



SECOND BAPTIST SCHOOL
MIDDLE SCHOOL
COURSE CATALOG 2022-2023

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Second Baptist School
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Introduction

This catalog contains the descriptions of courses we will offer for the 2022-2023 academic year. We strive for a curriculum that reflects our mission of challenging students to think critically, live biblically and lead courageously.

Scheduling Classes

Parents and students should be aware that the master schedule may vary somewhat from year to year, and course availability is subject to student need and teacher availability. There are inevitable conflicts that may cause a student to receive an elective that, though a choice, may not be their first choice. Every effort is made to ensure that each student will have the opportunity to take the courses he/she desires as well as those that are required.

Electives Philosophy

Because the middle school years are formative in terms of students' interests and abilities, we strive to give students the opportunity to experience as many electives as possible before the transition to upper school. Early in their middle school careers, students will have the opportunity to experience a variety of our core elective programs. Through exposure to skills and content they might not normally choose, we believe middle schoolers will discover more about their gifts and interests, enabling them to inspire others and live for the honor and glory of God.

PHILOSOPHY OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Second Baptist School recognizes that Christian education is both Christ-centered and excellent. This education is provided within a caring community for the honor and glory of God.

CHRIST-CENTERED

Second Baptist School operates according to biblical principles, without apology or compromise. God reveals Himself to us in the natural world, in Jesus Christ, and in His Holy Word, the supreme and absolute source of Truth. As students pursue Truth and knowledge to understand the world around them, they are inspired to know God more deeply. (John 1:1; Psalm 19:1-3; Hebrews 1:3; 2 Samuel 22:31)

Second Baptist School roots its teaching in the Word of God to develop a biblical worldview across academic disciplines and all areas of life. We exist because of our dedication to God, our devotion to Truth, our value for intellectual curiosity, and our concern for the young people committed to our care. (2 Timothy 3:16-17; Psalm 119:104-105; Romans 12:2)

Second Baptist School affirms that, through faith in Jesus Christ, we are entrusted with the sacred privilege and high responsibility of maturing in our own walk with God and helping our students do the same. In loving God, we are humbly committed to putting the needs of others above our own and trust this effort will bear fruit in the lives of our students. (2 Corinthians 5:17; Galatians 2:20; Isaiah 55:11)

PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

Second Baptist School proclaims that our students' education must be both Christ-centered and academically excellent. All excellence, academic and otherwise, is an ongoing pursuit for the honor and glory of God. We equip our graduates to perform at the highest levels of their respective fields and disciplines so that they can serve as the next generation of Christian leaders. As representatives of the Second Baptist community, students are challenged to become increasingly Christ-like and held accountable to seek excellence in all that they do. (Colossians 3:23)

Second Baptist School commits to a mission-driven, vertically-aligned academic program to develop students capable of making a global impact. Teachers consistently collaborate with one another and pursue professional learning opportunities to improve as educators. Students acquire a strong foundation of knowledge and skills, which are employed in a variety of contexts and situations as they attain the problem-solving and critical thinking necessary for success in the 21st century. (Matthew 25:40; Hebrews 10:24-25)

Second Baptist School extends its education beyond the classroom through co-curricular activities, leadership programs, and creative learning experiences. These opportunities build character and integrity so students can compassionately engage and relate to others. We seek to develop the whole student by cultivating his or her interests and passions in a variety of areas, including athletics, the arts, service initiatives, clubs and organizations. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Psalm 139:14; Ephesians 2:10; Colossians 3:17)

CARING COMMUNITY

Second Baptist School believes in a balanced partnership and consistent communication between family, church and school. Through our collective commitment to intentionally shepherd students, we ultimately seek to produce ambassadors for Christ. God ordained the family as the place for children to learn and grow, and the Christian school humbly serves in a complementary role as it supports the academic development and spiritual formation of students. (Proverbs 22:6; 2 Corinthians 5:20)

