



MIDDLE SCHOOL COURSE CATALOG

6th Grade



Mathematics

Math 6

This course is designed to develop students' skills in number theory and set concepts, computations, geometry, algebra and problem solving. As students apply themselves to mathematical thinking and written work they will grow in discipline. Focus will be given to the supreme nature of God and his character as displayed in the order and absolute truth of mathematics. Holt McDougal curriculum is used.

Science

Physical Science

This course will provide students with a solid foundation in the fundamental concepts of chemistry and physics, as well as an opportunity to develop critical thinking and lab skills essential to upper-level science courses. The course will combine a lecture format with numerous lab experiences.

English

English 6

In order to equip students to better comprehend the written word of God and use the written and spoken word to clearly communicate the truth, this course focuses on furthering the sixth grade student's breadth of functional vocabulary, understanding of the structure of the English language, skill in written expression, and skill in literature comprehension and analysis. Grammar, usage, and composition are taught by diagramming sentences and written projects using 6 Plus One Traits of Writing, Language Network, and Daily Paragraph Editing grade 6. Vocabulary is strengthened by memorizing Greek and Latin roots using Vocabulary From Classical Roots. Students will read several novels while practicing strategies to succeed in literature reading and comprehension. The course emphasizes the importance of diligent language study while seeking to instill a love for literature and skill with words.

Bible

Old Testament I

This course explores the literary landscape of the Pentateuch (Genesis - Deuteronomy) as well as Joshua and Judges. Students discover the basic facts of the Old Testament - the who, what, where, when, how, and why - as well as perceive the beginning of God's plan of redemption fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Classroom discussions focus on the literary analysis, historical context, and theological significance of each text. We want our students to be able to answer the questions, "Who is God and how has He dealt with mankind?" in books of the Bible that are often avoided due to unfamiliarity and confusion. Middle school students begin to read through the entire Bible in 6-8th grades.

History

Ancient History and Geography

This course surveys Ancient History to the Roman Empire, tracing God's plan for mankind throughout His Story. Ancient History encompasses the geography, cultures, religions, and history of civilizations in the Middle East as well as China and India. In addition, students examine different cultures in the light of Scripture and gain a burden and understanding of the need for God and His grace. This involves map work, atlas study, and societies in each culture. Students also complete a project on an assigned country. The text used is Heritage Studies 6.

Computer

Keyboarding 6

This course provides the students with the necessary skills needed to touch type and to operate the computer keyboard. Proper typing/keyboarding skills will be taught via the computer-typing program, Typingmaster Pro.

7th Grade



Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Pre-Algebra is a bridge of transition for students between Arithmetic and Algebra. A thorough reinforcement of arithmetic skills ensures that students are strongly adept at operations on decimals and fractions without using calculators. Students also build skills in solving equations and simplifying algebraic expressions with a strong emphasis on showing their work. Percent equations, proportions, and word problems are integrated and emphasized throughout. Some topics of Geometry are also covered, including Perimeter, Area, and Volume problems

Algebra I

Algebra I begins with basics such as the meaning of variables and the order of operations and solving equations. Students then progress through linear equations, polynomial factoring, algebraic fractions, ratio and proportion, functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities as time allows. The text used is Prentice-Hall's *Algebra*

Science

Life Science

Our world is filled with living organisms of all different shapes and sizes – each specially designed to reveal the greatness of God. Students study kingdom, phylum, order, species, plant and animals, and living systems. This course will explore the diversity of creation, common processes that sustain life and how living things differ from non-living things. The text used is *Glencoe Life Science*.

English

English 7

This course focuses on furthering the student's breadth of functional vocabulary, understanding of the structure of the English language, skill in written expression, and skill in literature comprehension and analysis. Grammar and usage concepts are taught in the context of specific instruction mainly from *Language Network*, but more importantly, from writing application. Students use reflective, expository, imaginative, persuasive and research writing. Vocabulary and literature concepts are taught through the study of novels. Writing concept are taught through modeling the structure and style of mature writing samples and include descriptive, narrative, and expository genres. The course emphasizes the importance of diligent language study while seeking to instill a love for literature and skill with words.

Bible

Old Testament II

This course completes the study of the Old Testament, exploring selected books and passages from 1 Samuel to Malachi. Students discover the basic facts of the Old Testament - the who, what, where, when, how, and why - as well as perceive God's plan of redemption fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Classroom discussions focus on the literary analysis, historical context, and theological significance of each text. Middle school students continue to read through the entire Bible in 6-8th grades.

