

Overview



Eighth Grade

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Mount Pisgah Christian School

Curriculum Overview

Grade 8

Christian Education

Bible: The Light to the Gentiles

This New Testament course focuses on the life of Christ, the history of the early church, Paul's missionary journeys, and the Revelation to John. An emphasis will be placed on personal life application of biblical truths found in the Gospels of the New Testament. The course is the culmination of the Middle School Christian Education experience and serves as preparation to pursue further learning in the Upper School where required courses are supplemented with electives.

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 eighth grade language arts course reinforces the basic fundamentals of acquiring effective language skills learned in grades six and seven, but it also advances the acquisition of those skills to a higher level of difficulty. The eighth grade curriculum also incorporates novels, poetry, short stories, speaking and writing skills as well as research skills in order to be properly prepared to make oral presentations and present evidence of good writing. Successful completion of the 8th grade Language Arts curriculum assures rising Upper School freshman that they possess all of the tools and knowledge necessary to meet the requirements of the college preparatory curriculum.

History – Social Studies

American History

Our study of American History begins with the colonization by English settlers in Virginia and New England with reference to Georgia's role in the colonies. Life in early America is reviewed and the hardships endured described. Students explore the causes of the American Revolution and the war itself in depth followed by a thorough study of the Constitution, its meaning and importance today. An analysis of the Jefferson Era is discussed along with a study of the War of 1812. Students examine the emergence of the nation's internal conflict over the issue of slavery, regional economics, and the rising crisis of the future of the still comparatively young United States of America, resulting in the outbreak of the American Civil War. The war is studied in depth along with the problems experienced during Reconstruction. At the end of the year the students travel locally on an interdisciplinary trip to the Kennesaw Mountain National Park and battlefield which helps to bring to life the realities of armed civil conflict in that period of our history.

Mathematics

Integrated Algebra I

Prerequisite: Integrated Pre-Algebra

This first year Algebra Course is designed to provide students with a firm foundation of Algebraic concepts. Properties of real numbers, writing linear equations, solving and graphing linear inequalities, solving systems of linear equations, properties of exponents, polynomials and factoring are stressed throughout the course. Emphasis is placed on translation of words to Algebraic expressions, problem solving, and application of formulas. Students are prepared to progress from this course to an integrated Algebra II curriculum. Student's performance and success in this class aids the guidance office in helping place students in the appropriate mathematics class for their freshman year in the Upper School.

Science

Physical Science

Students continue to learn to explore the world of science through a variety of activities, becoming even more familiar with experimentation and the scientific method, manipulating science equipment, analyzing and communicating scientific data. Topics covered include energy and motion, states of matter, classification of matter, the periodic table, atomic structure, chemical bonds, properties of the elements, compounds, solutions, chemical reactions, acids, bases and salts, waves and sound, light electricity, magnetism, and energy sources. Throughout the year they are required to: Practice safety in lab procedures, Develop science process skills, Establish a working vocabulary of science terms, Explore science concepts utilizing reference and technological resources and Develop an appreciation of all God's Creations: living organisms, nature and the universe.

Foreign Language

Spanish IIB

Students complete the second half of Spanish Level I. The same text and accompanying materials are used for this course as in Grade Seven. Students learn to express themselves in simple past tense and a form of the future tense. Throughout the year students continue to develop writing and conversation skills.

Having successfully completed this course the student is awarded the equivalent of one high school Carnegie Unit entitling the student to enroll in Level Two Spanish in the Upper School in their freshman year.

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 as an Independent Art Form

This course continues to further the student's music literacy skills and compositional skills. Students learn to transpose melodies they compose and then perform on the keyboard. Students learn to translate melodies from solfege notation into standard notation. Aural skills are developed when students analyze phrases and forms of pieces by ear. Students are encouraged to apply this analysis skill to any type of music they enjoy. Students are exposed to a general chronological history of important American composers by listening to major music compositions.

Visual Art - American Art

Art in eighth grade is the culmination of a three year Middle School survey. The curriculum reinforces the elements of art while exploring the major periods in American art. Beginning with a study of Native American resources, students learn about Early American crafts, regional architecture, narrative painting, the invention of photography, and modern media. Students use critical thinking skills and hands-on activities to analyze, interpret, and evaluate our national heritage and further develop their own God-given talents.

Health & Physical Education:

Physical Education

Students in grade eight meet for physical education daily for one quarter. The eighth grade curriculum consists of integrating basic knowledge and skills into team play and developing an awareness of individual sports and lifelong activities that enhance their physical fitness. An emphasis on complete fitness and the benefits derived from being in your best personal shape is a goal during the eighth grade year. Students participate in the Presidential Fitness Program.

Health

Students in eighth grade meet for health daily one quarter. The main goal in Middle School Health is to educate students on better health habits and to promote wellness. Lessons and topics involve eating foods with good nutritional value, personal healthcare and hygiene, the importance of physical fitness, physical development, and how to avoid harmful substances. We practice good refusal skills and ways to promote positive self esteem. The class focus is on making healthful decisions and setting goals for long-term wellbeing.

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 suited for 8th graders, such as CNN Headquarters or Kennesaw Mountain National Battlefield and Park, 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.