Second Baptist School recognizes that every student is uniquely created in the image of a good and loving God. It is our responsibility to equip and support students as they navigate challenges and opportunities in pursuit of God's calling for their lives. We empower students to discover their individual passions and interests so that they may realize their divine potential and serve the world around them. (Genesis 1:26-27; Jeremiah 29:11; 1 Peter 4:10-11)

Second Baptist School understands that students flourish within the context of strong relationships with faculty and staff. We value Christian educators, empowered by the Holy Spirit, who are called into their vocation to disciple, mentor and invest in students. Second Baptist School hires and develops faculty and staff who are excellent within their field, committed to professional growth and dedicated to the biblical truths and guiding principles upon which the school was founded. (Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 2:13-16)

Fifth Grade Course Descriptions

2022 - 2023

The following required and elective courses are designed to enhance the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical development of fifth grade students.

REQUIRED COURSES

Fifth Grade Bible

Students explore the gospel of John along with supplemental lessons from the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke. Students learn inductive study methods as well as how to use a prayer journal and a daily devotional. The overarching course goal is to better understand who Jesus is and what He has done, as students personally apply God's Word to their lives. This course infuses the relevant biblical truth of John's account into a collaborative and supportive learning environment with a focus on student spiritual understanding and growth.

Fifth Grade English

Students experience the ongoing development of their interest and independence in reading through whole-class novel studies, book clubs and their individual independent reading efforts. Over the course of the year, students will self-select books to read, increase their reading volume, read with understanding and deepen that understanding through writing about books and the ideas within them. In addition to their growth in reading, students will develop confidence in expressing their ideas through writing. As they write across a variety of discourses, students will improve their syntax and deepen their understanding of the intention of grammatical conventions.

Fifth Grade Math

Students refine their fluency skills in whole numbers, fractional and decimal operations through solving a range of complex math problems. Students are introduced to the concept of writing, interpreting and using mathematical expressions and equations. Students also are introduced to ratios and rates, equations and inequalities, as well as volume. This course provides a strong foundation for success in future middle school math courses.

Fifth Grade Science

Students focus on three units: physical science, life science and space science. In-depth study units include exciting topics such as states of matter, forces and motion, forms of energy, owls and living and working in space. Students develop skills in reading and discussing scientific information in daily life. Students participate in interactive labs that reinforce the importance of inquiry and critical thinking, as well as scientific writing. This course is intended to instill a love of scientific knowledge while developing study skills, critical thinking and inquiry.

Fifth Grade Social Studies

Students explore the early history of the United States and develop critical thinking skills to make inferences and conclusions about events that happened early in America's history. Students grow in their understanding of how important events led to a free and democratic society, and they engage in discussions on the topics being studied. These topics include: Native Americans, Explorers, First Colonies, Road to Revolution, The American Revolution, U.S. Government, Westward Expansion, the Civil War and how America became a diverse nation. Students learn research skills and utilize technology often in this challenging and engaging course.

Fifth Grade Physical Education

In fifth and sixth grades, students rotate through a sport each season: fall, winter and spring. Varsity head coaches and assistants coach fifth grade students in preparation for middle school athletics that begin in seventh grade. Students develop an understanding of the sport, practice essential skills and compete with their peers. Foundational to the P.E. program is agility and strength training. Students visit the Athletic Center to learn agility drills and techniques for increased strength and conditioning.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Fifth grade students at Second Baptist School will rotate through four different electives over the course of their fifth grade year. During this year, students will be exposed to nine weeks each of art, band, technology, and theatre. We believe exposing students to a variety of electives at the start of their middle school journey will better equip them to choose electives in their sixth, seventh and eighth grade years. We also believe that by giving students the opportunity to participate in middle school arts electives, they will be better equipped to excel in our upper school programs.

Fifth Grade Intro to Art

Students experience a sampling of visual arts in this introductory course. They spend nine weeks practicing their drawing skills, learning different painting techniques and focusing on the elements of art. This project-based course is designed to grow artistic skills while exposing students to many mediums and mimicking God, the first and greatest artist!

