



Trinity Presbyterian School Middle School Course Guide 2021-2022

Mission: To glorify God by providing for students the highest quality college-preparatory education, training them in the Biblical world and life view, thus enabling them to serve God in spirit, mind, and body.

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Curriculum Philosophy

Overview

The word curriculum refers to a course of study, either what is studied in an individual course or what is studied over one's entire school career. The curriculum of any given school includes both subject matter as well as instruction and instructional resources. At Trinity Presbyterian School, our curriculum focuses on two complementary goals: providing the highest quality college preparatory education and framing that education within a Biblical world and life view. Each year, as a student progresses from one grade to the next, the curriculum builds on itself, becoming progressively more challenging and reflecting the richness of the world around us. We work diligently on creating a seamless transition from one grade level to the next with the purpose of equipping our young people with the ability to engage with the wider world beyond them as they move on to college and their chosen career.

Biblical World and Life View

Christian education has a long and noble lineage both in Europe and the United States. Christian educators emphasize being able to read and think for oneself from a Biblical world and life view so that one can interact intelligently with both the Christian and non-Christian world. In an increasingly secular world, Trinity believes it is important to equip students with the necessary intellectual tools to engage with the world around them, understand others' points of view, and defend their own. In order to do this well, students receive a broad liberal arts education at Trinity that focuses on mind, body, and spirit.

College Preparatory Education

The world is undergoing change at an unprecedented rate due in large part to both technological improvements and increasing globalization. Preparing students for college and career has never been more important or more challenging. Since we assume that our students will go on to 4-year colleges, our graduation requirements reflect current college admission criteria. A range of course offerings from standard college preparatory courses to Advanced Placement courses prepare all our students for the college of their choice. An emphasis on reading comprehension, critical analysis, effective oral and written communication, and problem solving provide the necessary skills needed for our students to thrive in a college setting and in the work force. We diligently study the latest trends in higher education and make necessary changes to our curriculum as needed while still maintaining our core beliefs.

Middle School Overview

Trinity's Middle School includes grades six, seven, and eight and focuses on the transition from lower school to secondary school as well as from childhood to young adulthood. The school year consists of four nine-week grading periods, comprising two semesters. The core curriculum is supplemented with specialized instruction in Bible, computer science, the fine arts, physical education, public speaking, French, and Spanish.

Students may request changes in their schedule during the first two full weeks of each semester (drop or add a course). Requests are considered on an individual basis.

The GPA for grades 6, 7 and 8 is based on that single year only. Students who do not maintain a 2.5 average after the completion of grades 6, 7, 8 or 9 will be placed on probation for the following school year. Students must have a 2.5 at the end of the probationary school year in order to return to Trinity the following school year. **No student may be on probation more than once in grades 7-10.** Any student who leaves Trinity because of the 2.5 policy may be allowed to return to Trinity if he or she meets the transfer student requirements (see below).

Any 6th, 7th or 8th grade student who fails three semester courses may not remain at Trinity. Failed courses must be taken and passed in an accredited program approved by the Head of School. The summer school grade will not replace the failing grade and will not be included in the student's GPA.

All students transferring into the Middle School must earn and maintain a 2.5 GPA. All transfer grades will be recorded using Trinity course weights. **Any transfer student who is suspended during his/her first year may forfeit the right to return the following year.**

Middle School Course Requirements

3 units English
 3 units Math
 3 units Social Studies
 3 units Science
 3 units Physical Education*
 3 units Electives
 1.5 units Christian Studies
 0.5 unit Essential Computer Skills
 0.5 unit Public Speaking
 0.5 unit 8th Grade Rotation: French, Spanish

