

Jupiter Christian School



Middle School Course Guide 2024-2025

Grades 5-8



700 South Delaware Boulevard • Jupiter, FL • 33458

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*JCS students are educated in a
NURTURING COMMUNITY to EXCEL in
life and to ENGAGE the world for Christ.*

EXCEL | NURTURE | ENGAGE

Dear Students, Parents, and Guardians:

The heartbeat of our middle school academic program is our teachers and students.

Founding Father Ben Franklin captures the strengths of both our teaching philosophy and learning practices when he said: “Tell me and I forget, teach me and I may remember, involve me, and I learn.”

Building on the concepts and skills learned in Elementary School, students who EXCEL are ones who can investigate by forming questions, research, critically think, and creatively problem-solve for themselves and with others.

Academic readiness also includes a focus on building executive functioning and social-emotional skills. In addition to being subject matter experts, what our teachers do best is provide active, reflective and responsive experiential learning that involves the whole child – their intellect, their faith, their interests, and their social and emotional needs.

But how do we do this? What is the JCS difference?

- We do this by modeling **strong content knowledge and 21st century informational literacy and technology skills** in core subjects: English, Math, Science and History.
- We **differentiate the learning experience** not only through our Learning Services programs such as push-in support, Academic Coaching and Learning Strategies but also in the classroom with whole-group instruction, small-group rotations, technology, and fishbowl discussions.
- We **cultivate identity and spiritual formation** in a shared Bible and homeroom period along with weekly chapels - yet another opportunity for students to build relationships with one another and their teachers.
- We **develop character and leadership** through our house community, house council, interdisciplinary projects and research, R.E.A.C.H. Week, quarterly service projects and a variety of after-school clubs and athletic offerings .
- As Middle School is a **time of exploration**, we offer a full range of electives including Home Economics, Band and Choir, Theatre, World Language, STEM, PE, Journalism, Yearbook, Leadership, and Entrepreneurship – all meant to **STRENGTHEN & SHOWCASE** the interests, gifts, talents and abilities of a child.

It is with prayer and hope that the purpose and goals of our middle school academic program remain grounded in forming both competent and confident students who understand the Lord’s calling in their life and are ready to navigate high school and beyond.

Serving Him,

Mrs. Brittany Flesch, M.Ed.
Middle School Principal

Mission

Jupiter Christian School is committed to excellence in teaching the mind, reaching the heart, and inspiring servant leaders who will impact the world for Jesus Christ.

Vision

Jupiter Christian School will become a leading provider of quality education from a biblical perspective and a ready resource to help others with similar goals.

CORE VALUES

- **Biblical Calling**

- At JCS, I am known by name (Isaiah 43:1).
- At JCS, I am expected to do my best and reach my fullest, God-given potential (Colossians 3:23).
- At JCS, I am encouraged to learn and exemplify the life and teachings of Jesus (Romans 12:2)

- **Biblical Unity**

- At JCS, we approach all aspects of community life from a Biblical Worldview (1 Corinthians 12:12).
- At JCS, we are committed to biblical unity and service that mirrors the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 1:10).
- At JCS, we value parent-faculty partnership at every stage of student development (Proverbs 22:6).

- **Biblical Truth Seeking and Speaking**

- At JCS, we seek and search after the truth of God through His word. (Psalm 51:6; John 17:17)
- At JCS, we believe God's word is the source of infallible truth; all truth is His truth. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- At JCS, seeking truth is a daily discipline (Acts 17:11)

- **Biblical Stewardship**

- JCS is devoted to making Christian education accessible in our community (Matthew 19:14).
- JCS provides a rigorous liberal arts and college-preparatory academic program (Colossians 3:23).
- JCS diligently stewards the resources God has provided to safeguard a lasting legacy (III John 4).

Expected Student Outcomes

A Jupiter Christian School Graduate will be able to...

1. Incorporate biblical teaching of God-given identity and God-directed purpose to impact their community or potential career field through critical thinking, mathematical reasoning, problem solving, inquiry, and innovative solutions to overcome obstacles and carefully steward resources.
2. Through scholarly research, demonstrate the ability to critically read, apply, analyze, synthesize and evaluate informational texts from a biblical lens.
3. Write routinely over a variety of time frames to produce clear and coherent writing for a specified purpose and audience by assessing, discerning and prioritizing use of applications and programs to complete tasks.
4. Employ speaking and listening skills in various contexts including thoughtful discussion, peer, teacher/advisor and mentor conferences.
5. Demonstrate the ability to organize, create and deliver a formal presentation of one's own ideas based on research, experience and service-learning activity enhanced by technological skills and resources.
6. Understand their role in the global community to collaborate with others of diverse backgrounds and identify the value of an individual within a team to meet deadlines and achieve common goals.
7. Understand the importance of healthy choices, Christ-centered living, and a commitment to prayer as they positively impact the world around them.
8. Articulate the Gospel and think critically about biblical worldview as a lens for current events, world crises, cultural issues, and family relationships.