Fifth Grade Intro to Theatre

In this course, fifth graders learn basic theatrical, production, performance and stagecraft terms and techniques, serving as a primer to the theatre arts. The first four weeks are dedicated to improvisation and film study; then students write or select a short play which they will rehearse and perform for family and friends. Additionally, students engage in creative drama and performance-based learning exercises and assignments.

Fifth Grade Intro to Technology

In this course, students use creative and computational thinking to solve problems. In addition to becoming experts at using their SBS-provided devices, students learn how to use essential platforms in Google Suite. Additionally, students receive an introduction to coding and learn what it means to be competent researchers and responsible digital citizens.

Fifth Grade Intro to Band

This musical course builds on skills learned in lower school music classes. Students aim to reach their potential as musicians, performers and lifelong learners. Through participation in music classes at SBS, students experience the benefits of cooperation and leadership while building positive self-image and confidence to carry them into future arts performances.

Sixth Grade Course Descriptions

2022 - 2023

The following required and elective courses are designed to enhance the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical development of sixth grade students.

REQUIRED COURSES

Sixth Grade Bible

Students focus on the foundations of the Christian faith and study people, themes and important historical information from the Old Testament. Students learn to read the scriptures closely, drawing on application from daily life through study and discussion. This fast-paced course utilizes a project-based approach that blends story, discussion, creativity and personal application.

Sixth Grade English

Students read nonfiction, short stories, historical fiction, coming of age novels, mystery and poetry. Literature exploration comprises a major component of English in sixth grade. Students also complete a significant amount of independent reading. Reinforcement of grammar basics provide a strong foundation for more advanced grammar concepts in seventh and eighth grade. Vocabulary is studied based on the literature being explored. Students write to describe, to explain, to persuade and to demonstrate their command of grammar conventions.

Sixth Grade Math

Students develop proportional reasoning, accuracy in foundational skills and critical thinking for problem solving. Units of study include: integers and rational numbers, ratios and proportional reasoning, algebraic expressions, equations, inequalities, geometry and statistics and probability. The goal of this collaborative and energetic course is to develop mathematical fluency in computation and a rich understanding of mathematical principles.

Sixth Grade Earth Science

Students expand specific scientific skills and methods through problem-solving, inquiry, critical thinking, hands-on learning, global connections and the development of scientific literacy. Topics of study include geology, meteorology, oceanography and astronomy. Students study phenomena including volcanoes, coral reefs, earthquakes and space in this thought-provoking course. The primary course goal is for students to develop in-depth understanding and wonder of the majestic earth that God created.

Sixth Grade Global Studies

Students study world geography and diverse cultures, examining the relationship between people and places across the globe. Students use maps, globes, charts, models and databases to identify the characteristics and relative locations of major historical and contemporary societies as well as major world events. They also analyze the geographic factors that influence the economic development, political relationships and policies of societies. Finally, students expand their understanding of the relationships that exist among world cultures by using various methods of research.

Sixth Grade Physical Education

In fifth and sixth grades, students rotate through a sport each season: fall, winter and spring. Varsity head coaches and assistants coach sixth grade students in preparation for middle school athletics that begin in seventh grade. Students develop an understanding of the sport, practice essential skills and compete with their peers. Foundational to the P.E. program is agility and strength training. Students visit the Athletic Center to learn agility drills and techniques for increased strength and conditioning.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Sixth grade students at Second Baptist School have the opportunity to choose either one or two electives their sixth grade year. All sixth grade electives except for band are for one semester. Certain courses that are repeatable are noted; students may take them in both the fall and the spring semester.

Sixth Grade Art

Students learn the fundamentals through the elements of art. They learn basic drawing skills through observational line drawings, graphite self-portraits and perspective drawing. Students practice the basics of painting through color mixing acrylics and several watercolor techniques. In addition, students will learn about different art movements and artists throughout time. This is a project-based course designed to grow artistic skill while exposing students to many types of sculpture mediums.

