and love. Vocabulary connected to novel selections is designed to aid in reading comprehension. Grammatical analysis and games will cover the eight parts of speech, sentence types, modifiers, verbs and their auxiliaries, capitalization and punctuation.

English 8 Core

English 8 provides the foundation for high school language arts skills. Writing centers on mastery and practice of the five paragraph essay, while reading encompasses several selections of classic authors and poets from our reading anthology. Students will read and analyze three full length novels by notable writers including Corrie Ten Boom's *The Hiding Place*, *Children of the River* by Linda Crew, and *Messenger* by Lois Lowry. The class anthology provides advanced classic and contemporary literature selections, supported by skills instruction and practice in grammar and writing. Literary concepts and active reading strategies are reinforced with numerous follow-up activities, as well as class discussions. The writing portion of the class is supported by curriculum that teaches key skills, provides an easy to follow approach to the writing process, and enhances oral communication skills. 8th grade students complete a 5 paragraph expository essay, a comparative college research project, and a holocaust media presentation, as well as several smaller paragraph essays that target specific writing skills. Students also write a Constitution essay and extended metaphor poem, each of which are submitted to regional and national contests for publication.

English 8 Advanced

Special Application Required: YES 3/31 deadline
Summer Assignment is required

In addition to the concepts and novels presented in English 8 Core, materials in the Advanced English 8 course are designed to teach truths that will produce intellectual, spiritual, and emotional growth in students' lives. In this class, students will work to master the written use of the English language, expand vocabulary, conduct grammatical analysis, practice public speaking, and dig deeply into numerous advanced literary works including

Taming of the Shrew by William Shakespeare, as well as works by Jack London, Anton Chekhov, Maya Angelou, and Nikki Giovanni. Writing exercises will include in class papers, creative writing, research and report writing. Grammatical analysis will continue to cover sentence patterns, verbs and auxiliaries, compound sentences and their elements. By the end of 8th grade, advanced students should be able to write a well-developed, coherently organized five paragraph essay containing a clear thesis statement, a hook, followed by well-structured and well stated development, transition statements and a relevant conclusion.

DEPARTMENT OF MATH

Math 6: Math Applications and Connections

This class focuses on computation (mainly mastery with decimals and fractions), problem-solving strategies, and the basics of statistics, probabilities, plane geometry, and some algebraic fundamentals. Students will be given the opportunity to practice their basic math skills in preparation for algebra and geometry.

Math 6 Advanced: Advanced Math Applications and Connections

This class focuses on computation (mainly mastery with decimals and fractions), problem-solving strategies, a more advanced study of statistics and probabilities, plane geometry, and some algebraic fundamentals. Several critical-thinking and higher-order questions are discussed, giving intrinsically motivated students an extra challenge.

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 5 with a grade of 90% or higher and recommendation by 5th grade teacher.

Math 7: Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra builds upon the essential skills of arithmetic as they apply to algebra. This includes the study of real numbers, linear inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing, and some elements of geometry. Upon completion, students should be able to solve algebraic equations and inequalities, use operations with integers, calculate percentages, proportions, and ratios, find the area and volume of various solids, and grasp all other basic concepts of geometry, statistics, and probability.

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 6 with a grade of C- or higher.

Math 7 Advanced: Advanced Pre-Algebra

Advanced Pre-Algebra allows students with mathematical abilities to be challenged above and beyond the core pre-algebra class. This class will build upon the essential skills of arithmetic using real numbers and linear equations and inequalities, factoring, fractions, graphing, and some elements of geometry. This class provides an opportunity to learn and master basics that are critical to higher-level mathematics, emphasizing more abstract thinking and word problems. Upon completion, students should be able to solve algebraic equations and inequalities, use operations with integers, calculate ratios, proportions, and percentages, graph simple equations, use rational numbers, exponents, and scientific notation, and find the area and volume of various solids, as well as grasp other basic concepts of geometry, statistics, and probability.

Prerequisite: Completion of Math 6 with a grade of C- or higher.