2024-2025 Middle School Course Offerings

Grade 5	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8
Bible - The Life and Ministry of Jesus	Bible – Journey through the Old Testament	Bible 7 – Journey through the New Testament	Bible 8 – Christian Life & Thought
English Language Arts 5 Honors English Language Arts 5	English Language Arts 6 Honors English Language Arts 6	English Language Arts 7 Honors English Language Arts 7	English Language Arts 8 Honors English Language Arts 8
Social Studies 5: American History	Social Studies 6: Ancient Cultures	Social Studies 7: Civics	Social Studies 8: American History
General Math 5 Honors Math 5	General Math 6 Pre-Algebra	General Math 7 Pre-Algebra Honors Algebra Readiness Algebra I Honors*	Pre-Algebra Honors Algebra Readiness Algebra I Honors* Honors Geometry*
Integrated Science 5 Honors Science 5	Integrated Science 6 Honors Science 6	Integrated Science 7 Honors Science 7	Science 8 Honors Physical Science*
<u>Elective Options</u> Art Band - FY Choir - FY Money Matters: Personal Finance STEM: Lego Robotics Home Economics Physical Education Theatre World Language Young Inventors & Entrepreneurship	<u>Elective Options</u> Art Band - FY Choir - FY Money Matters: Personal Finance STEM: Lego Robotics Home Economics Physical Education Theatre World Language Young Inventors & Entrepreneurship	<u>Elective Options</u> Art Survey Band - FY Choir - FY Entrepreneurship 101 Leadership 101 Personal Finance Physical Education STEM - FY Student Assistant Study Hall Tell Your Story: Intro. To Journalism Theatre World Language Yearbook* - FY	<u>Elective Options</u> 2D Studio Art* Band - FY Choir - FY Entrepreneurship 101 HOPE: Physical Education/ Health* Leadership 101 Personal Finance Physical Education Spanish I* - FY STEM - FY Student Assistant Study Hall Tell Your Story: Intro. To Journalism Theatre Yearbook* - FY

All course offerings are based on course enrollment.

- *Denotes High School credit course. Additional restrictions or processes for enrollment may apply.
- Placement for honors courses is based on gradebook data, NWEA MAP scores, and placement exam. Advanced academic programming provides rigorous coursework to enrich the learning experience. It is not intended to accelerate graduation.
- FY next to elective options denotes Full Year

2023-2024 Middle School Course Descriptions

BIBLE

Philosophy: Our mission is to reach every student's heart and mind for Jesus. Our Bible classes welcome students' questions and teachers demonstrate genuine transparency and humility, resulting in courses that are engaging, exciting, and academically profitable. We join JCS in its commitment to excellence in teaching the mind, reaching the heart, and inspiring servant leaders who will impact the world for Jesus Christ.

Bible 5 - The Life and Ministry of Jesus

It is all about Jesus! Students will spend the first part of the year reviewing the Old Testament, highlighting our need for a Savior. Next, they will dive into the life and ministry of Jesus exploring the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. The year finishes with the appearance of the Holy Spirit and the establishment of the Church and what it means to be a Christ-Follower.

Bible 6 - Journey through the Bible: Old Testament

Students study the structure, themes, and story of God from the Old Testament. Students recognize how God uses imperfect men and women to reveal His glory in each book, Genesis to Malachi. They are introduced to the basic methods of Bible study, with an emphasis on application. As a survey course, students discover who God is, the world and its fallen nature, and how Jesus Christ provides redemption. Students begin to utilize their Bible study skills to express their understanding of God's Kingdom and its integration into daily life.

Bible 7 - Journey through the Bible: New Testament

In this course, students study the structure, themes, and story of God woven throughout the New Testament. Students recognize how God uses imperfect men and women to reveal His glory in each book, Matthew to Revelation. They continue mastering methods of Bible study and exploring spiritual disciplines with an emphasis on application. This course challenges students to not only trace and understand biblical themes but also reflect on how to practically apply God's Word.