History

World History

Major Components of World History and geography are surveyed from the Expansion and Fall of Rome through the Age of Exploration, including a study of various cultures worldwide and their contribution to society. Topics include Rome, Islam and Muslim states, Africa, China, Japan, Korea and Southeast Asia, Feudal and Medieval Europe, Ottoman Empire, Mesoamerican civilizations, the Renaissance, Reformation, Scientific Revolution and Age of Exploration, Enlightenment and Age of Reason. Particular focus will be placed upon critically evaluating the content from a biblical perspective, seeing the reality that sin yields consequences. Finally, this course will look to highlight God's sovereign purposes being worked out through His church during these given periods of history. Text used is McDougal's *Little World History*.

Spanish

Spanish A

The Spanish Level A course is designed to give the student an introduction to the structure of the Spanish language and exposure to Hispanic culture. Vocabulary topics are grouped around practical situations and the vocabulary needs associated with those situations, such as greetings, food, family, sports, clothing, and weather. A discussion of Latin American cultural distinctives including contrast and comparison with American culture is added to these vocabulary topics as appropriate. All four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are emphasized. Though functional proficiency is the primary focus, grammar and spelling accuracy is stressed as a means of increasing communicative clarity. With the increasing population of Spanish speakers in the United States and our local area, learning the Spanish language is an effective way to befriend our neighbors, broaden the opportunities to share the gospel of grace and to see and appreciate the fingerprints of God on Hispanic culture.

8th Grade



Mathematics

Algebra I (if not taken in 7th grade)

Algebra I begins with basics such as the meaning of variables and the order of operations and solving equations. Students then progress through linear equations, polynomial factoring, algebraic fractions, ratio and proportion, functions, systems of linear equations and inequalities as time allows. The text used is Prentice-Hall's *Algebra*

Geometry

This course is designed to teach students the concepts of points, lines, planes, angles, deductive reasoning, perimeter, volume, and much more. An introduction to Trigonometry is included. An understanding of basic Algebra is required. The text used is Houghton Mifflin's *Geometry*.

Science

Earth Science

This course is an introduction to the terms and basic concepts of astronomy, geology, meteorology, oceanography, and physical geography with an emphasis on God's immense power and complete control over His creation. Students are encouraged to see how God reveals Himself in creation and grow in their understanding of our responsibility as stewards of creation. Emphasis is also put on diligent study, intellectual humility and the fact that there is no real conflict between truth as revealed in creation and truth as revealed in Scripture. The text used is *Glencoe Earth Science: Geology, the Environment and the Universe*.

English

English 8

This course focuses on furthering the student's breadth of functional vocabulary, understanding the structure of the English language, skill in written and oral expression, and skill in literature comprehension and analysis and Biblical analysis. Grammar, usage and composition concepts are taught in the context of specific instruction mainly from *Language Network*, *Daily Paragraph Editing*, and from memorizing Greek and Latin roots from *Vocabulary from Classical Roots*. Writing concepts are taught through modeling the structure and style of mature writing samples and include descriptive, narrative, and expository genres and poetry. Students will also learn to write a thesis statement with support, using evidence from the text. Vocabulary and literature concepts are taught through the study of novels, including classical literature and analysis. Oral expression is taught and practically worked out by completing various quarterly projects. The course emphasizes the importance of diligent language study while seeking to instill a love for literature and skill with words.

Bible

New Testament

This course examines the second half of the biblical account, known today as the New Testament. It is the third part of a three-year survey of the entire Bible through middle school. Investigation emphasizes the life of Christ, especially in the Gospels, exploring who Christ is and what He did, Paul's missionary journeys, and the revelation to John. Emphasis is on middle school students' personal Bible reading as they read through three-fourths of the New Testament.

History

US History

This course surveys the history of the United States from the American Revolution through World War II. The units of study will be as follows: The Western Frontier, The American Revolution, The New Nation, The Jeffersonian Era, Jacksonian Era, Expanding the Republic, Social Reform, the Civil War, Reconstruction, An Industrializing Nation, and World War II. Students will also examine current media events with an emphasis on interpreting media through a Biblical Worldview. This course will underscore God's unique providential grace upon our nation from its beginning, how God has directed this country's affairs throughout the years and how God, in His mercy, has favored this country, bringing it to be a major world power. The text used is McDougal Littell's *American History*.