Math 8: Algebra 1

This course is designed to establish a strong foundation for further learning by developing a broad base of mathematical concepts necessary for higher mathematics and by building problem solving/reasoning skills. In this class, students will cover concepts in solving equations with one and two variables, polynomials, rational expressions, simplifying radicals, quadratic equations, factoring, exponential functions, sequences and series, and simple statistics and probability. Successful completion of this course earns the student one year of math on his or her high school transcript

Prerequisite: Completed Pre-Algebra with a C- or higher. Completion of Math 7 with a C- or higher, or Completed Adv. Math 6 with an A and/or teacher recommendation along with the scores of a diagnostic test.



DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE

All 6th through 8th grade students are taught lab safety at the beginning of the year and all safety procedures are followed in all weekly labs and demos. All 6th through 8th grade students will participate in the annual Science Expo in March. Students will submit group projects and experiments that will be displayed for other students, elementary through middle school, to experience.

Science 6: Earth Science

Fall Semester: Following an overview of lab safety, students will be focused on geology, which includes the structure and composition of the solid earth. From the earth's core to the surface, students will study the earth's layers, and the makeup and formation of minerals and rock. The steps of the rock cycle will be understood and also be used to explain the dynamics of the earth, including how plate tectonics affect earth. This study will include how earthquakes and volcanoes form and affect our lives.

Spring Semester: Students turn to the study of the liquid and gaseous parts of the earth. They will learn about the atmosphere including layers, water cycle, cloud formation and types, weather formation and its affects, and the climate zones of the earth. Students then study oceanography, covering the divisions of the ocean and the ocean floor, life forms, currents, and tides. Students will participate in weekly labs relating to their topic and create two projects to be shared with the class.

Science 7: Life Science

Fall Semester: Anatomy and Physiology will study the basic cell, its parts, functions, and life cycle. From the cell we begin to explore DNA, genetics, and how it works. We will study body organization, including the major body systems, and how they function together.

Spring Semester: Zoology: Students will examine the diversity of the animal kingdom, focusing on the major groups of invertebrates and vertebrates, examining structure, ecology, classification, physiology, reproduction, and zoo-geography.

Botany: This introduces students to plant life and the impact of plants on society. Topics also include:

structure, function, growth processes, reproduction, ecology, genetics, and resources derived from the plant world.

Science 8: Physical Science

Physical science is a foundational course which will introduce and prepare the 8th grader for high school chemistry and physics.

Fall Semester: Introduction to chemistry. Students will study the history of atomic theory, the structure of the atom, the periodic table, and states of matter. The study continues with a focus on mixtures, solutions, elements, acids, bases, and chemical bonds.

Spring Semester: Introduction to physics. Students begin with a study of motion, what causes it and how it is defined and measured. Newton's laws of motion, and the principles of how forces move through fluids. This semester continues with a study of work, power, and simple machines.

DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION

PE 6

This course is designed to enhance students' personal fitness and sports skills through exposure to a wide variety of sports and fitness activities. It will also prepare students for the future enjoyment of an active lifestyle through exposure to various individual, team, and recreational activities, as well as develop knowledge of the rules, strategies, and behaviors related to participation in sports, which require cooperation, perseverance, responsibility, self-control, and respect.

PE 7/8

Physical activity is an enjoyable and essential part of our lives. Character traits will be emphasized through participation in sports, requiring teamwork, sportsmanship, honesty, determination, and good Christian conduct. Emphasis will be placed on an individualized analysis of fitness, including physical fitness training (shuttle run, mile run, push-ups, sit-ups, and flexibility testing), weekly endurance training, flexibility training, Ultimate Frisbee, flag football, gator ball, basketball, basic weight lifting, soccer, softball, and kickball.

ELECTIVES

Art 1 // 1 Semester

MS Art 1 is a one semester course intended to build a foundation in drawing, painting, three-dimensional sculpture and other visual art basics. Students will explore several different media including acrylics, watercolor, graphite, charcoal, clay, and printmaking. The elements of art and principles of design will become familiar ingredients and recipes for middle school artists as they have for artists throughout the ages. We will also study various artists and some of the important movements in art history. Because the creative process requires critical thinking, critiques of famous art and self-critiques will be a regular part of making art. The primary aim of this class is to help students build learnable skills that will enable them to actually create the art they imagine. Materials needed for all projects will be provided. The fact that God created us in His image means that we also have that creative spark; we practice studio art in order to learn how to use the materials available to create new and unique works of art, bringing glory to Him.