6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade
Christian Studies 6 (1 semester)	Christian Studies 7 (1 semester)	Christian Studies 8 (1 semester)
English 6	English 7	English 8
Mathematics 6	Mathematics 7 or Accelerated Math 7	Pre-Algebra 8 or Accelerated Algebra 8
Earth Science	Life Science	Integrated Science
Geography	Civics and Economics	U.S. History to 1877
Essential Computer Skills (1 semester)	Public Speaking (1 semester)	Rotation Class <i>French & Spanish (1 semester)</i>
Physical Education (or equivalent*)	Physical Education (or equivalent*)	Physical Education (or equivalent*)
Elective	Elective	Elective

**Physical Education units may be earned through participation in Physical Education, Athletics (7th & 8th grade only), Band, Wildcat Twirlers (7th and 8th grade only), or Dance.*

Middle School Grading Scale

Letter Grade Equivalency	Numerical Grade	Quality Points
A	90-100*	4
B	80-89	3
C	70-79	2
D	64-69	1
F	0-63	0

* Semester numerical averages cannot be above 100 points.

Christian Studies

Christian Studies 6: 1 semester (Required)

Christian Studies 6 focuses on Christ. Students will study Christ as He is revealed in the Old Testament, His life in the New Testament, and explore how historical evidence validates the claims about Christ in both the Old and the New Testament. This course will use both the Bible, as well as Lee Strobel's, *The Case for Christ for Kids*, as students examine how Jesus' life and teachings relate to their own. (This course is paired with Essential Computer Skills.)

Christian Studies 7: 1 semester (Required)

Christian Studies 7 focuses on the Old Testament, using the Bible as the main text. The primary goal of this course is to see God's unfolding revelation of Himself and His plan of salvation as told to us in the Old Testament. Students will continue to gain a familiarity with the Old Testament, the different genres that are used in writing the Old Testament, and increase their understanding of how to properly read the Old Testament. Students in this course will also be challenged to discover what it means to walk with God personally.

Christian Studies 8: 1 semester (Required)

Christian Studies 8 focuses on the advancement of God's kingdom through the establishment of His Church. Church History will be explored, beginning with the book of Acts and Paul's letters continuing to the present day universal church. Students will explore how the Canon of Scripture was established, important doctrines of Protestantism, denominational differences will be explored, and students' personal role in Christ's church will be determined. This course will also discuss sexuality and how the Christian should properly relate to all the choices that come with this gift God has given His people (Abstinence).

Electives

COMPUTER TECHNOLOGY

Essential Computer Skills: 1 semester (Grade 6) (Required)

Essential Computer Skills is designed to strengthen keyboarding, word processing, presentation, and a variety of essential content. This course builds upon previous knowledge in preparation to refine computer skills and digital citizenship.

Makerspace Engineering: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Makerspace Engineering is designed to be a *STEAM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) class providing students with an introduction to the Engineering Design Process. Working either collaboratively or independently, students will gain valuable "hands-on" experience building both pre-designed and self-designed projects. A student's creativity, critical thinking, and perseverance will be challenged as DIY meets education! *There is a \$20 fee for this class.*

This class will be limited to 15 students each semester.

Makerspace Engineering II-Digital Making: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Makerspace Engineering II is designed to be a *STEAM* (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) class providing students with an introduction to the Engineering Design Process. Working either collaboratively or independently, students will gain valuable experience using digital tools to build both pre-designed and self-designed projects. A student's creativity, critical thinking, and perseverance will be challenged as DIY meets education! *There is a \$20 fee for this class.*

This class will be limited to 15 students each semester.

Introduction to Robotics and Coding: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Intro to Robotics and Coding introduces the student to basic programming by using a version of MIT's Scratch program. Students also learn problem-solving strategies through the use of LEGO™ robotics which also promotes teamwork. *There is a \$15 fee for this class.*

This class will be limited to 15 students each semester.

