

# Overview



## Seventh Grade

**9820 Nesbit Ferry Road, Alpharetta, GA 30022**  
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# **Curriculum Overview**

## **Grade 7**

### **Christian Education**

#### **Bible: The Day of the Lord**

This Old Testament course focuses on the kings and prophets of Israel and Judah after the time of King Solomon. It includes the exile, the return from captivity, and the times leading up to the birth of Christ (intertestamentary times). This course emphasizes the various ways the Old Testament prepared mankind for the coming of Christ. Lessons of faith and character are also revealed by the study of these important books of the Old Testament.

#### **Kairos Retreat at Sharp Top Mountain**

**Grades 6-8**

The term “Kairos” is a Greek word that means “time for the Lord” or “a special opportunity”. This three-day overnight retreat away from campus provides time early in the school year for teachers and students to gather together at Sharp Top Mountain in Jasper, Georgia, in the spirit of mutual respect and personal sharing. The program is designed for everyone to build a sense of community, provide time for personal reflection and to help students discover ways in which God is calling them to their fullness as persons. The retreat is led by the school Chaplain with the assistance of youth program ministers and the Middle School faculty who plan activities that include song, skits, serious talks, open discussions and lots of fun. Students count “Sharp Top” as an annual highlight in student life.

### **English**

#### **Language Arts**

The seventh grade curriculum in language arts, besides increasing the level of skill development in all three components of language, stresses the writing process by emphasizing prewriting, drafting, revising, editing, proof reading and publishing. Vocabulary skills are increasingly strengthened and adapted to all genres of literature. The reading of a variety of novels, short stories, poetry, fiction and nonfiction allows students to interpret literary elements and techniques, make comparisons, predictions, generalizations and conclusions. Additionally, throughout the curriculum students learn to acquire effective oral communication and research skills.

### **History - Social Studies**

#### **World History**

Seventh grade social studies is fast paced beginning the year with a study of the Byzantine Empire, Islam’s Golden Age and African Cultures followed by the study of the Native Americans of both North and South America including East Asian cultures of the same time period. The second semester engages students in the global quests in the European Age of Exploration and the cultural impact of the Renaissance. Investigation of The Enlightenment followed by a study of the Industrial Revolution helps set the stage to understand the rise of Imperialism in the 19th century. The fourth quarter provides a study of World Wars One and Two, a review of the basis of the confrontations in both the Korean and the Viet Nam wars and the eventual fall of Soviet communism in the late 20th Century.

### **Mathematics**

#### **Integrated Pre-Algebra**

The Pre-Algebra program is an introductory, integrated Algebra and Geometry program that further explores and provides the foundations of Algebra and Geometry with in-depth opportunities for practical application. Furthermore, Pre-Algebra puts a greater focus on the concepts of Algebra using variables and formulas in problem solving. The goal of this Glencoe curriculum is to prepare students to continue in an integrated course of Algebra where the level of difficulty for computation increases with each new concept.

### **Science**

#### **Earth Science**

Using a constructivist approach to science education, this course provides an atmosphere in which students can practice observation skills using prior knowledge, direct cooperative learning activities, differentiate between variables and controls, and draw meaningful conclusions. Incorporating classroom instruction with class discussion, this course covers the diversity of Earth’s development through a comprehensive examination of all geologic and paleontologic processes, meteorology, oceanography, astronomy and environmental influences.

### **Foreign Language**

## **Spanish Level 1A**

The academic year will cover the first half of Level I. Basic topics such as greetings, describing one's self, various foods, and the family unit will be covered in present tense. Culture and history of the language is also part of the learning experience. Workbooks that provide for additional writing practice accompany student textbooks. Cassette or CDs and videos are used in class to further enhance listening comprehension skills as well as pronunciation. Both languages offer the opportunity for a beneficial comparative review of our own English language. This year offers the essential preparation and foundation for success at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and successive Upper School levels of the language.

## **Exploratories**

### **Fine Arts:**

#### **Drama**

The goal of middle school drama is to prepare students for public speaking and performance through classroom exercises in storytelling, scripted readings, and improvisation. Lessons and techniques will often be introduced through theatre games. Practice in this non-threatening environment will build self-confidence for the stage as well as reinforce life skills.