Art 2 // 1 Semester

MS Art 2 is a one semester course intended to build on the foundation of visual art basics learned in MS Art 1. Students will further develop skills in drawing, painting, sculpture, and printmaking. In this advanced studio class middle school artists will go several steps further in the creation of projects that are more complex, larger in scope, and even larger in actual size. The focus will be on creating works that demonstrate a greater level of skill and a desire to produce art on a more independently creative level. Students will continue to explore several different media including acrylics, watercolor, graphite, charcoal, clay, and printmaking. Materials needed for all projects will be provided. Artistic ability is not some mysterious magical thing given by God to certain individuals on a whim; it is, for the most part, a series of skills that can be learned if a person is willing to do the work. What we do with those skills is where the creativity comes in.

Chapel Leadership: Specialty Elective // 2 Semesters

Special application/audition requirement: YES 3/31 deadline.

Chapel Leadership is a beginning level pre-ministry leadership course for those interested in ministry with an emphasis on the practice of worship in Christian community. Students in this course will assist with our weekly MS Chapels and select school events. This is a yearlong elective open to all MS students. Students should have some experience vocally or instrumentally or be learning a new instrument/voice co-currently outside of this class. The course is divided into two parts; seminary (includes scripture study, devotions, and an overview of the range of Christian worship traditions with an emphasis on articulating and exploring your own personal and church practices) and practicum (includes rehearsal, planning, learning the equipment, and execution). Students in this class are expected to have a good work ethic, maintain good grades, show integrity, and be willing to go "above and beyond" in their efforts. Church attendance isn't required, but students will be asked to refer to church exposure in class projects so access to some sort of church context (be it a youth group, online, ect.) is necessary to be successful in this course.

Digital Photography // 1 Semester

Students will learn fundamental photographic skills, including digital capture, manipulation, and output. They are encouraged to develop their creativity while developing a critical eye. Students will learn the basics of Photoshop. Cameras can be rented from the school at a rate of \$25 per course semester. Class size is limited to 13 students.

The VCS Radio Conservatory of Music RADIO BROADCASTING - KVCB 100.9 FM // 1 Semester (can be repeated)

A project-based course in broadcasting built around the operation of four licensed FM/HD radio stations; a national coast-to-coast network and internet streaming operations. Students get to run their own radio shows, work with some of the most sophisticated audio broadcast technology, and collaborate with industry professionals as well as other high school broadcasting students from all over the United States.

Prerequisite: None

Coding and 3D Printing // 1Year

The goal of this course is to introduce students to the breadth of Computer Science. Topics covered include Algorithms and Programming, Networks and the Web, Computer Graphics and other Embedded Systems. Developmentally appropriate tools such as Arduino (block-based programming) and TinkerCAD (3D design and printing) allow students to access and develop the core concepts and skills of Computer Science without being impeded by high levels of abstraction and grammar. Projects in this course emphasize the creativity inherent in Computer Science.

Digital Media Arts

This course is designed to educate students on the ever-changing digital world, as well as to provide hands-on experience with industry standard software and equipment. Topics covered in Multimedia Arts classes include graphic design, set design, audio production, foley, and video production.





The VCS Radio Conservatory of Music Beginning/Intermediate Instrumental Music Studies // 1 Semester (can be repeated)

A comprehensive project-based beginning and intermediate instrumental music course provided by the VCS Radio Conservatory in music for students with limited or no experience on a musical instrument.

Instruments covered at this level: flute, clarinet, oboe, saxophone, French horn, trombone, baritone horn, tuba and percussion (drums).

Students learn basic theory and technique and perform in live concerts. Students may use this course to help prepare for membership in the VCS Radio Symphony and Jazz Ensemble.

