



## GENERAL INFORMATION

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The Mission Viejo Christian School Jr. High program is purposefully designed for 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students, which promotes and balances academics and spiritual growth with service, arts, athletics, and enrichment/elective opportunities. The goal is to help students transition from their elementary school years to become more independent and prepare for success in high school, college, and beyond. Students begin their day in their homeroom/first period class with prayer. They are assigned lockers to store their books/supplies and move between periods to their academic and enrichment classes, all of which are taught from a biblical worldview by teachers who specialize in the subject areas. To enhance learning through technology, all Jr. High students are assigned a Chromebook for use at school and home. Our program emphasizes the development of leadership abilities and a firm faith foundation while advancing higher levels of thinking and social skills. MVCS graduates are ready to meet and exceed the challenges that await them in high school.

Average Class Size: 24, with a full-time Teacher's Aide who assists throughout grades 5-8

Mission Viejo Christian School is fully accredited  
 Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)  
 Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)

## CHARACTERISTICS of an MVCS Student

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We seek to develop these qualities in our students and cultivate their God-given potential as they follow Christ and live out biblical values in all areas of their lives.

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| Christ Follower  | personal relationship with Jesus Christ   demonstrates CHI (Character Honor Integrity) |
| Well-Mannered    | others-oriented   demonstrates humility  |
| Compassionate    | shows empathy and kindness   servant-hearted   |
| Scholarly        | independent learner   thinks critically  |
| Self-Disciplined | responsible   diligent   self-motivated  |
| Respectful       | respects God, authority and others   |
| Wise             | discerning   chooses the good  |

## SPIRITUAL

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### Bible

Classes engage students in their Christian faith and discipleship, challenging them to see the world from a biblical perspective and become difference-makers for Jesus. Bible class encourages students to gain confidence in articulating what they believe and why. Emphasis is placed on the relevance of faith to everyday life, as well as developing students' answers to real-world challenges and questions (apologetics).

Textbooks/Resources: NIV Bible, Case for Christ (Student Edition), The Bible Project  
 Meet the Skeptic (workbook)

### Chapel & Missions

Students attend chapel each Friday, where they experience age-appropriate worship and a practical message. MVCS provides meaningful opportunities to develop servant hearts through school-wide and classroom projects. Serving and loving others as the hands and feet of Jesus is how we live out a Christ-centered life.

### Social

As part of a school-wide focus, MVCS helps students develop Christian character, relational skills, and biblical conflict resolution. A culture of respect and kindness is promoted through the CHI Character-Honor-Integrity Program. These programs help instill important manners and encourage students to communicate with peers and adults with respect, sincerity, and confidence.

Our School Counselor brings programs to each classroom, teaching relational skills and tools for communication, conflict resolution and managing emotions, through the lens of scripture. She also provides valuable assessments and meets with students and parents as needed.

## ACADEMIC

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### English Language Arts

English is a rigorous program incorporating a Christian worldview while guiding students through reading, writing, and thinking processes that best prepare them for the years to come. Students read a rich variety of literary works, including fiction, poetry, and non-fiction, from different time periods and cultures. They learn to analyze the implications of these works and interpret and evaluate informational text. They use higher-level critical thinking to make reasoned inferences, construct logical arguments, and communicate their opinions through speaking, writing, and creative projects. Classes write narrative, informational, and persuasive pieces using the Writer's Workshop approach, which is based on the idea students' skills improve when they write frequently for extended periods of time and about topics of their own choosing. Public speaking skills are enhanced through oral presentations and debate.

**Textbooks/Resources:** Various novels

**Competition:** In Grades 5-8, all students also participate in The Amazing Shake competition, which helps students develop presentation skills and business etiquette through mock interviews, award speeches, and more.

### Mathematics

The focus is on pre-algebra and algebra, helping students understand the fundamentals of algebraic math—the platform needed in high school and beyond. In 7<sup>th</sup> grade, students begin with rational numbers and exponents, advance to proportionality and linear relationships, and then conclude with an introduction to sampling, inference, and the basics of geometry. In 8<sup>th</sup> grade, students may take Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A Fundamentals. Teachers and student assessments determine math placement.

**Textbooks/Resources:** McGraw-Hill Math Accelerated and Algebra 1

**Competition:** Sage Hill Math Competition

### Science

Students take classes in both the classroom and the STEM Lab, have access to all lectures, notes, and presentations on our Jr. High Science website, and participate in the Science Fair to practice the scientific method.

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Classes study life science, including cells, genetics, taxonomy, and body systems, all taught from a creation point of view. Students engage in labs such as dissection and microscope work.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Classes study physical science, focusing on forces and motion, heat and light, electromagnetism and magnetism, chemistry, and astronomy. Students build models to develop their understanding.

### History

**7<sup>th</sup> grade:** Classes study world history from 50 AD – 1500 AD. Through research, projects, and simulations, they learn about the fall of Rome, medieval Europe, China, Japan, Africa, the Age of Exploration, South American history and world geography.

**8<sup>th</sup> grade:** Classes study U.S. History from its founding through Reconstruction. The emphasis is on the founding of the United States and documents such as the U.S. Constitution, preparing students for a 7-day comprehensive trip to Washington, DC, in the spring.

### Spanish

This high school Spanish I course is spread over two years in Jr. High students often test into Spanish II in 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

**Textbooks/Resources:** Abeka Spanish 1

### Physical Education & Athletics

Classes participate in drills, games, and challenges that develop skills underlying sports, including football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Proper technique safety and healthy choices are emphasized. Additionally, Jr. High students may participate in after-school sports, including flag football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, cross country, track, and cheerleading. MVCS Jr. High teams have achieved great success over the years, often advancing to the championship level.

## ENRICHMENT/ELECTIVES

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MVCS is committed to a broad array of enrichment beyond the core curriculum to help students become well-rounded learners. Our goal is for students to explore, discover, and develop their God-given talents. To support this, students take one class each trimester in areas such as Mixed Media/Art, Photography, Acting, Guitar, Ukelele, Debate, Student Leadership, Entrepreneurship, 3D printing, Rocketry, Robotics, WWII, and Comedy/Improv

## FIELD TRIPS

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Field trips at each grade level provide important opportunities for real-world learning and experiences that open students' minds, eyes, and servant hearts in ways a textbook or classroom cannot.

- Jr. High Forest Home Retreat | 3 days in early September
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade trip to Washington DC, Gettysburg, and Pennsylvania Amish country | 7 days in the Spring