Bible 8 – Christian Life & Thought

The course Bible 8 invites students to revisit the worldview questions "Who is God? Who am I? Am I living as God created me to be?" This course will introduce your student to the wisdom of Proverbs, help them to reflect on Godly principles, and guide them through how to better face the responsibilities and decisions of young adulthood. Through deep discussions students will dig into important life questions. Everything from thoughts on culture to age-appropriate topics such as decision making, navigating friendships, attitudes about self and others, and integrity, all from a biblical lens.

ENGLISH

Philosophy: In teaching English Language Arts, we believe in engaging the heart, mind, and soul. We recognize that we are not merely instructing students, but informing, encouraging, inspiring, empowering a growing community of readers, thinkers, and leaders in the 21st century. Through close reading of diverse texts from a Biblical worldview, we strive to challenge students to think creatively, respond compassionately, and write critically about important issues.

English 5

In English 5, students are presented with a variety of genres to gain knowledge, understanding, and a love for reading. Students will analyze story elements, such as theme and plot, and focus on summarization. By improving their writing of complete sentences and well-structured paragraphs, students will then be able to generate thoughtful writings: including narrative, informative, and argumentative essays. These essays will showcase techniques such as dialogue, description, transition words, elaboration using evidence, and organizational structure.

English 6

English 6 takes students on a learning journey where God is in the details. We will explore writing genres including narrative, informative/expository, and argumentative styles with a focus on the rules and standards of proper English conventions. Travels also include taking a deep dive into literary and informational texts where students explore story elements such as theme, figurative language, point of view, text features, and author's purpose. As Christ is the great Author of all stories, we look for and discover His design in the texts we read. Together, we embark on a trip of a lifetime – learning collaboratively and presenting knowledge and understanding through essays, projects, and presentations.

English 7

English 7 students work together as learners and community members, growing in their understanding of who Christ is and what He has done. In this course, students will continue writing narrative, informative/expository, and argumentative essays, honing in on how to organize, revise, edit, and present their writing, both verbally and written. Utilizing technology will be a highlight of English 7, allowing students to create, collaborate, and demonstrate 21st century tech literacy skills. By studying literary and informational texts from a biblical worldview, students examine point of view, central idea, figurative language, and theme and their meanings within a text.

English 8

In this final Language Arts course before high school, English 8 takes students through a rich discipline of meaningful, significant content that will prepare them to actively participate in society and God's kingdom here on Earth. In this course, content standards do not stand alone, but instead are purposefully combined to create an enriching language experience. Students will be reading a variety of meaningful and thought-provoking texts that will prepare them to be informed, civic-minded, Godly members of their community. Students will be continually pushed to refine their English Language skills. They will develop these skills using classic literature, essays, articles, and speeches as mentor texts. The content for this class integrates biblical principles, critical-thinking, problem-solving, communication, rhetoric, collaboration, creativity, and technology-literacy skills, along with the traditional standards of reading, writing, conventions, research, grammar and finding meaning, traditionally found in English Language Arts classes.

***Honors English Language Arts 5th – 8th:** Advanced tracking and coursework will be provided for students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and high academic growth in the core areas of reading, writing, research and communication. Students may expect a greater range and depth of subject matter, with an emphasis on higher level critical thinking and communication skills that may include accelerated pacing. Students will be placed in Honors course sections based on gradebook data, NWEA Map scores, and authentic writing samples.

Social Studies

Philosophy: The Middle School Social Studies Department believes and teaches that God works through all parts of the past for His good. From discovering ancient cultures to the creation of modern governments, students examine how God's work can bring justice and hope. It is our intent to guide, encourage and empower students to form questions, seek truth, and evaluate humanity from a Christ-centered perspective. Our goal is to inspire the next generation of servant leaders, active and productive in their communities, impacting the world for Jesus Christ.

Social Studies 5 - American History

Let's discover and learn from America's past! The 5th grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on the development of our nation with emphasis on the people, places and events up to approximately 1850. To clearly understand the relationship between cause and effect in history, students will study the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influenced the initial inhabitation, exploration, colonization, and early national periods of American History. We will make connections to our studies with hands-on STEM challenges and projects, such as designing and building Native American helter, building and testing a crate from the Boston Tea Party, and even constructing a cannonball launcher!