Prerequisite: None

The VCS Radio Conservatory of Music Advanced Instrumental Music Studies // 1 semester (can be repeated)

A comprehensive project-based advanced instrumental music course provided by the VCS Radio Conservatory. This includes performance and study with the VCS Radio Symphony; VCS Radio Jazz Ensemble, and VCS Radio Network. Projects include both individual and group study in instrumental technique, theory and film scoring. Both live and studio production is performed in a multimedia setting. Students have gained international recognition for live film music performances and historic musical score restorations. This class meets Mon. & Thurs. evenings 6-8 p.m.

Prerequisite: Rated Level VI or higher.

INTRODUCTION TO PSYCHOLOGY // 1 Semester (Cannot be repeated)

Students will examine the major principles of psychology. The course will explore the history of psychology, human development, personality, abnormal behavior, social psychology, feelings and emotions, research methodologies, experimental psychology, psychophysiology, learning and memory, sleep and dreams, industrial and organizational psychology, and the many ways our own behaviors are shaped by our genetics and environment. They will learn more about themselves and others and why psychologists study human and animal behavior. Students will discover why psychologists

attempt to explain and predict why people behave, feel, and think as they do. They will come to realize how God truly has designed each of us so intricately, each with His fingerprints. "we are fearfully and wonderfully made." Psalm 139:14.

YEARBOOK // 1 Year

Special Application Required: YES

Students taking this special elective are given the task of designing and producing the middle school yearbook. Students will participate in photography, design, layout, conducting contributor interview, set production schedules, and meeting production deadlines. This is definitely a great class for the creative at heart. As a specialty elective it should be noted that there may be additional work required outside of normal classroom expectations. Students in this class may occasionally have afternoon or weekend deadlines to meet. Students in these classes are expected to have a good work ethic, maintain good grades, show integrity, and be willing to go "above and beyond."

Prerequisite: Students must have recommendation by an English teacher or Digital Photography teacher.

Math Labs

Math Labs offer students an opportunity to readdress concepts covered in class each day. They are an ideal place to complete math homework with available guidance from a math teacher. If math doesn't come easily, this is a way to excel.

Prerequisite: Teacher recommendation required.

ESL/FYE(Grades 6-8) // 1 or 2 Semesters

The purpose of English as a Second Language/First Year Experience (ESL/FYE) course is to support the new international students through exposure, social integration, and ESL practice and enrichment. Cultural exposure includes both the school and wider community, as well as adjustment to western-style pedagogy. Social integration helps the students understand and have a positive experience with their American peers and school culture. This includes retreats, dances, sports, and clubs they may not have experienced in their countries. Social integration incorporates understanding western

teacher/student relationships and interactive classroom learning styles that may be unfamiliar to international students. Students will increase their English language skills and knowledge through guided literature, writing, and classroom discussion. Students will also learn how to read and write in cursive writing which will enable them to be more interactive with their American classmates.

Introduction to Spanish (Grades 6-8) // 1 Semester

This is a semester long course designed to introduce student to the Spanish language and to the diverse customs of Spanish-speaking countries. It is highly project-oriented with lots of group activities. Fundamental skills learned are vocabulary and grammar concepts that include basic greetings, the alphabet, numbers, how to order in a restaurant, how to describe body parts, how to talk about different professions and sports, and a lot of fun culture aspects of the Spanish language.

Spanish 1 (8th Grade Only) // 1 Year

¿Quieres aprender Español? Do you want to learn Spanish? Students will learn introductory Spanish grammar skills, verb conjugations, vocabulary, and proper pronunciation. Other aspects of the class include learning about the rich and diverse cultures of Spanish speaking countries through the study of cultural art, history, and region specific customs. Students will study vocabulary, spelling, and pronunciation of Spanish words in order to communicate verbally with the goal of carrying on a Spanish conversation. This class will require extra study and homework time in order to master the material. A benchmark for this course is for students to be writing complete, Spanish sentences by the end of the year using the new verb conjugation and vocabulary learned.

* Students are encouraged to attend tutoring for additional practice and review with the new concepts presented.