#### **General Music: Music Analysis and Appreciation**

Building on the skills learned in grade six, this course teaches students to listen to, analyze and describe music using the appropriate terminology. This includes describing musical events (instruments used, form of piece, rhythm patterns), analyzing the elements in diverse genres and cultures (ethnic instruments), and demonstrating knowledge of basic music principles (meter, rhythm, tonality). Using specific criteria appropriate to the style of music, their appreciation of music is enhanced by learning to evaluate music and music performances, their own and other's performances and compositions. The program is fully implemented through the use of a Yamaha electronic music lab.

#### **Visual Art - European Art**

Art in seventh grade, as in the previous year, reinforces the elements of art while drawing on cross-cultural references and critical thinking skills to analyze, interpret, and evaluate the masterpieces of our cultural heritage. This quarter focuses on major developments in art from the Middle Ages through the late 19th century. Projects trace the development of Western art from illustrated manuscripts through Renaissance illusions of perspective, Baroque printmaking and portraiture to the color studies of the French Impressionists. Students begin at this point to realize the influence of art on history and the influence of historical activity on art. Through hands-on activities in each area students continue to develop their unique God-given talents. Students also recognize the importance of the various forms of art as a means of expression both profound and entertaining to the beholder and to the artist.

### **Health & Physical Education**

#### **Physical Education**

Students in grade seven meet for physical education daily for one quarter. Emphasizing a realistic assessment of their individual strengths and weakness, the students are encouraged to work on their weakness and advance their strengths through fitness training. The students participate in the Presidential Fitness Program. Seventh graders learn units of study in team as well as individual sports. At this time an emphasis on skill as well as cognitive development is stressed.

#### **Health**

Students in seventh grade meet for health daily for one quarter. The class focuses on making healthful decisions and setting goals for long-term well-being. A primary goal in Middle School Health is to educate students regarding important health habits. Lessons and topics include selecting and eating foods with good nutritional value, personal healthcare and hygiene, the importance of physical fitness, understanding physical development, and how to avoid harmful substances. Students are taught and practice developing good refusal skills and ways to promote positive self-respect and confidence.

### **Organization / Study Skills**

The Study Skills curriculum is designed to enhance students' academic performance in all subject areas. This is done by teaching students specific learning strategies as they seek to: organize their assignments, gather information, memorize factual material, study for tests, review material covered in class, develop efficient study habits, and engage in more difficult conceptual thinking. The research-based curriculum upon which the lessons will be based gives students practical methods for reaching their highest potential and for gaining academic success in all subject areas. The Sixth grade begins with Level A. Each grade level covers the same material but in greater depth as the levels increase. This provides for the repetition of skills and methods of learning from which students will benefit throughout their academic endeavors. The study skills curriculum is delivered across disciplines.

### **Interdisciplinary Excursions**

Middle School students thrive on variety of experiential instruction. The Atlanta area provides a wealth of opportunities for interdisciplinary day trips. At least once per semester, students leave the campus to travel to curriculum related sites, such as the Chattahoochee Nature Center or the Dahlonega Mineral Mines, to spend the day involved in programmed activities and grade level fun with classmates. Follow up lessons are conducted across the curriculum with an emphasis on the lessons learned and the enlightening experiences from the excursion.

### **After School Assistance and Homework Policy**

As an added student benefit, each teacher is available after school for 30 minutes to assist with homework or to answer questions. The Middle School utilizes a purposeful homework policy that encourages students to come well prepared to class. For more information please see the MS handbook via the school website.

### **Course of Study by Grade Level**

<i>Grade Six</i>	<i>Grade Seven</i>	<i>Grade Eight</i>
Chr. Ed.-Old Testament	Chr. Ed.-Old Testament	Chr. Ed.-Gospels
English	English	English
World Geography	World History	American History
Integrated Math	Pre-Algebra-Integrated	Algebra I-Integrated
Life Science	Earth Science	Physical Science
Physical Ed & Health	Spanish	Spanish or French
Exploratory:	Exploratory:	Exploratory:
Music/Drama	Music/Drama	Music/Drama
Visual Arts	Visual Arts	Visual Arts
Spanish	Health	Health
Computer Literacy	Physical Education	Physical Education

Opportunities for participation exist in: athletics, band, chorus, weekly chapel, and a number of age appropriate student oriented clubs.