

# MIDDLE SCHOOL CURRICULUM GUIDE

**PRINCE *of* PEACE**  
CHRISTIAN SCHOOL & EARLY LEARNING CENTER

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# ENGLISH

## Grade 6

Students in Grade 6 and 6 Honors take two specific English Language Arts classes which both encompass the ELA skills of reading, writing, speaking, and listening. ELA students explore and grow these skills at the appropriate level by immersion into relevant and engaging literature selections including classic literature, primary source documents, and literary nonfiction. Each academic quarter is broken into three shorter units with a specific cross-curricular ELA focus. Students are introduced to Sadlier Oxford's SAT prep program for Vocabulary instruction, as well as the Jane Schaeffer Method of paragraph writing. In addition to the ELA classroom, 6<sup>th</sup> grade students also explore reading, writing, speaking and listening in the POPCS Media Lab. These critical skills are furthered with instruction in digital research and information literacy, allowing students to become actively involved readers, writers, and critical thinkers. ELA 6 and 6 Honors students participate in Literature Circles of various novel study units, as well as complete requirements for independent reading and book report presentations.

## Grade 7

Grade 7 and 7 Honors ELA classes engage in a thoroughly cross-curricular study of critical literary terms throughout the year in ELA class. Students continue on the foundation laid in Grade 6 in exploring multiple genres of classic literature, as well as short stories, non-fiction, prose, and poetry. Students enjoy participation in a Mystery Novel Book Club each year. In-depth instruction on the writing process includes both detailed instruction of the Jane Schaeffer Method of paragraph writing, and the use of Writer's Workshop, an 1-1 individual coaching session to break down and improve writing for each student, through personalized feedback. In Grade 7 and 7H, each student enters a local and national level writing competition, the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Competition. Grammar and vocabulary instruction continue with the SAT prep course of *Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Enriched Edition/Level B*.

## Grade 8

Grade 8 ELA and Honors ELA classes are strategically designed to allow students to better understand the value of literature and writing skills in their lives and in the world around them. Students become engaged in the frequent annotation and reading of classic literature such as *The Outsiders*, *The Princess Bride*, *Animal Farm*, *Old Man and the Sea*, and selections from the works of Edgar Allan Poe and William Shakespeare. Students are taught in a more abstract perspective that encourages personal growth and critical thinking, such as exploring satire, archetype analysis, and engaging in Socratic seminar. In a poetry unit, students closely read and carefully annotate a significant piece of poetry and identify a variety of rhetorical devices including ethos, pathos, and logos. Grade 8 and 8H students enter a local and national level writing competition, the VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Competition. Grammar and vocabulary instruction continue with the SAT prep course of *Sadlier Vocabulary Workshop Enriched Edition/Level C*.

# MATHEMATICS

## **Grade 6**

The Faith Based Objective of the Mathematics Department is that students would appreciate that mathematics demonstrates the orderliness, precision, dependability, and systematic character of God. Grade 6 Math begins by reinforcing fundamental concepts of mathematics, then each quarter of the year is divided into three units. Units of Grade 6 math include: The Number System, Ratios and Proportional Relationships, Expressions and Equations, Geometry, and Statistics and Probability. Students see Math in both a structured, but exciting way by exploring the concepts they have learned in the state of the art POPCS Interstate Batteries SmartLab quarterly. POPCS Math students are invited to participate in various academic contests, such as PSIA Number Sense and the Metroplex Area Math Contest for private schools.

## **Grade 6 Honors and Grade 7**

The Faith Based Objective of the Mathematics Department is that students would appreciate that mathematics demonstrates the orderliness, precision, dependability, and systematic character of God. Units of 6Honors and Grade 7 Math include: Integers, Expressions and Equations, Inequalities, Ratios and Proportions, Percents, Constructions and Scale Drawings, Surface Area and Volume, Probability and Statistics, Algebraic Expressions and Properties. Students see Math in both a structured, but exciting way by exploring the concepts they have learned in the state of the art POPCS Interstate Batteries SmartLab quarterly. POPCS Math students are invited to participate in various academic contests, such as PSIA Number Sense and the Metroplex Area Math Contest for private schools.

## **Grade 7 Honors and Grade 8: Pre Algebra**

The Faith Based Objective of the Mathematics Department is that students would appreciate that mathematics demonstrates the orderliness, precision, dependability, and systematic character of God. Units of 7Honors and Grade Math are Pre Algebraic, including: Equations, Transformations, Angles and Triangles, Graphing and Writing Linear Equations, Systems of Linear Equations, Functions, Real Numbers/Pythagorean Theorem, Data Analysis and Displays, and Exponents and Scientific Notations. Students see Math in both a structured, but exciting way by exploring the concepts they have learned in the state of the art POPCS Interstate Batteries SmartLab quarterly. POPCS Math students are invited to participate in various academic contests, such as PSIA Number Sense and the Metroplex Area Math Contest for private schools.

## **Grade 8 Honors: Algebra I**

Algebra I is the study of algebraic methods and the practical application of these methods. Students work on solving equations, polynomials, fractions, linear equations, and quadratic functions. Students will also justify, verify, interpret, draw, and label problems as well as represent verbally, numerically, geometrically, and symbolically, algebraic information. This course earns high school credit.

# SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

## **Grade 6**

Students in Grade 6 take two Science and Technology classes, both of which are completely hands-on and taught by teachers certified in Project Based Learning. In the General Science classroom, Grade 6 students explore Earth Science from a Biblical perspective, beginning with introductory laboratory skills, scientific conversations and gathering data, and the scientific method. Units of study include Geology, Oceanography, Meteorology, and Astronomy. Grade 6 students also learn in the state of the art POPCS Interstate Batteries Smart Lab, featuring full alignment with the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) to bring a truly cross curricular learning model alive. Students are constantly engaged and experimenting in the SmartLab!

## **Grade 7**

Grade 7 is the study of Life Science from a Biblical worldview that God is the creator of all things visible and invisible, living and non living. Units of study include Life Cycles and Metamorphosis, Cell Theory, Plant and Animal Cells, Genetics Overview, Classification Systems, The Human Body – Organ Systems. Students learn efficiently with real life experiments and examples that make topics easy to understand, remember, and relate to real life.

## **Grade 8**

Grade 8 Science builds on the foundational science instruction of previous years, and expands to prepare students for their academic futures by giving them a detailed introduction to Physics, Chemistry, and Biology. Units of study include the Periodic Table of Elements, Chemical Equations, Force and Motion, Waves and the Electromagnetic Spectrum, Organisms and the Environment, as well as detailed instruction on scientific research, culminating in a cross curricular research project. All instruction is student-centered and students gain and grasp critical thinking skills and collaboration by actively learning through labs, whole class discussion, research and real world experiments.

# SOCIAL STUDIES

## **Grade 6**

Grade 6 students explore World Geography from a Biblical perspective. The theme verse for Grade 6 World Geography is Isaiah 45:12, which says, “I made the earth and created man on it; it was my hands that stretched out the heavens...” The year begins with an introduction to the 5 themes of Geography, and continues with units of study on Population and Migration, Culture, Economics and World Trade, and Civics and Government. Each continent is explored throughout the year in World Geography. Guest speakers, virtual field trips, student designed service projects and more help the study of God’s world become meaningful to each child.

## **Grade 7**

Grade 7 students discover the History of Texas from hundreds of years ago to modern times. Students use primary and secondary sources to examine the rich history of Texas, including units of study on Natural Texas and Its People, Spanish Colonial Texas, Mexican National, The Texas Revolution, Early Statehood, Texas in the Civil War, The Age of Oil, Texas in The Great Depression and World War II, Civil Rights in Texas, and Contemporary Texas. Students always enjoy the annual Texas Class Trip just for Grade 7, to memorable places such as the Bob Bullock Museum and the State Capitol.

## **Grade 8**

Grade 8 students become fully immersed in the study of United States History. Designed and structured to fully prepare students for further study of American History, this course introduces and reviews the major historical figures and the development of the U.S. government from the Native Americans to current day. Units of study include: The Age of Discovery and European Colonization, The American Revolution, U.S. Government, Early American Republic, 19<sup>th</sup> Century Expansion and Reform, The Civil War, The Industrial Revolution, World War II. Current events are introduced throughout the year in Grade 8 as well, tying the history of the past to the reality of the present and building connections for students along the way.

# THEOLOGY

## Grade 6

In Grade 6 Theology class, students explore their identity in Christ and who He has uniquely designed each one of them to be through His free gift of salvation. In this discussion based class, students explore God's Word together, studying both Old and New Testaments examples of Godly men and women who served the Lord with gladness, and finding ways to apply these lessons from the Bible to our world today. Students are introduced to a Biblical Social and Emotional Learning curriculum that challenges them to serve others through faith. Grade 6 Theology also utilizes Tim Elmore's *Habitudes* workbook series on growing young Christian leaders, as students seek to learn how God will use them both now and in the future.

## Grade 7

In Grade 7 Theology class, students take a deep dive into the Bible, examining how God's word is pertinent and relatable to all areas of their lives and is the greatest tool they can have for sharing their faith. Grade 7 Theology continues utilizing the Tim Elmore *Habitudes* workbook series on growing young Christian leaders, as students continue to learn how God will use them both now and in the future, and how their voice as a Christian matters. Grade 7 Theology designs and completes several service projects throughout the year to impact the community. Students complete a novel study together in class and study current Christian music choices as well as use a daily journaling Bible. Social and Emotional Learning is taught from a Biblical perspective in Grade 7 Theology.

## Grade 8

Grade 8 Theology focuses on the study of the New Testament, specifically the Biblical command to, "Go make disciples." Students have in depth studies of the Trinity, the Gospels and Jesus's use of parables in His teaching, the miracles of Jesus, the disciples of Jesus, the Epistles, and Apocalyptic Scripture. Grade 8 Theology also utilizes the Tim Elmore *Habitudes* workbook series on growing young Christian leaders, and serves as Chapel Leaders and Advisory mentors to younger students, writing devotions and leading in group prayer. Grade 8 Theology classes design and complete several service projects throughout the year to impact the community. Social and Emotional Learning is taught from a Biblical perspective in Grade 8 Theology.