FINE ARTS

Wildcat Twirlers: *Fall semester only* (Grades 7-8)

This is an all-female team that is a major part of our Marching Band. These students learn to twirl batons, flags, and other equipment that can be spun! All ability levels welcome! They meet regularly in the fall during their class time, perform for football games on Fridays, participate in Band Camp in July, and perform in Marching Band Contest (2-3 during the fall) on Saturdays. *Students will be responsible for the purchase of uniforms, accessories and equipment as applicable.* There will be a 2-day clinic this spring:

Parent Meeting: April 12, 3:15-3:45pm

Clinic 1: April 21, 3:15-5:15pm

Clinic 2: April 22, 3:15-5:15pm

Summer rehearsals, as well as before and after school rehearsals, are mandatory.

DANCE

Dance Ensemble I: (Grades 6-12)

Dance Ensemble I is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique. This class will offer the student knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pre-pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble I is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a basic foundation of the many different styles of dance offered at Trinity. This is a full year course. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

Dance Ensemble II: (Grades 6-12)

Requirements: Audition and Director approval

Dance Ensemble II is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique to continue to expand upon the development of the dancer. This class will deepen the student's knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a deeper foundation of dance while focusing on the use of epaulement in their technique and stage presence. This is a full year course. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

Dance Ensemble III: (Grades 6-12)

Requirements: Audition and Director approval

Dance Ensemble III is designed to offer the student a ballet-based technique to begin the development of a more serious dancer. This class will continue to offer the student knowledge of ballet, preparing them with pointe work, jazz, hip-hop, modern dance, dance history, stage etiquette, and ballet terminology. Trinity Dance Ensemble is designed for the performer and will give these dancers a deeper understanding of dance as an artist. They will begin to look at choreography, and what goes into this creative process. This is a full year course. *There is a \$100 class fee for costume rental and cleaning. Students purchase tights, leotards, shoes and skirts as specified by Director.*

INSTRUMENTAL

Beginning Band: (Grades 6–8)

Beginning Band is designed for the student with little to no prior band instrument experience. Through this class, students will, with Director's help and encouragement, choose an appropriate instrument to purchase for themselves or rent from the band program (renting option limited by instrument and demand). Students will develop skills in reading music, understanding the structure of major and minor scales, the execution of proper breathing and articulation on their instrument, and basic music composition. Daily home practice is expected of every student, to develop the successful habits and basic skills of a musician. Public performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and spring concerts, and the Solo & Ensemble festival in May. Beginning Band is a pre-requisite to participation in all other aspects of the band program.

Symphonic Band: (Grades 7-12)

Requirements: Prior Band Experience and Director Approval (audition required for 7-8 grade)

Symphonic Band is a full-year course, with an emphasis on Marching Band in the fall semester after school. The class provides instrumental students the opportunity to develop, expand, and challenge their individual skill level. This is done through performing concerts and competitions on a varied array of concert band literature. Marching Band is one of the most visible performing groups at Trinity, providing halftime entertainment, support, and spirit at football games. In addition, the band takes pride in participating in competitions across the Southeastern United States and performing at various community and civic events.

Summer rehearsals, as well as before and after school rehearsals, are mandatory.

Symphonic Band and Marching Band perform music at the high school level. Students in grades 7 and 8 are eligible to audition for acceptance into each ensemble if they have displayed admirable work ethic and dedication to their musicianship.

Guitar I – Beginning Guitar: (Grades 6-12)

Guitar is designed to give students the opportunity to learn guitar with little or no prior musical experience. Students will learn and develop the basics of playing the instrument, different musical styles, how to read music, and how to perform. Students may purchase their own instrument or instruments may be issued from the band program (issuing option limited by instrument and demand). Performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, Solo and Ensemble in May, and festivals.

Guitar II – Intermediate Guitar: (Grades 6-12)

Intermediate Guitar is designed to further the skill of playing the guitar. This course is open to students who have some experience with the guitar. Performance opportunities for this class will come primarily from performances at the Christmas and Spring Concerts, Solo and Ensemble in May, and festivals.