Sixth Grade Theatre

Performance Craft is an overview of basic theatre and theatrical principles. Students choose and perform monologues, analyze plays, perform character study, create improvisations and perform a play. Students participating in this course will receive additional theatrical instruction to prepare for the middle school musical. This course gives students the opportunity to further investigate, discover and develop their talents. Through a variety of methods, students will communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts and relate interpersonally.

Sixth Grade Technology

In this course, students use creative and computational thinking to solve problems. In addition to becoming experts at using their SBS-provided devices, students learn how to use essential platforms in Google Suite. Additionally, students receive an introduction to coding and learn what it means to be competent researchers and responsible digital citizens.

Intro to Spanish

Students incorporate the five areas of language learning that are essential to progress toward competency in Spanish: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness. Students experience an integrated approach to language learning with expressions, vocabulary and grammar structures interwoven with cultural information. Additionally, students utilize technology and visual materials when they participate in language learning.

Sixth Grade Band

Band students have their choice of instruction in flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba and percussion. No experience is necessary, only the will and desire to play an instrument. The goal of this year-long course is that students learn to develop a quality characteristic sound on their instrument and develop music reading skills, as well as an understanding of musical notation, playing posture and tone production. The school is able to provide a limited number of band instruments. Sixth grade band will present a concert at the end of each semester and may participate in as many as three or four concerts in a year. Band is a year-long course.

Middle School Choir

Students in choir aim to enhance vocal performance. Students learn vocal techniques and styles while gaining experience through numerous performance opportunities. Students perform a varied repertoire as individuals and as a group. This is a repeatable course.

Sixth Grade Study Skills

In this course, students practice planning and prioritizing their homework schedule, determine organization techniques that work best for them, learn note-taking and test-taking strategies and how to reach long-term goals through short-term goal setting. Students identify their unique strengths and weaknesses and how to use them to develop study habits for success.

Seventh Grade Course Descriptions

2022 - 2023

The following required and elective courses are designed to enhance the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical development of seventh grade students.

REQUIRED COURSES

Seventh Grade Bible

In this course, students study the passages and principles of the New Testament with a focus on seeing the whole redemptive picture with Jesus as the hero. Each student will be introduced to key events, keywords, key themes, structures and, most importantly, how the loving heart of God intersects with Jesus' life.

Seventh Grade English

Students expand their knowledge and abilities in reading, writing and language in order to explore and become better communicators of the written word. In the area of reading, students further develop their abilities to determine and analyze main ideas, themes, point of view and literary devices in literature. Students sharpen writing skills through in-depth study of grammar (parts of speech, phrases and clauses), mechanics and usage. Finally, students experience the writing process by responding to literature through narrative and analysis writing.

Seventh Grade Math

Students expand their understanding of computational skills and have in-depth exposure to problem-solving methods. Course content includes properties of real numbers, rational numbers, ratios and proportions, solving equations, understanding linear equations and geometry topics (angles, triangles, surface area and volume). This course focuses on developing confidence in number operations to provide a solid foundation for pre-algebra.

Pre-Algebra

Students move from concrete thinking with numbers to more abstract thinking with variables. Concepts such as operations with integers develop into operations with variables and variable expressions. Topics include operations with integers, decimal numbers and rational numbers, evaluation of expressions, number theory, equations and inequalities, graphing of linear equations and geometry concepts, including volume and surface area. Students strengthen reasoning skills and develop problem-solving strategies through exposure to challenging and complex problems.