Social Studies 6 - Ancient Cultures

Pack your bags! Did you know that there are almost 200 countries in the world? We will discover many of them as we travel back in time to the world's earliest civilizations of Africa, Asia, and Europe. Students will analyze multiple dynamics of world history including economics, geography, politics, and religion/philosophy through primary and secondary documents. Using the GRAPES acronym (geography, religion, achievements, politics, economics, and social structures), students will discover how and why civilizations develop and change. So, get ready for the journey of a lifetime as we discover **why** we continue to study these countries and civilizations hundreds - and in some cases thousands - of years later.

Social Studies 7 - Civics

Over 159 million people voted in the Election of 2020 even though this number represents *less than half* of the American population. So the question becomes, *how* do we influence change? To answer this question, students will study principles, functions, and organization of government; the origins of the American political system; the roles, rights, responsibilities of United States citizens; and methods of active participation in our political system. This course ensures, in the famous words of Abraham Lincoln, "that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth". By recognizing the overall structure, function and purpose of government, students may understand how to become a contributing member of their community and American society.

Social Studies 8 – American History

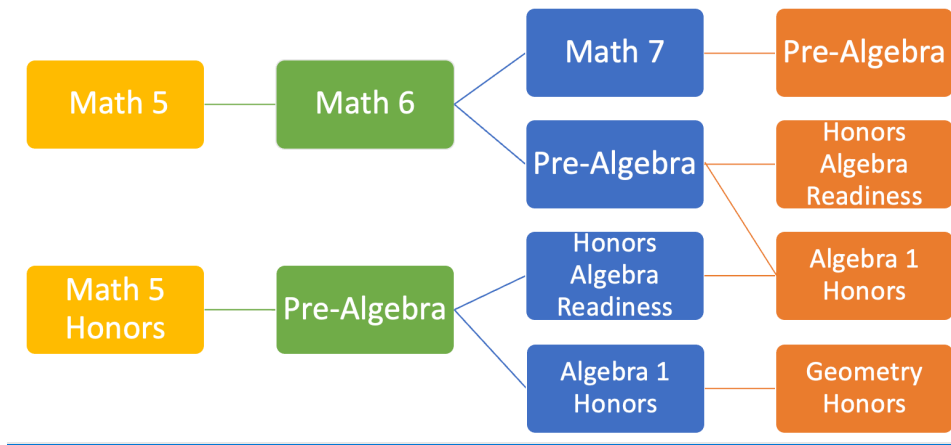
What if I told you George Washington never had wood teeth, that Christopher Columbus never discovered America and that Paul Revere never yelled “the British are coming!”? It's true...all these historical “facts” never happened! Take a walk on the wild side of American History and rediscover the truth of the founding of our great nation. Students will investigate the historical, geographic, political, economic, and sociological events which influence the development of the United States and the resulting impact on world history. This course pertains to the study of American history from the Exploration and Colonization period to the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War. So, join us with the Pilgrims on board the Mayflower, in Yorktown when the British surrender to George Washington and in Gettysburg with General Lee and Grant. We will walk through nearly 400 years of History to uncover the truths of our past and how it can change and impact our present.

MATH

Philosophy: The JCS math department exists to help students fully use their unique talents to advance the Kingdom of Christ. A variety of classes are offered to ensure that students will be both challenged and supported as they pursue their math careers at JCS. The common threads of all classes are:

- An emphasis on finding order in the created universe
- Real-world applications to mathematical thinking and problem solving
- Preparation for success in their high school education and beyond

Course Progression



Math 5

In General Math 5, students will actively engage with numbers by focusing on conceptual understanding, computational and procedural skills, and problem solving. The emphasis of the course will be number sense, fractions, algebraic reasoning, measurement, geometric reasoning, data analysis and probability. Students will increase their understanding of the course material by participating in small group instruction, including technology, hands-on manipulatives and games, independent problem solving, and real-world application.

Honors Math 5: In addition to covering the standards for fifth grade math, a greater range and depth of subject matter, applied projects, and accelerated pacing will be provided for students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and high academic growth in these areas. *Students will be placed in Honors course sections based on gradebook data, NWEA Map scores, and an end-of-year placement exam.*

Math 6

In Math 6, students will solidify conceptual understanding, fluency, application, and procedural math skills. The emphasis of the course will be operations with integers, fractions, and decimals; exploring ratios, rates, and percent's; using expressions and equations; extending geometric reasoning; and understanding statistical thinking. Lessons incorporate various methods including hands-on learning using manipulatives, collaboration, games, and projects.