VOCAL

Middle School Concert Choir: (Grades 6-8)

Middle School Concert Choir addresses the musical interests of young singers who are eager to explore Classical to Contemporary vocal repertoire. Two annual school concerts include the Fine Arts Department Christmas show *Twas the Night* and the Spring Choral Performance. Students are provided opportunities throughout the year to sing for community events, social gatherings and school functions. Students participate in Middle School All-State Choir and State Choral Assessment. Classroom instruction from a biblical worldview provides support for growth in emotional, social, spiritual and academic independence. From the beginning vocalist to the experienced choir member, students are nurtured in sight singing, music theory and vocal technique. *There is a class fee of \$100 for concert attire for new members. This includes formal dresses and tuxes. Girls will own their dress and take it with them as they age out of Middle School Choir. They may also wish to sell to an upcoming student. Returning choir members will be assessed a class fee of \$35.00.*

VISUAL ARTS

Drawing and Design: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Drawing will introduce students to traditional drawing and design techniques and concepts. Formal aspects of art-making and fundamental instruction on the elements and principles of art will be applied to create art in a variety of drawing media. Seeing and drawing skills will develop as students work with volume and space, linear perspective, mark making, and value. Students will further develop skills using various materials, methods and approaches in creating works of art and design. Students will learn how to critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. Activities will be individualized and collaborative. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

Mixed Media: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Mixed Media allows students the opportunity to create work that combines traditional, and non-traditional visual art media, combining these in the same physical artwork (ordinary objects that can be transformed into creative works of art).. This course is designed to give students a wide variety of art making experiences and allows students to continue to explore various visual art forms and techniques through the elements and principles of art and design. Students will produce original artworks and learn skills and techniques associated with a variety of art media. Students will also learn to critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

3D Design: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Three-Dimensional (3D) Design introduces students to the fundamental context of sculpture and three-dimensional design. The course introduces students to basic techniques, concepts, and materials found in the sculptural arts. Students will investigate 3D design from art history to current works of art. Creativity, problem solving and technical design solutions will be explored through projects that are both traditional and non-traditional in nature. Formal aspects of art-making and fundamental instruction on the elements and principles of art will be used to create

works of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$25 fee for this class.*

Animation: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Animation allows students the opportunity to improve skills in the art form of animation, merging the arts of illustration, sculpture, filmmaking, design and technology. Using various methods of story telling, students will experiment with hand-drawn, computer, and stop motion techniques. Students will work on projects individually and collaboratively. Students will study the history of animation to current day works and career opportunities in the field of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$15 fee for this class.*

Visual Media: 1 semester (Grades 6-8)

Visual Media is designed to allow students the opportunity to explore technology in relation to the visual arts and the history of art. Graphic design, basic animation, and collage will be explored, as well as apps and computer programs as they relate to design, expression and creating visual works of art. Students will critically analyze how their works of art align with project criteria. *There is a \$15 fee for this class.*

English

English 6: (Required)

English 6 focuses on the study of formal grammar, paragraph structure and vocabulary building. Literature study includes reading and discussing short stories, poetry, nonfiction, science fiction or fantasy stories, and at least one novel per nine weeks. In addition to formal literature study, students engage in independent interest-based reading through the AR program, which not only aids students in developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

English 7: (Required)

English 7 focuses on the study of formal grammar, essay writing, and vocabulary building. Trinity's use of a spiraling curriculum means that while components of ELA from the previous year are similar, students will be expected to perform at greater levels of sophistication.

Literature study includes the reading, interpretation, and discussion of short stories, drama, poetry, non-fiction, mythology, and at least one novel per nine weeks. In addition to formal literature study, students engage in independent interest-based reading through the AR program, which not only aids students in developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

English 8: (Required)

English 8 focuses on the integration of grammar, essay writing, and vocabulary building. Literature study includes the reading, interpretation, and discussion of short stories, drama, poetry, non-fiction, and at least one novel per nine weeks. In addition to formal literature study, students engage in independent interest-based reading through the AR program, which not only aids students in developing their own reading tastes, but also increases their reading comprehension and vocabulary skills.

