



MIDDLE SCHOOL ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

2025-2026

5th Grade

BIBLE (5th)

In this course, students will study Judah's captivity in Babylon, and their return to Judah. They will also study the life and ministry of Jesus as the incarnate God. Memory work includes longer passages from both the Old and New Testaments. Weekly chapel, daily prayer, and music are integral parts of our Bible curriculum.

MATHEMATICS (5th)

The mathematics curriculum, Into Math, emphasizes the importance of establishing conceptual understanding and reinforces that understanding with procedural practice. The South Carolina College and Career Standards are followed, which include Number Sense and Operations (base ten), Number Sense and Operations (fractions), Algebraic Thinking and Operations, Geometry, and Measurement and Data Analysis.

LANGUAGE ARTS (5th)

The 5th grade English course integrates reading, grammar, and composition into a single class. Students will focus on different types of writing, such as, personal narratives, essays, descriptive writing, persuasive paragraphs, and stories. Opportunities for creative oral and written expression supplement the text, while growth in the areas of reading comprehension and vocabulary are also core focal points. These are integrated cohesively as students dive into different novels and use the online vocabulary program, Membean, throughout the year.

SCIENCE (5th)

Scientific inquiry is used to explore the amazing complexity and orderliness of God's world in fifth grade science. Students study cells, life cycles, matter, Earth resources, and weather patterns. Hands-on activities and critical thinking skills are both integral parts of the learning process.

SOCIAL STUDIES/HISTORY (5th)

The 5th Grade Social Studies class focuses on US history. Map skills are interspersed throughout the year as the students study the period of US history from Reconstruction to present-day. The program includes learning the US states and capitals, the opening of the last frontier, the industrialization of our nation, World War I, The Great Depression, World War II, the Civil Rights Movement, The Cold War, and the millennium. The class content is viewed through the lens of God's Word and His plan for our lives.

STEM (5th-8th)

This semester-long course will provide students the opportunity to explore the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Students will develop problem-solving skills to solve real-world problems by working collaboratively through hands-on activities, creative design solutions, and the incorporation of technology. Students will learn and use the engineering design process which includes asking questions, imagining and designing a solution, creating a prototype, and analyzing and improving their ideas.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH AND CULTURES (5th)

This is an introductory course and through a number of different activities, it will provide students with an understanding of how society is diverse and structured. Students will learn the basics of the Spanish language, such as the alphabet, numbers, colors, days of the week, months, seasons, and basic conversations. Throughout the course, students will learn about various cultures. Topics include languages, cultural practices, social structures, and arts.

ART (5th)

This program has an emphasis on 2-D and 3-D artworks using the elements and principles of design. Students will learn how various art elements work cohesively, and will expand their appreciation of art work.

BAND (5th)

Students will learn to play band instruments as they explore the fundamentals of music-making and exposure to the joys and challenges of playing music with others. Students will learn foundational techniques on their instruments as well as the basics of music theory. They will receive group and individual coaching. Students will be required to rent an instrument and purchase formal attire as part of this course.

CHOIR (5th)

Students will actively participate in music-making by singing a beginning repertoire of various styles, including pop, multicultural, and classical. Students will work in small and large groups to rehearse music, and then travel both on and off campus to present exciting performances. This class is yearlong, is open to both young men and young ladies, and emphasizes teamwork and fun. Students will be required to purchase formal attire as part of this course.

5th Grade (cont'd)

ORCHESTRA (5th)

In this course, students will learn the basics of playing a stringed instrument. The string instruments in an orchestra are bowed instruments, specifically violin, viola, cello, and bass. Students will learn how to read music, perform as an ensemble, and prepare themselves for higher levels of musicianship. Students will get to share in the fun of performing on stage with other Ben Lippen School music ensembles. Students and parents should plan to rent-to-own an instrument from a local music store or provide an approved instrument. This is a full year course.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (5th-8th)

This course will consist of skills development, Continuing Physical Development (CPD), and general health education. Students will learn game rules and basic fundamental skills in various sports, including: volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and softball. Skills will be taught through instruction, drills, group activities and games. Students will also learn and plan strategic game planning through games, such as capture the flag. CPD is designed to improve the quality of physical activity of the students. This program will link sports, education, teamwork, recreation, and health and fitness with specific stages of development.