Math 7

In Math 7, students will learn to solve problems while developing perseverance and confidence. The emphasis of the course will be understanding integer operations and how to apply those rules to rational numbers; creating and solving equations and inequalities; applying proportional relationships in two variables; extending geometric reasoning; and developing an understanding of probability. Students will be introduced to concepts and skills that will be solidified in Pre-Algebra.

Pre-Algebra

Prerequisites: 85% or higher in Honors Math 5, proficient growth or percentile on NWEA MAP, and proficient score on Pre-Algebra placement exam

Pre-Algebra is the foundational course before heading into high school mathematics courses and beyond. While students will review the concepts of integer operations and operations with rational numbers, much of the year will be spent expanding knowledge of writing and solving equations. By collaborating with fellow classmates and teachers, students will learn to apply the absolute truths of mathematics to a variety of problems to gain confidence and ensure understanding of those truths. Students will also become familiar with linear functions both in written and graphed form to prepare them for the concepts they will cover in Algebra.

Honors Algebra Readiness

This course is designed to lay a solid foundation for students who completed Pre-Algebra in sixth or seventh grade and intend to pursue an honors track in mathematics. Topics will include those covered in Pre-Algebra, but in greater depth and at accelerated pacing. The basic concepts of Algebra I will also be introduced and explored in depth. Students in this course are expected to learn algebraic processes, to solve problems, and to think critically to use those processes in real world situations. Students will be expected to be able to express key concepts algebraically, verbally, and graphically, both with and without a calculator.

Algebra I Honors - 1.0 High School Credit

Prerequisites: 85% or higher in Pre-Algebra, proficient growth or percentile on NWEA MAP, and proficient score on Algebra I placement exam

Algebra I is the introductory course to high school mathematics. Algebra I reviews pre-algebra skills and introduces the following algebraic topics: operations with integers, functions and graphing, radicals and rational expressions, quadratic equations and functions, exponents, polynomials, and linear equations. It is the bridge between arithmetic and abstract thinking. This course expects the student to learn algebraic processes, to solve problems, and to think critically to use those processes in real-world situations. Students experience mathematics as a coherent, useful, and logical subject that makes use of their ability to make sense of problem situations and is the foundation for all future mathematics courses in high school and beyond. As an Honors course, it will be taught at and tested at a more advanced level. The workload is greater and more in depth, requiring a higher level of abstract thinking.

Geometry Honors - 1.0 High School Credit

Prerequisites: 85% or higher in Honors Algebra I Honors and proficient growth or percentile on NWEA MAP.

This course takes an accelerated study of the topics in Euclidean Geometry. The students are taught to be able to interpret diagrams and solve for various items and prove their answers. As an Honors course, students can expect to do more proofs, word problems and high-level thinking questions to prepare them for upper-level math courses. Hands-on projects are part of the course that allow students to do work that is not always in a textbook.

SCIENCE

Philosophy: Middle School Science at Jupiter Christian School is designed to help students actively seek to understand God's order in His Creation and keep God's Word as the authority and standard for teaching science. Students are encouraged through investigation to unveil the mysteries of the physical and natural laws of the universe that will help them not only understand how things work but take that information and help them see that God is the center. He is the reason why it works and why it is truth, which in turn teaches them how to defend it so they can feel confident in the real-world to defend their faith. Following guidelines set forth by NGSS Standards, students will seek mastery in grade level appropriate areas of the following:

- Inquiry and investigation through scientific methods
- Data analysis and representation
- Application of engineering processes to problem solve societal issues through STEM challenges
- Creation and utilization of models to explain scientific concepts
- Development of critical thinking skills through recognizing and articulating evidence and reasoning to scientific claims

Science 5

Science is designed to be interactive and engaging! 5th grade scientists will develop and use models of various kinds, plan and carry out investigations, and use data from those investigations and learn to analyze and interpret it. You will use math and computational skills to gather evidence, engage in discussions to communicate information, and so much more. With development and use of these skills, you will study Matter, Ecosystems, Earth's System, and Space Systems. By the end of the year, students will engage in various STEM projects during each unit.