Algebra I

Algebra I is a *high school level course* that is foundational to the upper school math curriculum. Students focus on a conceptual understanding of multiple families of functions, real numbers, factoring, systems of equations and inequalities, and rational expressions. Students master the terminology of algebra and the concepts of algebraic expressions and equations. Topics include operations with integers and rational numbers, evaluating expressions, equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring of polynomials, graphing of linear equations and functions. Students will also be introduced to the graphing calculator and its applications.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Seventh Grade Life Science

Students are exposed to the study of living organisms, biochemistry, genetics and heredity, cells and pathogens, as well as the human body. Students utilize the scientific method to perform labs, analyze data, create models and pictures to represent the content and learn to write detailed, thorough scientific responses to analysis questions. The study of life science is one method of learning about God as He reveals Himself in His creation. With this fuller understanding of God's intelligent design comes a deepened awareness of the character and power of the Creator.

Seventh Grade Texas History

Students conduct an in-depth study of Texas history from the original exploration to current events; students will consider how various individuals, groups and issues have shaped the history of the state of Texas. Students analyze primary and secondary sources to understand the historical, cultural, economic, social and global forces on Texas' history. Additionally, geography skills are used to understand the location and characteristics of places and regions in Texas, collect, analyze and interpret data and explain the distribution and migration of population in Texas in the 19th and 20th centuries. Utilizing technology, this course engages students in all areas of Texas' rich history through a variety of projects.

Physical Education/Athletics

Athletics students have the opportunity to represent SBS on the following sports teams: football, volleyball, Spirit (cheer and dance), cross country, swimming, basketball, soccer, softball, baseball, golf and track and field.

Seventh & Eighth Grade Athletic Performance

Students participate in daily workouts in order to improve cardiovascular fitness, core strength, flexibility and agility. Activities include cycling, running, kickboxing, yoga, agility drills and instruction in light weightlifting techniques. Students increase kinesthetic awareness by developing a mindful connection between the body and the brain. This is an excellent option for off-season athletes.

Note: Students must participate in this class if they do not participate on an SBS athletics team.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Seventh grade students at Second Baptist School have the opportunity to choose their electives during their seventh grade year. All seventh grade electives except for band are for one semester. Certain courses that are repeatable are noted; students may take them in both the fall and the spring semester.

Advanced Art

Students in Advanced Art develop drawing, painting and art-making skills. This course helps students grow in their ability to discuss art and understand historical art movements of the past.

Art Ops

Students explore the world of future art opportunities, learning about creative careers through projects and play. Examples of career-focused projects include building design as an architect, logo creation as a graphic designer, capturing subjects as a photographer, creating character looks as a costume designer and animation as a videogame designer.

Advanced Theatre

This course delves deeper into topics touched on in previous courses. Students experience and explore classical and modern monologues, scene study, performance terminology, production terms, musical audition choices and an end-of-semester performance where the students present a play in front of an audience of family and friends. This course exposes students to the dramatic arts and gives them the opportunity to investigate this discipline to discover and develop their talents. Through a variety of methods, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts and relate interpersonally. There is no prerequisite for taking this course.

Advanced Technology

This project-based class provides a creative and engaging learning environment where students cover many topics including the Internet, Big Data and Privacy, and Programming and Algorithms. Students dive deeper into understanding how technology is designed and how it functions in applicable, real-world scenarios.

Coding and Robotics

Students learn intermediate coding and technical skills by designing, building, programming and controlling robots using the Apple Swift platform in this hands-on project-based class. Students design robots that respond and interact with their environment using programmable motors, color, touch and infrared sensors. This interactive course is designed to facilitate collaboration, creativity, self-direction and critical thinking skills through coding, providing a playful learning experience with real-world relevance.

Intro to Spanish

Students incorporate the five areas of language learning that are essential to progress toward competency in Spanish: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness. Students experience an integrated approach to language learning with expressions, vocabulary and grammar structures interwoven with cultural information. Additionally, students utilize technology and visual materials when they participate in language learning.