6th Grade

BIBLE (6th)

The sixth grade Bible curriculum provides a journey through the entire Bible, emphasizing four major themes: Creation, Covenants, Missions, and the End Times. After a brief introduction to worldview, this course will then examine the biblical worldview. Students will explore topics, such as who is our Creator, how does God relate to His people, what is God's mission, and where is redemptive history headed? Through these studies, students will be equipped to understand God's plan for redemption from Genesis to Revelation, with the aim of personally applying these truths for kingdom impact.

MATHEMATICS (6th)

This course concentrates on instruction in addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division of whole numbers, decimals, fractions, and percents. Foundational topics such as, geometry, measurement, algebraic equations and inequalities, ratios, and reading/interpreting graphs are included in the course curriculum.

LANGUAGE ARTS (6th)

The English program integrates reading, verbal exercises, composition, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary into one whole. Recognizing that language is from God and is His mode of communicating with man, instruction develops skills in thinking and communicating, providing the tools for success in the future.

WORLD HISTORY (6th)

This course is designed to expose students to ancient civilizations, cultures, governments, and religions with special emphasis on how God moves outside of Scripture to bring about His redemptive plan. General topics include the origins of mankind, Mesopotamia, Egypt, Israel, Greece, Rome, Byzantine, Islam, Early Americas, Renaissance, Reformation, Age of Exploration, and the Scientific Revolution.

SCIENCE (6th)

This course focuses on the four areas of Earth and space science, geology, oceanography, meteorology, and astronomy. Methods include first-hand experiences, such as direct observations, experimentation, and a wide variety of learning-by-doing activities.

STEM (5th-8th)

This semester-long course will provide students the opportunity to explore the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Students will develop problem-solving skills to solve real-world problems by working collaboratively through hands-on activities, creative design solutions, and the incorporation of technology. Students will learn and use the engineering design process which includes asking questions, imagining and designing a solution, creating a prototype, and analyzing and improving their ideas.

INTRODUCTION TO SPANISH AND CULTURES (6th)

This is an introductory course and through a number of different activities, it will provide students with an understanding of how society is diverse and structured. Students will learn the basics of the Spanish language, such as the alphabet, numbers, colors, days of the week, months, seasons, and basic conversations. Throughout the course, students will learn about various cultures. Topics include languages, cultural practices, social structures, and arts.

ART (6th)

This program has an emphasis on 2-D and 3-D artworks using the elements and principles of design. Students will learn how various art elements work cohesively, and will expand their appreciation of art work.

BAND (6th)

Students learn to play real band instruments as they explore the fundamentals of music-making and are exposed to the joys and challenges of playing music with others. Students will learn foundational techniques on their instruments, as well as the basics of music theory. They will receive group and individual coaching from their teachers, preparing them to move to higher levels. Beginner levels may participate in festivals, concerts, and the SCISA Music Festival. This is a yearlong course. Students will be required to rent an instrument and purchase formal attire as part of this course.

6th Grade (cont'd)

CHOIR (6th)

Students will actively participate in music-making by singing a beginning repertoire of various styles, including pop, multicultural, and classical. Students will work in small and large groups to rehearse music, and then travel both on and off campus to present exciting performances. This class is yearlong, and it is open to both young men and young ladies. Students should prepare for classes that emphasize teamwork and fun. Students will be required to purchase formal attire as part of this course.

ORCHESTRA (6th)

The string instruments in an orchestra are bowed instruments, specifically violin, viola, cello, and bass. Continuing students will start book 2 and begin their next chapter as a strings player. Students will learn how to read harder music, improve their ensemble skills and prepare themselves for higher levels of musicianship. Students will get to share in the fun of performing on stage with other Ben Lippen School music ensembles. Students will also qualify to perform at festivals including the SCISA Music Festival and the Carowinds Music Festival. If needed, students and parents should plan to rent-to-own an instrument from a local music store or provide an approved instrument. This is a full year course. One year of strings/orchestra class or lessons is recommended but not required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (5th-8th)

This course will consist of skills development, Continuing Physical Development (CPD), and general health education. Students will learn game rules and basic fundamental skills in various sports, including: volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and softball. Skills will be taught through instruction, drills, group activities and games. Students will also learn and plan strategic game planning through games, such as capture the flag. CPD is designed to improve the quality of physical activity of the students. This program will link sports, education, teamwork, recreation and health and fitness with specific stages of development.