Science 6

Activate your natural scientific skills to engage in the world God made. Practice the skills of a scientist by following the scientific method and cooperate with your fellow scientists to uncover mysteries God has for us to find. Observe and record the connections we discover through the topics of Life Science, Earth Science, and Physical Science. Collect evidence to create beliefs, theories, inventions, and solutions to challenging questions. Connect purpose to function and design in everything we study through hands-on investigation. Dive into God's Word on the subject to apply your heart to your observation and add wisdom to your knowledge by learning a lesson from what you see. Share your findings with your community of learners as you envision a career in science

Honors Science 5 and 6:

Co-req for Math: Honors Math 5 and Pre-Algebra (6th)

Advanced tracking and coursework will be provided for students who have demonstrated high academic achievement and high academic growth in the core areas of integrated science, math, and reading. Students may expect a greater range and depth of subject matter, with an emphasis on higher level critical thinking skills and project-based learning

that may include accelerated pacing. Students will be placed in Honors course sections based on gradebook data, NWEA Map scores, and a placement exam.

Science 7

What does God want us to know about his Creation? And what does God want us to do with his Creation? Through research, interactive labs, virtual field trips and web quests, 7th grade students build upon their foundational knowledge in Life, Earth and Physical Science to examine topics such as the classification and states of matter, the changing earth and its cycling of materials, natural hazards, and ecosystem interactions and biodiversity from a Biblical worldview. Throughout this course, students discover the wonders of God as our Creator and demonstrate their mastery of core knowledge and scientific skills through STEM projects, performance-based assessments, and interdisciplinary research.

Honors Science 7

Pre-requisite: 85% or higher in Honors Science 6 and Co-req for Math: Honors Algebra Readiness or Honors Algebra I.

This advanced science course focuses on the same essential questions and topics as presented in Standard Science 7 with the primary purpose to prepare for Honors Physical Science. Emphasis on building data analysis skills including collecting and representing data e.g. creating data tables and graphing as well as mastering measurement skills moving into dimensional analysis e.g. unit conversions. Students will become independent in articulating and implementing the scientific method alongside advanced STEM skills.

Science 8

Why, How, and WOW! This culminating science course for 8th grade students emphasizes the role of the student as explorer, researcher, scientist, and inventor. Through the continued, spiraled study of Earth, Space, and Physical sciences, students investigate and evaluate geologic time from a Creationist lens, analyze energy and motion, explore waves, light, and information technologies, explore the impact of human activity on the earth, and develop models to explain our solar system. Students will articulate and demonstrate sophisticated content knowledge and advanced STEM skills through authentic performance measures including labs, inquiry-based research and interdisciplinary projects.

Honors Physical Science - 1.0 High School Credit

Prerequisite: 85% or higher in Honors Science 7 and Co-Requisite: Honors Algebra I or Honors Geometry

Physical Science is a foundational course for high school Chemistry and Physics which introduces the scientific discoveries of Newton, Boyle, Archimedes and many others. In general, the academic pace and rigor will be greatly increased for high school course work. Laboratory investigations that include the use of scientific inquiry, research, measurement, problem solving, laboratory apparatus and technologies, experimental procedures, and safety procedures are an integral part of this course. School lab activities are investigations in the classroom or the field that provide students with opportunities to interact directly with natural phenomena or with data collected by others using tools, materials, data collection techniques, and models. Through scientific inquiry, learners will see the intelligence and power of the Creator.

ELECTIVES

2D Studio Art - 1.0 High School Credit

Students experiment with the media and techniques used to create a variety of two-dimensional (2-D) artworks through the development of skills in drawing, painting, printmaking, collage, and/or design. Students practice, sketch, and manipulate the structural elements of art to improve mark making and/or the organizational principles of design in a composition from observation, research, and/or imagination. Through the critique process, students evaluate and respond to their own work and that of their peers. This course incorporates hands-on activities and consumption of art materials.

Art Survey (5th – 7th)

Pablo Picasso once said, "Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist". We spend our year-long adventure learning the rules: the Elements of Art and their Principles of Design. As students progress through the middle school art program, they are exposed to different media and styles of drawing and painting. Students study a variety of artists and art styles and practice technical skills using graphite pencils, paint pens, painting, collage, watercolor, fiber arts and acrylics. Seventh grade artists can look forward to having 3D media added to the curriculum. We look at the world around us, its order and beauty, and realize that it and us are fearfully and wonderfully made by the ultimate master artist, God our Creator. Let your creativity flow like a pro in Art Survey!

