

Eighth Grade Curriculum Snapshot

The 8th grade curriculum is Christ-centered, with an emphasis on personal growth in Christ and preparation for high school and beyond. Teenagers are going through changes and trying to learn to live with developing bodies, feelings and attitudes. Remaining Christ-minded can be a challenge. Providing constant reassurance and guidance, while building intellectual skills is important. Proverbs 22:6 states “Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.”

Religion

- Units: God Hears and Answers His People: Our Prayer Lives, Worship in Liturgy and in Life, God Comes to Us Through Means of Grace, The Ten Commandments
- Daily devotions, bi-weekly memory work, praying throughout the day,
- Wednesday morning chapel

Language Arts

- Reading: Novel units including *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee, and *The Pearl* by John Steinbeck . *Literature Circles* include titles such as *Hiroshima* by John Hersey, *The Boy in the Striped Pajamas* by John Boyne, *The Jungle* by Upton Sinclair, *Uprising* by Margaret Peterson Haddix, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* by Mark Twain, and *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott; Accelerated Reader (AR)
- Writing: Six Traits focus with peer reviews, book talks, Americanism essay, persuasive essay, research report, and response to literature through essay and poetry
- Grammar: Basic sentence parts review, phrases, clauses, effective sentences, using verbs and using pronouns
- Spelling: Monday-pretest, Friday-posttest, usage opportunities throughout the week, synonyms, antonyms, word families, analogies and classical roots activities. Correct spelling expected in final draft of all writing activities
- Handwriting: Lowercase and uppercase cursive and manuscript letters practiced; neat, legible cursive is expected on all assignments
- Access to library checkout weekly

Math

- Integer operation including mathematical properties
- Algebra: multi-step equations and inequalities
- Rational and irrational numbers and operations
- Ratios, proportions, and percents
- Geometry: two dimensional figures including Pythagorean Theorem and trigonometric ratios, polygons, transformations
- Linear equations: functions, graphs, polynomials
- Data analysis: Displays and Probability; Permutations, combinations, dependent and independent events

Science

- Chemical Interactions: Atoms and bonding; Elements; Acids, Bases, and Solutions; Carbon Chemistry
- Motion, Forces and Energy: Fluids, Work and Machines, Energy, Thermal Energy and Heat
- Electricity and Magnetism: Electricity, Magnetism, Electronics
- Health topics covered through *Choices* magazine
- Robert Crown field trip on healthy life choices and reproduction in alternating years
- American Heart Association CPR and First Aid learned in alternating years

Social Studies

- United States history from Reconstruction (1865) to present times
- Independent/small group projects including research done for each chapter
- Use of primary sources to analyze economic, social, political change in the U.S.
- Emphasis on cause and effect of events in U.S. history as it fits into the world
- Analysis of maps, charts, and graphs
- Class trip with 7th grade to Springfield, IL and Washington, D.C. on alternating years

Technology

- Algebraic calculators
- Internet research
- Ethical use of data
- Presentation applications
- Research skills
- Essays, projects, and other assignments using Google Docs

Algebra

- Graphing, Linear Equations and Functions, Slope and Rate of Change, Slope Intercept Form, Direct Variations, Linear Functions
- Writing Linear Equations, Slope Intercept Form, Point-Slope Form, Standard Form, Parallel and Perpendicular, Predicting with Linear Models
- Linear Inequalities: Addition and Subtraction, Multiplication and Division, Multi-step, Absolute Value, Two Variables
- Systems of Equalities and Inequalities: Graphing, Solving by Substitution, Linear Inequalities
- Exponents and Exponential Functions: Applying Properties, Writing and Graphing Exponential Decay Functions
- Polynomials and Factoring: Solving in Factored Form, Special Products
- Quadratic Equations and Functions: Using Square Roots, Completing Squares
- Radicals and Geometry Connections: Graphing Square Root Functions, Radical Expressions, Radical Equations

Music

- Junior Choir twice weekly
- Singing at Sunday worship at St. John's Lutheran Church once per month
- Extra curricular handbell opportunity
- Extra curricular band and strings opportunity

P.E. (daily) conducted by certified P.E. teacher

Art (once a week)