Note: If students took Intro to Spanish in sixth grade, they should not select this course.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Band

Students learn and refine the concepts and skills required to play a selected band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion) . An emphasis is placed on musical repertoire and reading skills. There is no prior music experience required, only a willingness to learn. Students will perform at football games and some basketball games. Students will also present a concert at the end of each semester and may participate in as many as three or four concerts in a year. Band is a year-long course.

Middle School Choir

Students in choir aim to enhance vocal performance. Students learn vocal techniques and styles while gaining experience through numerous performance opportunities. Students perform a varied repertoire as individuals and as a group. This is a repeatable course.

Intro to Journalism

Students learn the basics of journalistic writing, digital photography, storytelling and graphic design. Students have opportunities to practice and become more skillful at asking the right questions, gathering information, organizing ideas, formating stories for different forms of news media and editing stories for publication. The course also examines the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

Study Hall

Students have the opportunity to complete homework assignments each day, while also preparing for any and all upcoming assessments, including quizzes, tests, essays, projects, etc. Students are expected to arrive on time to each class and work on assignments during the scheduled time. Students track their daily work, course grades and academic goals. Students learn how to use the school website as a productivity tool. Students enrolled in this course must have something to complete, as this does not constitute a “free period.” Work must be brought from the student’s locker before class begins. Students receive a conduct grade and a letter grade on their report card for this course. Students must have two current teacher recommendations in order to be considered for this course.

Study Skills

In this course, students practice planning and prioritizing their homework schedule, determine organization techniques that work best for them, learn note-taking and test-taking strategies and how to reach long-term goals through short-term goal setting. Students identify their unique strengths and weaknesses and how to use them to develop study habits for success.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Model United Nations (Model U.N.)

Students develop problem-solving, public speaking and leadership skills while studying a variety of current and historical events. After receiving specific countries or individuals for their delegations, students compose position papers about these topics. Ultimately, students are assessed on their discussion contributions, the clarity and strength of their position papers and participation during in-class simulations, during which they debate from the perspective of their delegations. After taking this course, students should be able to clearly articulate and support arguments and participate meaningfully in Model U.N. simulations.

Spiritual and Community Leadership

The purpose of this course is to cultivate an environment in which students are challenged with leadership development, spiritual growth and community responsibilities. This is accomplished through student-led chapels, small group service projects and leadership learning principles. In addition, students are given opportunities to spend time in Scriptures, hear from other leaders on campus and build unity with their class/team. This is a repeatable course.

Eighth Grade Course Descriptions

2022 - 2023

The following required and elective courses are designed to enhance the spiritual, academic, emotional and physical development of eighth grade students.

REQUIRED COURSES

Eighth Grade Bible - Boys

This class is a study of biblical principles and practices that shape our spiritual life and challenge us to become more devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This course focuses on discipleship and Christian character with an emphasis on what a Man of God looks like and how he is called to impact the world around him. The course seeks to instill in students a vision for spiritual growth and Christian leadership with practical skills needed to carry out the mission of God to worship God, love others and make disciples.

Eighth Grade Bible - Girls

This class is a study of biblical principles and practices that shape our spiritual life and challenge us to become more devoted followers of Jesus Christ. This course focuses on discipleship and Christian character with an emphasis on what a Godly woman looks like and how she impacts the world. The course seeks to instill in students a vision for spiritual growth and Christian leadership with practical skills needed to carry out the mission of God to worship God, love others and make disciples.

Eighth Grade English

Students study grammar, vocabulary, writing and literature. As they encounter increasingly complex and varied reading selections, students refine and master previously learned knowledge and skills. Through close reading and in-depth analysis, students learn to interpret literary works. Students gain an increasingly sophisticated understanding of grammatical structures, usage and the conventions of language needed to communicate effectively with emphasis on the written word. Students produce structured short responses and one or more multi-paragraph compositions with varied sentence structure.