Band (5th – 8th)

Can music make you smarter? What we do know is students engaged in musical experiences are developing their physical, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual selves simultaneously! Music students do tend to score better on tests, have higher self-esteem and a keen sense of personal discipline all while learning a fun lifelong skill. Students of all ability levels are welcome to join band and discover the musical gifts that God has instilled in them. 5th and 6th grade students will be guided into selecting an instrument and learning the basics of creating good tone, music literacy, listening skills, learning unison lines, and adding harmony. In 7th and 8th grade, students explore a wide variety of concert band literature and will help you grow into your best musical self through study of theory, listening, traditional rehearsals, and multiple performances.

Choir (5th – 8th)

The choir program in middle school seeks to establish first each singer's vocal and musical abilities with an emphasis on healthy vocal production. As students progress each year, the emphasis shifts to how individual singers may contribute to ensemble performances. In 5th and 6th grades, students participate in vocal exploration activities, find their own voice, collaborate with other singers, and learn musicianship. In 7th and 8th grades, students participate in intentional focus and training in healthy vocal production, basic musicianship, harmonization, blending, and sight singing. At all levels, students will have performance opportunities throughout the year, and discover ways to use their voice to worship the Lord. Older students are required to participate in at least one evening performance per semester.

Entrepreneurship 101 (7th - 8th)

This highly interactive and engaging course is designed to further students' understanding of the basic principles of entrepreneurship and business. Course goals are to foster creativity, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills, while also understanding key concepts related to starting and running a business. Topics of study include defining and understanding entrepreneurship, the entrepreneurial mindset and its qualities; generating ideas; conducting market research; developing a business plan and understanding basic legal and ethical business practices; creating and promoting a brand or product and developing effective communication and presentation skills. Students will also have opportunities to meet local entrepreneurs and business partners in addition to participating in several off-site field trips.

Home Economics – 5th/6th

This course covers a range of practical skills related to home management and personal development, aiming to prepare students with essential life skills. Topics that may be covered include cooking and nutrition, sewing, budgeting, child development, home management, health and wellness and social skills.

HOPE – Physical Education/Health - 1 High School Credit

In Health Opportunities through Physical Education, students will develop a personal responsibility in areas related to spiritual, emotional and physical health. Topics are addressed from a distinctively Christian worldview and include routine preventive care, mental health, stress management, nutrition, CPR certification, exercise, Christian sexual values, sexually transmitted diseases, and addictions. This course is designed to inspire students to make wise choices and understand that the choices they make today will affect their future. Students will learn proper fitness techniques through circuit training and cardiovascular training. Students will also participate in activities such as tag rugby, tchoukball, mat ball, and various net games. **Important: Upon verified enrollment in this course, parents will be required to sign an agreement form acknowledging release for students to engage with sensitive and mature topics.**

Leadership 101

It has often been said that effective leadership starts from the inside. More specifically, it starts in your heart and mind! This course is designed to inspire, train, and empower students to become effective and ethical leaders in their school and community. Through interactive activities and team-building challenges, students will develop essential leadership skills, foster teamwork, and gain a deeper understanding of their own potential to make positive contributions. **7th and 8th Grade students in House Leadership will be enrolled in this course.** Opportunities include helping plan house battles, implementing quarterly service projects, contributing to our new student-driven Eagle Store, and creating additional student life and community events for the middle school!

Money Matters: Personal Finance (5th and 6th)

This course is designed to focus students on critical money management skills such as goal setting, budgeting and saving, while also equipping them with the decision-making confidence to achieve financial well-being and lifelong success. Students may expect to engage in collaborative projects such as taking a Financial Personality Test to discover their own financial priorities, habits and mindsets and acting as mayor of their “town,” helping citizens solve financial every day, common problems.

Personal Finance – 7th/8th

According to Forbes, 87% of teens say they don't really understand their personal finances (2022). Financial literacy for middle school students can lead to workplace readiness, lifelong financial stability and overall personal success – a win for workers, employers, and communities! In this course, students will explore themes of earning, saving, spending and investing, borrowing and protecting. Through Naviance testing, will identify potential college and career paths, learn the basics of the American tax system, generate financial goals, learn how to become a savvy shopper, create a budget, and evaluate both savings and investment options! Students will also hear from local financial leaders and visit off-site businesses.

Physical Education 5th - 7th

This course is a year-round program which provides introduction to strength, interval training and exposure to a variety of recreational sports. Fundamental sports skills and team concepts are also taught through activities such as Mat ball, Tchoukball, Ultimate Frisbee, Tag Rugby, and various net games. 7th grade students participate in daily P.E. class.