Trinity's use of a spiraling curriculum means that while components of ELA from the previous year are similar, students will be expected to perform at greater levels of sophistication. In preparation for high school, students in English 8 are expected to read much more advanced literature (i.e. Shakespeare) and to respond to that literature with stronger, interpretive writing.

Eighth Grade Rotation

Eighth Grade Rotation: 1 semester (Required Exploration Courses, Grade 8)

French	(9 weeks)
Spanish	(9 weeks)

Eighth Grade Rotation is taught in the fall semester and is required of all students. This course introduces students to the languages taught in Upper School which will enable them with to make an informed choice when selecting which foreign language to study in high school.

In each language the students learn basic pronunciation skills, initial vocabulary, basic grammar, and culture. At the end of the semester the grades for each rotation average equally for the semester grade. There is no semester exam for the rotation class.

This is an academic course designed to prepare students for high school, where foreign language classes are core courses.

Mathematics

Note: A student failing to meet the required average for a specific course will be advised accordingly as to the best course option moving forward. A student failing to meet the minimum average may have the option of completing a course supplemental program over the summer. Upon completion of the supplemental program, the student must demonstrate content/skill mastery as designated by the department on a comprehensive assessment at a specified time. This assessment will be given prior to the beginning of school.

Mathematics 6: (Required)

Math 6 allows students to build upon prior knowledge of whole number operations, study decimal operations, fraction operations, and integers. Pre-Algebra concepts are introduced with students studying how to evaluate one- and two-step equations. Additional content includes measurements, percent, ratio, proportion, graphing data, and measures of central tendency. The study of geometry content includes length, perimeter, circumference, and area. The course will strengthen students' ability to think, use academic vocabulary, problem solve, and think critically. Students entering Math 6 are expected to have a strong understanding of basic math facts and number sense.

Mathematics 7:

Mathematics 7 provides a connection from general math to algebra and geometry. The course begins with a review of the basic operations of arithmetic on whole numbers, fractions and decimals. This foundation leads them into the study of algebra and the appropriate use of academic vocabulary. This course of study will include simplifying expressions, solving equations and inequalities involving integers, whole numbers and rational numbers. Emphasis is placed on the repeated and extensive use of fractions and negative numbers. Probability, ratio, proportion, and percent will be studied in detail, along with basic geometry. Students will investigate and explore mathematical ideas to analyze and solve complex problems.

Accelerated Mathematics 7:

Prerequisites:

- Placement in Accelerated Mathematics 7 will be determined in the spring semester of a student's sixth grade year. A variety of markers, including an algebra placement assessment, pre-existing test data, and current grades, will be used to determine this placement.
- Department approval.

The Accelerated Mathematics 7 is a compacted course, which means that all of the content of Mathematics 7 and more than half the content of Mathematics 8 are compressed into this single course. Therefore, the curriculum moves at an accelerated pace. The students will engage in a rigorous study of operations using rational and irrational numbers, linear equations, inequalities, systems of linear equations, linear relationships, ratios, rates, proportions, percent, random sampling, data distributions, real-world applications of area and circumference of two-dimensional figures, and surface area and volume of three-dimensional figures. The Accelerated

Mathematics 7 course will prepare students for the redesigned and more rigorous Accelerated Algebra 1 course in grade 8. This course will require 30- 45 minutes of homework, nightly, including weekends.

PreAlgebra 8

PreAlgebra 8 provides students the opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of the basic algebra concepts before moving on to Algebra I, the foundation for all future math courses. This course will strengthen fraction, decimal, and integer skills. Students will be introduced to basic algebra concepts including multi-step equations, linear equations, slope, and graphing. Mastery of these concepts is essential for success in future math courses.