Choir

Intro to Chorus is open to all MS, no audition or prior singing experience required. This course will focus on building foundational music and singing skills that students can use later in more advanced applications. It introduces students to vocal music and develop a sense of fulfillment, responsibility, and pride in performance, as well as cultivate a sense of identity, group spirit, and improved self-image through participation in a successful performing ensemble. Students will gain an understanding of correct singing/musical technique, learn the related vocabulary and develop the related skills. They will recognize, understand and apply structural elements of melody, harmony, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, phrasing, and form. They will expand their interest and knowledge of repertoire, performances, and artistic achievement from a variety of countries, societies and cultures. We will prepare several concerts and performances throughout the year as well as special projects, competitions and music festivals. We will also work the VCS Radio Conservatory to explore recording and collaborative performance opportunities, Intro to Chorus will allow students to experiment with artistic expression with a focus on the greatest Composer of all time, God. As such, we will honor and give glory to God through Creativity.





Schedule Options by Grade Level

6TH GRADE:

All 6th graders will take the following courses:

- Science 6: Earth Science
- History 6: Ancient Civilizations
- PE-6
- Bible 6

Classes with Options:

•English 6 or Advanced English 6. (Choose Advanced English only if you received a letter of acceptance for this class. There is a summer requirement for this class that is due the first day of school.)

•Math Class: Most 6th graders take Math 6 but in some cases a student may request Advanced Math 6 (B+ or above in current math class) or Pre-Algebra based on teacher recommendation or testing.

Elective Class Options:

Full-Year Classes

- MS Intermediate Band
- Instrumental Music Studies (HS Band open by audition only (M/Th evenings)
- Yearbook
- Coding & 3D Printing

Semester Classes (Total of 2)

- MS Psychology
- Intro to Spanish
- MS Digital Photography (requires camera w/ adjustable lens and a SD card)
- MS Art
- MS Math Lab
- Choir

Repeatable Classes (may be chosen as semester or full year)

- MS Beginning /Intermediate Instrumental Music Studies [Band]
- Advanced Instrumental Music Studies (HS Band open by audition only (M/Th evenings)
- Radio Broadcasting KVCB 100.9 FM

7TH GRADE:

All 7th graders will take the following courses:

- Science 7: Life Science
- History 7: Ancient Civilizations: Renaissance to modern era
- PE-7: Students are in gender specific class periods.
- Bible 7 OR Chapel Leadership (CL 3rd period/audition required)

Classes with Options:

•English 7 or Advanced English 7. (Choose Advanced English only if you received a letter of acceptance for this class. There is a summer requirement for this class that is due the first day of school.)

•Math Class: Most 7th graders take Pre-Algebra but in some cases a student may request Advanced Pre-Algebra (B+ or above in current math class) or Algebra 1 based on previous teacher recommendation or testing.

Elective Class Options:

Full-Year Classes

- MS Intermediate Band
- Instrumental Music Studies
- Yearbook
- Coding & 3D Printing

Semester Classes (Total of 2)

- MS Psychology
- Intro to Spanish
- MS Digital Photography (requires camera w/ adjustable lens and a SD card)
- MS Art
- MS Math Lab
- Choir
- Radio Broadcasting

8TH GRADE:

All 8th graders will take the following courses:

- Science 8: Physical Science
- History 8: American History
- PE-8: Students are in gender specific class periods.
- Bible 8 OR Chapel Leadership (CL 3rd period/audition required)

Classes with Options:

- English 8 or Advanced English 8. (Choose Advanced English only if you received a letter of acceptance for this class. There is a summer requirement for this class that is due the first day of school.)

- Math Class: Most 8th graders take Algebra 1 (a HS-level course), but in some cases a student may be in Pre-Algebra or Geometry, based on teacher recommendation or testing.

Elective Class Options:

Full-Year Classes

- Spanish 1 (HS Level class)
- MS Intermediate Band
- Instrumental Music Studies
- Yearbook
- Coding & 3D Printing

Semester Classes (Total of 2)

- MS Psychology
- Intro to Spanish
- MS Digital Photography (requires camera w/adjustable lens and a SD card)
- MS Art
- Radio Broadcasting
- Math Lab
- Choir

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT THE FOLLOWING PEOPLE

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