Mathematics

Pre-Algebra

Students move from concrete thinking with numbers to more abstract thinking with variables. Concepts such as operations with integers develop into operations with variables and variable expressions. Topics include operations with integers, decimal numbers and rational numbers, evaluation of expressions, number theory, equations and inequalities, graphing of linear equations and geometry concepts, including volume and surface area. Students strengthen reasoning skills and develop problem-solving strategies through exposure to challenging and complex problems.

Algebra I

Algebra I is a *high school level course* that is foundational to the upper school math curriculum. Students focus on a conceptual understanding of multiple families of functions, real numbers, factoring, systems of equations and inequalities, and rational expressions. Students master the terminology of algebra and the concepts of algebraic expressions and equations. Topics include operations with integers and rational numbers, evaluating expressions, equations and inequalities, operations with polynomials, factoring of polynomials, graphing of linear equations and functions. Students will also be introduced to the graphing calculator and its applications.

Prerequisite: Pre-Algebra

Honors Geometry

Honors Geometry is a highly rigorous *high school level course* reserved for eighth grade students who completed Algebra I during their seventh grade year. Students use geometric logic and reasoning as a method for problem solving. Students study two- and three-dimensional objects and their properties. Main topics for this course include lines and angles, reasoning and proof, triangle similarity and congruence, right triangles with an introduction to trigonometry, quadrilaterals and other polygons, circles, surface area and volume of solids, coordinate geometry and transformations. Geometry uses concepts introduced in Algebra I to explain and answer questions related to both two-dimensional and three-dimensional space.

Prerequisite: Algebra I

Eighth Grade Integrated Physics and Chemistry (IPC)

Students conduct laboratory investigations, use scientific methods during investigations and make informed decisions using critical-thinking and scientific problem-solving. This course integrates the disciplines of physics and chemistry in the following topics: motion and forces, scientific measurements, classification and properties of matter, physical and chemical changes, kinematics, periodic trends, and atomic structure and theory. Additionally, students consider the limitations of science and the distinction between scientific evidence/thinking and biblical truth.

Eighth Grade United States History

Students focus on American history, studying topics and events from the colonization of North America through the Civil War. The study of historical content involves political, economic, religious and social issues of the past and how they relate to the world today. Students also spend time considering, discussing and writing about the founding of our government as well as understanding how the government functions and why. Analytical thinking skills are emphasized, as well as the reading and writing skills of a historian. Additionally, students participate in a week-long trip to Washington, D.C. that immerses students in our nation's history and includes an interdisciplinary project.

Physical Education/Athletics

Athletics students have the opportunity to represent SBS on the following sports teams: football, volleyball, Spirit (cheer and dance), cross country, swimming, basketball, soccer, softball, baseball, golf and track and field.

Seventh & Eighth Grade Athletic Performance

Students participate in daily workouts in order to improve cardiovascular fitness, core strength, flexibility and agility. Activities include cycling, running, kickboxing, yoga, agility drills and instruction in light weightlifting techniques. Students increase kinesthetic awareness by developing a mindful connection between the body and the brain. This is an excellent option for off-season athletes.

Note: Students must participate in this class if they do not participate on an SBS athletics team.

ELECTIVE COURSES

Eighth grade students at Second Baptist School have the opportunity to choose their electives during their eighth grade year. All eighth grade electives except for band and Spanish are for one semester. Certain courses that are repeatable are noted below; students can take them in both the fall and the spring semester.

Advanced Art

Students in Advanced Art develop drawing, painting and art-making skills. This course helps students grow in their ability to discuss art and understand historical art movements of the past.

Art Ops

Students explore the world of future art opportunities, learning about creative careers through projects and play. Examples of career-focused projects include building design as an architect, logo creation as a graphic designer, capturing subjects as a photographer, creating character looks as a costume designer and animation as a videogame designer.

Advanced Theatre

This course delves deeper into topics touched on in previous courses. Students experience and explore classical and modern monologues, scene study, performance terminology, production terms, musical audition choices and an end-of-semester performance where the students present a play in front of an audience of family and friends. This course exposes students to the dramatic arts and gives them the opportunity to investigate this discipline to discover and develop their talents. Through a variety of methods, students communicate in a dramatic form, make artistic choices, solve problems, build positive self-concepts and relate interpersonally. There is no prerequisite for taking this course.