****Accelerated Algebra I-8**

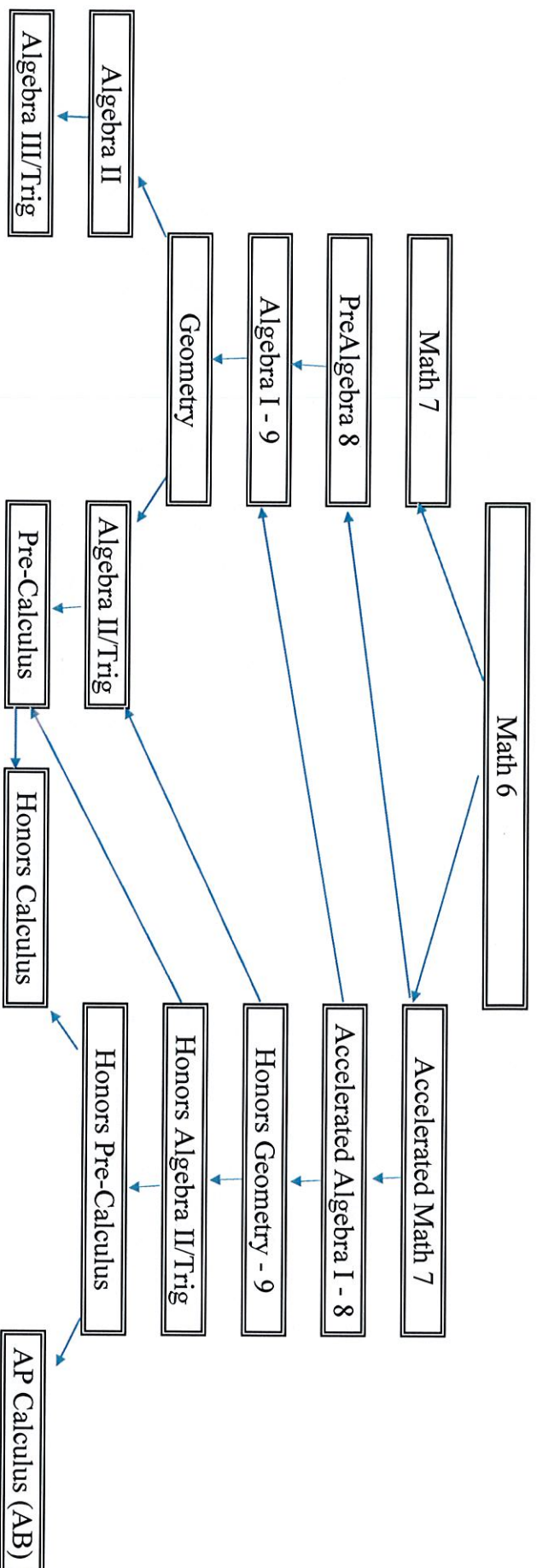
Prerequisites:

- Placement in Accelerated Algebra I – 8 will be determined in the spring semester of a student's seventh grade year. A variety of markers, including an algebra placement assessment, pre-existing test data, and current grades, will be used to determine this placement.
- Accelerated Algebra I - 8 requires abstract application of math concepts; it is imperative that students master proper calculations of decimals, fractions, and integers prior to enrolling in Accelerated Algebra I - 8. Mastery of proportions, ratios, evaluating expressions and solving equations is essential for success in Accelerated Algebra I - 8. Students must be intrinsically motivated to accept challenges and have a strong desire to learn.
- Department approval.

Accelerated Algebra I - 8 is a preparatory course for college-bound students designed to provide enhanced mastery in the basics of algebra and the skills needed to succeed in upper level math courses. This course emphasizes the real number system, graphing, polynomials, factoring, linear equations, systems of linear equations, and solving inequalities. Accelerated Algebra I – 8 accentuates the process of problem solving and critical thinking through the application of algebra concepts to real world situations.

