

Eighth Grade

Fast Facts

- 24 student maximum class size
- 90-120 minutes of homework per night
- 3-5 field trips
- 3 enrichment classes per week: PE, Spanish, and STEAM

Field Trips & Highlights

- Woodleaf Spiritual Retreat (Young Life Camp)
- Weekly STEAM class
- *A Christmas Carol* play at the Leshner Center
- Science Fair
- Class trip to Washington D.C., Gettysburg and New York City
- Constitutional Convention
- President Project
- Civil War Project
- Washington D.C. journal and scrapbook
- Research Project and Presentation
- Ellis Island Immigration Simulation
- 8th Grade Play

Homework Expectations

- 90-120 minutes each night
- 800 pages per quarter of nightly readings
- 20 hours of volunteer service

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Curriculum Outlines

Bible and Christian Leadership

Eighth graders spend the year discussing ways to move biblical head-knowledge into their hearts. Through discussion, journaling, role-playing, skits, and small group discussions, students examine what it means to live out their Christian faith. How to read and apply scripture (detailed study of Philippians), Francis Chan's *Crazy Love* and Andy McLean's *Big Questions*, guide classroom discussions and help students discuss the potential impact that they will have on their high school campuses when modeling strong Christian character.

Language Arts – Houghton Mifflin Harcourt [HMH Collections](#)

Eighth Grade language arts focus on reading, critical thinking, writing, and speaking. Students continue to build their grammar, vocabulary, literary analysis and interpretation, formal and creative writing, and speech skills. Writing units are designed to help students understand the structure of various writing forms such as narrative, argumentative, informational, and literary analysis. Students apply Christian perspective and principles when writing and analyzing literary works. Classwork and homework include responses to literature or nonfiction text, reading comprehension, independent home reading, annotation, vocabulary, essays, and group projects. In the spring, our eighth grade classes produce a theater production for the SRVCA community.

Math - [McDougal Littell \(Pre-Algebra\)](#), [Big Ideas \(Algebra\)](#), [Holt McDougal Larson \(Geometry\)](#)

Eighth grade students are split into three levels for math: Pre-Algebra, Algebra 1, and Geometry. Small student-teacher ratios and leveled math classes allow students to master developmentally appropriate concepts with confidence. Units of study include rational numbers, equations, inequalities, area, volume, square roots, probability, and statistics in Pre-Algebra; equations, polynomials, linear functions, and graphing in Algebra 1; and proofs, parallel lines, properties of triangles, quadrilaterals, polygons, and circles, transformations, and 3-dimensional solids in Geometry. Each lesson offers digital math tools, modeling, differentiation and real life application. [IXL](#) provides practice and differentiation.

Science - Bob Jones [\(bjupress.com\)](#)

Physical Science covers the topics of physics and chemistry, specifically: matter, motion, energy, electricity, and chemistry. Students explore fundamental physical science concepts and basic investigative skills. Students develop an awareness of the unique relationship of the Bible, physical science and the world. All hands-on activities stress the scientific method of problem solving and allow students to see how experimentation and observation are the bases of scientific investigation.

Social Studies – Bob Jones [\(bjupress.com\)](#)

Eighth graders study American history starting with exploration and settlement of North America to America in the twentieth century. Particular attention is paid to the history of the sites students will visit on their trip to Washington, D.C, Gettysburg, and New York City. Weekly map quizzes are also incorporated into this program.

Spanish - [Realidades B, \(Prentice Hall/Pearson\)](#)

Eighth grade continues its focus acquiring the language in line with a high school Spanish 1 class. Students build on their skills in description, narration and informational contexts, and are generally able to move directly into Spanish II.