Spanish

Spanish B

Building upon the Spanish A course, the Spanish Level B course is designed to give the student an introduction to the structure of the Spanish language and exposure to Hispanic culture. Vocabulary topics are grouped around practical situations and the vocabulary needs associated with those situations, such as greetings, food, family, sports, clothing, and weather. A discussion of Latin American cultural distinctives including contrast and comparison with American culture is added to these vocabulary topics as appropriate. All four skill areas (listening, speaking, reading, and writing) are emphasized. Though functional proficiency is the primary focus, grammar and spelling accuracy is stressed as a means of increasing communicative clarity. With the increasing population of Spanish speakers in the United States and our local area, learning the Spanish language is an effective way to befriend our neighbors, broaden the opportunities to share the gospel of grace and to see and appreciate the fingerprints of God on Hispanic culture.

Middle School Required Classes



Study Skills

Study Skills 6, 7, 8

This course is designed to help students entering middle school to make the most of their school opportunities to the glory of God, by keeping schoolwork organized and learning and retaining new information. This course helps students develop skills of godly motivation and attitude, time management, memorization techniques, oral and written note-taking and outlining, test-taking and preparation, project management, attention and listening and thinking skills, textbook study, recording assignments, reference and research skills, learning styles, strategic reading skills, subject differentiation and integration, class participation, group activity roles, and self-evaluation. Emphasis is on using planners, and organized lockers and notebooks.

Physical Education

PE 6, 7, 8

Middle School Physical Education introduces students to various games and sports. They will be taught rules, strategies, and skills necessary to participate in these sports. Physical Education also provides an arena for further study of the complexity of their bodies and the care necessary to be good stewards of those bodies. As each skill is taught, the emphasis will be placed on glorifying God in thoughts, words, and actions.

Middle School Electives



Art

This course will focus on using the elements of art to build unique works of art. We will learn to make fun and interesting pictures with simple tools. We will also create 3D projects that bridge the gap between pictures and sculptures. The class will focus on one skill at a time and build you into a well-rounded artist who is able to take a project from dream to reality.

Computer (Offered on a rotating basis)

Choose your own iPad Video Adventure

Using Green Screen technology to film exciting endings, basic algorithm planning to create a storyline, students will plan and create a Choose your own Adventure style story.

Lego Robotics

Using the new Spike Robotics kit and a programming language linked to Scratch, students will build and program a series of robots from an exciting new Lego kit controlled by a tablet.

Minecraft

Use a real programming language to learn to code in Minecraft. Yes, we will use a real life language and yes we will code, and yes you will be doing Minecraft stuff, but this is a serious coding class. There will be no lava and no survival mode. You will learn computer science principles and real coding skills, as you make use of the Python programming language and commands in Minecraft. This class will allow you to be somewhat self-paced. If you want to go slowly you will be able to, but you will be gaining coding skills all the way.

Going West

Cowboys and Indians, Trails and Trials and Tears. This course explores all of the aspects of the expansion of the American West which was about more than pioneers and wagon trains.

Journalism

Learn about current events and how to develop and write stories for the Middle School Newspaper.

Christ in Culture

Learn how we as Christians can and should have an influence in our culture today. We will dive into how we view our culture in light of Creation, the Fall, Redemption and Common Grace? Be ready for an invigorating discussion on these topics, and new ways of thinking through how to live in our current culture but not be of it.

Music (Required in 6/7th grade, available to 8th Grade)

Choir

Choir focuses on singing various pieces of music, as well as performing in at least two concerts and one special event every school year. Basic music reading skills are preferred though not required. This class will explore the ability to read music, strengthen a basic understanding of music concepts, composition, and evaluation of music. Students will encounter and interact with basic music theory including solfege along with seeking to strengthen abilities in blending and singing together as a cohesive group.

Concert Band

Concert Band focuses on playing various pieces of music, as well as performing in at least two concerts and one special event every school year. It is preferable that students have experience playing an instrument before joining. Students will encounter music theory specific to each instrument and begin work on understanding intonation, blend, articulation, and other techniques.

Strings

Strings Ensemble focuses on playing diverse styles of music and pieces of varying levels of difficulty. The goal is to grow musicians who confidently and convincingly portray the composer's intention in the music through their playing. We will perform in two concerts and one special event every school year.

Middle School J-Term



Our J-term is an exciting initiative that began in 2017. J-term is the name given to a special schedule of classes following the first semester of school that is scheduled during January. This program offers an exciting and brief break from the normal fast pace of the academic year, allowing time to delve into new and innovative courses, participate in meaningful field trips, and go on a two-day retreat.

Examples of past courses include:

- **Marine Life Exploration**
- **Drawing and Painting**
- **Creative Writing**
- **Mysteries in History**
- **How Things Work**
- **Photoshop & Digital Art**
- **Photography**
- **Music and the World Around You**
- **Famous Sports Heroes**