*****Accelerated Algebra I – 8 is a pivotal course in math education and the foundation for all future math classes. Students taking Accelerated Algebra I in the eighth grade must have at least an 85% average for the year, with no lower than an 85% average for second semester. Eighth grade students not meeting the minimum 85% average will be required to take Algebra I in the ninth grade.***

TRINITY PRESBYTERIAN SCHOOL MATHEMATICS COURSES



Accelerated/honors courses are listed on the right-hand side of this chart. In the event a student is unable to maintain the requirements of the accelerated/honors course, the arrows to the left column indicate options for the next year. Eleventh grade students completing Pre-Calculus will proceed to Honors Calculus, as indicated by the arrow. Courses may be added or removed based on student need.

Physical Education

Grades 6-8: (Required)

Physical Education students will participate in a variety of health-enhancing activities that allow the early adolescent to experience positive, challenging, and enjoyable physical activity while learning about its benefits and importance. Students are expected to perform skills and/or a combination of skills in a group setting on a field, in a gym, or in a weight room. These experiences provide the students with a positive outlet for competition with peers and a means of gaining the respect and recognition of others. Physical Education should provide confidence as students take steps towards independence and maintaining healthy lifestyles. Participation in the physical education program occurs in a safe and inclusive learning environment where students are able to work with others to achieve a common goal.

Public Speaking

Grade 7: 1 semester (Required)

Public Speaking is an introduction course to communications, oratory, and debate. Students participate in writing original speeches using the informative and persuasive genres, perform impromptu speeches, and debate in a variety of formats. This course allows the students to experience the research process as they utilize basic MLA formatting procedures.

Science

Earth Science 6: (Required)

Earth Science involves an in-depth study of Earth as well as stars and other galaxies. The course involves critical thinking, laboratory activities, group discussions and collaborative learning. The Biblical worldview is taught through a purposeful exploration of the Scriptures that applies to God's Creation. Content includes the methods of science, mapping the Earth, the overall structure of the Earth, minerals and rocks, Earth's atmosphere, Earth's climate, as well as earthquakes and volcanoes. Students study the stars and galaxies prior to a three-day trip to the United States Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Life Science 7: (Required)

Life Science overviews the characteristics of living things. There is an emphasis on gaining an appreciation for the beauty and diversity of God's living creation. Life science includes the study of classification, cell structure and function, the human body and a survey of organisms ranging from bacteria to mammals. Students are given opportunities to use the scientific method as well as direct observation and study to solve problems and gain understanding of life on Earth. Through laboratory activities, students develop skills in the areas of slide preparation and microscope use, dissection, and experimental design. Students apply computer skills as they conduct scientific research and prepare presentations. Field studies allow students to utilize research skills outdoors to make practical applications in a real-world setting. Scientific opportunities such as these, fosters the development and application of critical thinking and analytical skills.

Integrated Science 8: (Required)

Integrated science curriculum incorporates three core ideas for engineering, technology, and the application of science. There is an emphasis placed on independent thinking as well as collaborative problem solving. Students learn scientific skills crucial for success in advanced science classes as they become actively engaged through experiences in experimental design, accurate measurement, laboratory equipment and its usage, and data interpretation. Students explore the properties of chemistry and physics while becoming proficient in scientific skills. The curriculum will be explored with hands-on labs and a creative use of project based learning.

Social Studies

Geography 6: (Required)

Geography content covers the physical nature of the world and the relationships between people and their environments. Students study geography in the context of economics, politics, culture, and history. In this world geography course, students focus on Latin America, Western Europe, Eastern Europe, Africa south of the Sahara, and Asia.

Civics and Economics 7: (Required)

Civics and Economics examines the roles citizens play in the political, governmental, and economic systems in the United States. Students examine the Constitution of the United States, identify the rights, duties, and responsibilities of citizens, and describe the structure and operation of government at the local, state, and national levels. Students investigate the process by which decisions are made and explain the government's role in the American market economy.

United States History to 1877 – 8: (Required)

United States History covers events and issues from the Age of Exploration through Reconstruction, emphasizing the 18th and 19th centuries. Topics covered will include, but are not limited to: exploration, colonization, Revolutionary War, constitutional issues, nation building, Civil War, and Reconstruction.