Advanced Technology

This project-based class provides a creative and engaging learning environment where students cover many topics including the Internet, Big Data and Privacy, and Programming and Algorithms. Students dive deeper into understanding how technology is designed and how it functions in applicable, real-world scenarios.

Coding and Robotics

Students learn intermediate coding and technical skills by designing, building, programming and controlling robots using the Apple Swift platform in this hands-on project-based class. Students design robots that respond and interact with their environment using programmable motors, color, touch and infrared sensors. This interactive course is designed to facilitate collaboration, creativity, self-direction and critical thinking skills through coding, providing a playful learning experience with real-world relevance.

Eighth Grade Spanish I

Students learn and utilize basic vocabulary, grammar and pronunciation of the Spanish language in this high-school level, full-year course. Students focus on the five components of language learning: listening, speaking, reading, writing and cultural awareness. Students learn five uses of verb tenses along with basic grammatical structures and they become acquainted with significant cultural aspects. There is no prerequisite for this course; however a strong understanding of grammar is a must, and placement in Spanish I is contingent upon measurable academic achievement in English Language Arts in prior grades.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Band

Students learn and refine the concepts and skills required to play a selected band instrument (flute, clarinet, saxophone, trumpet, trombone, baritone, tuba or percussion) . An emphasis is placed on musical repertoire and reading skills. There is no prior music experience required, only a willingness to learn. Students will perform at football games and some basketball games. Students will also present a concert at the end of each semester and may participate in as many as three or four concerts in a year. Band is a year-long course.

Middle School Choir

Students in choir aim to enhance vocal performance. Students learn vocal techniques and styles while gaining experience through numerous performance opportunities. Students perform a varied repertoire as individuals and as a group. This is a repeatable course.

Intro to Journalism

Students learn the basics of journalistic writing, digital photography, storytelling and graphic design. Students have opportunities to practice and become more skillful at asking the right questions, gathering information, organizing ideas, formating stories for different forms of news media and editing stories for publication. The course also examines the historical development of journalism and the role of journalism in society.

Study Hall

Students have the opportunity to complete homework assignments each day, while also preparing for any and all upcoming assessments, including quizzes, tests, essays, projects, etc. Students are expected to arrive on time to each class and work on assignments during the scheduled time. Students track their daily work, course grades and academic goals. Students learn how to use the school website as a productivity tool. Students enrolled in this course must have something to complete, as this does not constitute a “free period.” Work must be brought from the student’s locker before class begins. Students receive a conduct grade and a letter grade on their report card for this course. Students must have two current teacher recommendations in order to be considered for this course.

Study Skills

In this course, students practice planning and prioritizing their homework schedule, determine organization techniques that work best for them, learn note-taking and test-taking strategies and how to reach long-term goals through short-term goal setting. Students identify their unique strengths and weaknesses and how to use them to develop study habits for success.

Seventh/Eighth Grade Model United Nations (Model U.N.)

Students develop problem-solving, public speaking and leadership skills while studying a variety of current and historical events. After receiving specific countries or individuals for their delegations, students compose position papers about these topics. Ultimately, students are assessed on their discussion contributions, the clarity and strength of their position papers and participation during in-class simulations, during which they debate from the perspective of their delegations. After taking this course, students should be able to clearly articulate and support arguments and participate meaningfully in Model U.N. simulations.

Spiritual and Community Leadership

The purpose of this course is to cultivate an environment in which students are challenged with leadership development, spiritual growth and community responsibilities. This is accomplished through student-led chapels, small group service projects and leadership learning principles. In addition, students are given opportunities to spend time in Scriptures, hear from other leaders on campus and build unity with their class/team. This is a repeatable course.