

Middle School Curriculum

BIBLE

Sixth graders will be using the *Voyages* curriculum. It is a Christ centered curriculum that provides students with optimal opportunity to grow in their relationship of faith and life with Jesus Christ. The sixth grade materials of the *Voyages* series are designed primarily to teach children about key concepts of faith such as law, gospel, confession, repentance, forgiveness and grace while focusing specifically on the person, attributes and work of Jesus Christ.

Seventh graders will be using a book called *Route 66* for Bible. This is a trek through the 66 books of the Bible. Each book of the Bible is taught, with lessons focusing on providing a broad sweep of the books while asking the students to think about how the Bible's teachings affect their choices for their own lives. Students will be expected to do memory work as well as written assignments.

Eighth graders will be using *Wise Up* for Bible. *Wise Up* is based on the book of Proverbs. *Wise Up* is a thought-provoking book that challenges students to apply the wisdom in Proverbs to their everyday lives.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The sixth grade language arts curriculum is incorporated in our Houghton-Mifflin reading series. Book reports will add a variety of genre to our literature program.

Seventh and Eighth grade students will be using the Prentice Hall Literature books. The units we will be covering are: short stories, drama, non-fiction, folklore and tall tales, poetry and novels. Generally speaking, we will read one or two selections per week. Both 7th and 8th graders will be reading novels as well as writing several short stories of their own.

English in all three grades will entail a great deal of writing. We will be studying and applying the steps of the writing process to our written work. In addition, we will be studying grammar elements; including proper usage, parts of speech, and diagramming sentences.

Vocabulary and spelling are part of the Language Arts curriculum. Words are chosen to reflect the current assignments in the various content areas. There is no spelling text for the 7th and 8th graders. Students are expected to check and self-correct their spelling on all written work. Spelling usages on a daily basis will be considered.

All middle school students will be assigned outside reading in conjunction with our **Accelerated Reading Program (AR)**. Assignments will be made about a month in advance. Students can read books from the school library, the public library, or books purchased from book orders or stores. Books selected should match the student's reading level, (ZPD). We encourage you to help your child develop a habit of spending 30 minutes per night reading the outside reading book. Each middle school student must have a book to read with them at all time.

FIELD TRIPS

Each class takes field trips as appropriate to their curriculum areas.

HISTORY

In 6th grade we study Ancient Egypt, Ancient Greece, Classical Greece, the Roman Empire and other ancient civilizations.

In 7th grade we study medieval societies, Europe during the Renaissance, the Reformation, and the Age of Exploration. We will also study European History from 1600-1789.

In 8th grade we study American History reviewing the American Revolution, the Constitution, and establishing a new nation. We will trace the growth of our country through the present day.

MATH

Sixth graders use the *California Math* textbook by Scott Foresman. The objectives to be mastered this year include: using multiple problem-solving strategies, decimals, percents, fractions, measurement, ratios and proportions. In addition, students will learn to apply the principles of problem-solving to their everyday lives. There will be one major project assigned during the year.

Seventh grade math is Addison-Wesley *Foundations of Algebra and Geometry*. The text is an in-depth study of the basic principles of algebra and geometry and will be supplemented with units on fractions and decimals.

The eighth grade text for math is Addison-Wesley's *Focus on Algebra*. This course is a comprehensive study of algebraic functions including linear and quadratic equations, linear inequalities, polynomials and rational and radical equations.

SCIENCE

The new 6th, 7th and 8th grade science textbook series is, *Focus on Science*, published by Glencoe. This series includes: sixth grade studies of earth science; seventh grade is life science and eighth grade will study physical science. Each grade level will be exposed to all three disciplines of science. In science we will integrate math, spelling, and English through projects, reports and homework.

COMPUTER

Middle school students will be in the computer lab twice a week throughout the year. The computer curriculum includes basic keyboarding and word processing as well as other special topics, which may include spreadsheets, slide show presentations, the Internet and desktop publishing.

FOREIGN LANGUAGE

All middle school students will be involved in a computer language program called Rosetta Stone. For the 2008-09 school year every student will take Latin. Latin is considered a foundation for our other languages and will give our students an understanding of language usage, roots and parts of speech. This will help our students in future language study of both English and other languages.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Middle school students will have P.E. four days a week. Physical fitness, team sports, and games are used to develop athletic skills. Seventh and eighth graders are **required** to dress for P.E. Uniforms are available for purchase in the school office. Seventh and eighth graders need a P.E. uniform and shoes the first week of school.

Middle School Curriculum - Continued

RESPONSIBILITY

Responsibility is a huge topic of conversation in the middle school. We expect all students to be on time and have all they need through the day. We will not coddle your student, nor will we let him/her drown in responsibility he/she isn't ready to handle. Expect the first few weeks of this year to be overwhelming at times for the students- it's ok- they'll get the hang of it.

HOMEWORK

There will be homework daily for the middle school. Homework will include finishing any undone class assignments and assigned homework. Your student should have about an hour and a half of homework each weekday.

COMMUNICATION

It is exceptionally important for the home and school connection to stay strong. We will let you know what's going on in class every week with a letter home each Friday. Notices from the office always go out on Fridays as well. Your student will have a folder in his or her binder that is for these notices and Friday notes. PLEASE BE SURE TO ASK YOUR STUDENT FOR THIS PACKET OF NOTES EACH WEEK!! Also, be sure to look through the binder to see your student's corrected work. Don't buy it if your student says there isn't anything for you to see on Friday-only an emergency keeps us from sending a note. (Occasionally notes aren't sent home over vacation.)

A second means of communication is your student's assignment book. Parents are asked to sign the assignment book daily.

GRADING

Generally speaking, grades will be determined using a point system. Making the Grade software is used for recording grades. Grades A through F, grades are based 50% on daily work and 50 % on assessments. Students must maintain a 2.0 GPA to participate in co-curricular activities. They are placed on probation if they have an F or less than a 2.0. Progress reports are sent home on a scheduled basis so that students and parents are aware of progress.

Late work, that is, any work not turned in when the teacher asks for it, will be given half credit if it is turned in within one day of the due date. Students who are absent will be given extra time to complete assignments, but it is the student's responsibility to see that make-up work is done and turned in.

MIDDLE SCHOOL DISCIPLINE AND BEHAVIOR

Our desire is that middle school students will take responsibility for themselves and their own actions. God calls us, as teachers, to help parents to teach and students to learn how to accomplish this. Students are accountable for following the rules and guidelines in the Parent-Student Handbook.