Spanish (5th – 7th)

Did you know that Spanish is the second most spoken language in the world? Over the course of three years, students will learn and practice Spanish greetings, be exposed to various cultural aspects of Spanish-speaking countries and apply understanding in both traditional and experiential forms. Continued grammar work will be provided through reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Spanish I - 1.0 High School credit

Spanish I is a high-school credit course introducing students to the target language and its culture in daily life. The student will develop communicative skills in all 3 modes of communication and cross-cultural understanding. Emphasis is placed on proficient communication in the language. An introduction to reading and writing is also included as well as culture, connections, comparisons, and communities.

STEM – 5th/6th Lego Robotics

In this introductory STEM course, students will use science and math concepts alongside the Engineering Design process to work on robotics projects. Students will have opportunities to learn creativity and innovation, practice communication and collaboration, conduct research, use information, think critically, solve problems, make decisions, and use technology effectively and productively in ways that mirror the real-world work of scientists and engineers. This course utilizes Lego Spike Prime robots and provides a hands-on, experiential, and exciting learning opportunity far from the typical lecture-driven class.

STEM – Science of Technology & Computer Science for Innovators & Makers

In the first semester of this course, students will explore how science impacts the technology of yesterday, today, and the future. By applying the concepts of physics, chemistry, and nanotechnology to STEM activities and projects, students will engage in collaborative projects including making ice cream, cleaning up an oil spill, and discovering the properties of nanomaterials. In the second semester, students will discover computer science concepts and skills by creating personally relevant, tangible, and shareable projects. Both courses are part of the nationally renowned *Project Lead the Way Gateway Middle School Program*.

Student Assistant (7th/8th)

The student assistant opportunities are reserved for students who are helpful, friendly, respectful, and trustworthy. They must maintain good attendance and maintain a 3.0 GPA. Since student assistants are part of the first impression of Jupiter Christian Middle School, exemplary behavior is expected including following student honor and dress code. Opportunities to serve include the front office, Middle School Office, Counseling Office, Library, or teachers' classrooms. Responsibilities may include deliveries, organizing materials and supplies, hands-on projects, student/parent tours, welcoming visitors, making copies, shelving, or checking out books. Students who select this as an elective may be required to complete an additional application and interview with office staff.

Study Hall (7th/8th)

This elective is designed to provide students with an opportunity to build academic behaviors designed for success. Students may expect a structured environment that includes mini lessons that teach students about time management, organization, planning, study skills as well as structured work time. During this class, students will have individual meetings with the supervising teacher or academic coach (extra fee) about grades and missing work as needed. Note: Priority for placement are students with multiple honors or high school credit courses.

Tell Your Story: Introduction to Journalism – 7th/8th

If you like to ask questions and want to become a better writer, then this course is for you! Students will learn how to gather information, organize ideas, format stories for different forms of news media and edit their stories for publication. Each quarter will culminate in a newsletter highlighting people, events, and stories of our very own middle school!

Theatre (5th - 8th)

Students will be introduced to fundamental skills in the multiple elements of theatre while applying biblical principles to this collaborative art. Course content includes a survey of acting, characterization, movement, vocal production, pantomime, improvisation, theatre terminology, theatre history, theatre etiquette, script elements, auditioning, and show production. In 7th & 8th grade, students will build upon previously learned skills in the multiple elements of theatre while analyzing elements of biblical story telling. Students will visit local theatres for tours and performances and have an opportunity to appear on stage. This course may require a student to participate in outside rehearsals and performances beyond the school day.

Yearbook – 1.0 High School Credit

Calling all writers, photographers, and creatives! Students are taught basic journalism skills and then research, gather facts and photograph JCS events to chronicle the year for the Middle School student body. Students will gain experience in photography, design and layout, editing, and marketing skills. Students participating in this class will have the opportunity to experience firsthand all the challenges and rewards that journalists, photographers and editors face in the business world. This course seeks to foster a love of writing, reporting, photography, and design by presenting students gifted in these areas with a forum in which to see their work published and distributed. Class members should have a natural love of and ability to write, as well as a desire to seek out and tell great stories.

Young Inventors (5th & 6th)

This course is designed to inspire creativity and problem-solving skills in students by guiding them through the process of inventing and innovating. This course aims to cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset and encourage students to think critically and imaginatively. Students will explore the difference between invention and innovation and the impact both have on our society today. Working in teams to identify problems and challenges in their surroundings, students will learn how creative thinking, brainstorm sessions, research skills, idea development and prototyping, basic engineering skills, ethics, and product testing can provide creative and positive solutions for their communities!