7th Grade

BIBLE (7th)

The seventh grade Bible curriculum will help students compare and contrast the key tenets of Christianity, Islam, and Naturalism. Students will learn how to think critically about their faith, as well as the faith of others. Students will also explore these difficult worldviews through the Socratic Method, with the class being largely question- and discussion-based.

PRE-ALGEBRA (7th)

Instruction in this course includes the fundamentals of mathematics with basic abstractions of beginning Algebra. Special emphasis is given to the four operations of rational numbers. Ratio, proportion, and percent are visually emphasized to aid in conceptualization, and word problems are stressed using the concepts being taught. Simple concepts in Algebra are introduced, such as variables, evaluation, operations in equations, integers, graphs, exponents, and roots.

PRE-ALGEBRA HONORS (7th)

Instruction in this course includes the fundamentals of mathematics with basic abstractions of beginning Algebra. Special emphasis is given to the four operations of rational numbers. Ratio, proportion, and percent are visually emphasized to aid in conceptualization, and word problems are stressed using the concepts being taught. Algebraic concepts are introduced and practiced including variables, evaluation, operations in equations, integers, graphs, exponents, and roots.

ALGEBRA I HONORS (7th)

This course will be an in-depth study of variable expressions, equations in one and two variables, linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, systems of equations, exponent rules, radicals, and polynomials. While this course will have the same scope and sequence as the Algebra 1 course, students should expect more in-depth homework, quizzes, and test questions with a high emphasis on independent and critical thinking. Students who take this course should have a firm foundation in multiplication facts, integer operations, fractions and decimals, and basic graphing on the coordinate plane. In addition, students should be adept at mental math, problem-solving skills, and quantitative reasoning. Students may earn upper school credit for successful completion of the course.

LANGUAGE ARTS (7th)

This course emphasizes the development of grammar, writing, vocabulary usage, punctuation and mechanics. Composition skills are directly related to reading selections as styles of writing are developed. Various forms of literature are emphasized along with speech and communication skills.

LANGUAGE ARTS HONORS (7th)

While continuing to build foundational skills, this course specifically focuses on developing critical thinking and close reading skills for advanced analysis. Additionally, students will strengthen research and writing skills necessary for higher level writing and public speaking. Students in this course will advance to English Fundamentals in 8th grade for high school credit.

LIFE SCIENCE (7th)

This course begins with the metric system and the scientific method. Students will study the classification of living things: viruses, bacteria, protists, fungi, plants, and animals. The course finishes with a study of human body systems and genetics. There is a strong emphasis on “hands-on” learning, including labs, microscope work, and projects.

GEOGRAPHY (7th)

This course is designed to help the student gain a broader perspective of his or her place in the world through the study of the United States and its relationship to other countries. Students are introduced to the needs of different cultures and are challenged to identify ways that Christians can meet those needs. Students will use their knowledge of physical features and political boundaries to be better equipped to fulfill the Great Commission. Students will study the uniqueness of all cultures and understand how geography skills can be used to carry out God’s desire for all people to know Him.

STEM (5th-8th)

This semester-long course will provide students the opportunity to explore the area of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM). Students will develop problem-solving skills to solve real-world problems by working collaboratively through hands-on activities, creative design solutions, and the incorporation of technology. Students will learn and use the engineering design process which includes asking questions, imagining and designing a solution, creating a prototype, and analyzing and improving their ideas.

7th Grade (cont'd)

THE STUDY OF SPANISH AND CULTURES (7th)

In this course, students will continue to utilize and build on language skills. In addition, students will learn about various cultures. Students will encounter an environment that cultivates room for them to learn more about God's world and heart for other nations. Topics will include cities, well-known dishes, foundational building blocks of language, and famous literature.

ART (7th-8th)

This program is designed to promote a student's awareness, appreciation, and enjoyment of the visual arts. Students will engage in hands-on experience as they receive instruction in various art forms, and practice their skills on diverse projects.

BAND (7th)

Students learn to play real band instruments as they explore the fundamentals of music-making and are exposed to the joys and challenges of playing music with others. Students will learn foundational techniques on their instruments, as well as the basics of music theory. They will receive group and individual coaching from their teachers, preparing them to move to higher levels. Beginner levels may participate in festivals, concerts, and the SCISA Music Festival. This is a yearlong course. Students will be required to rent an instrument and purchase formal attire as part of this course.

CHOIR (7th)

Students will actively participate in music-making by singing a diverse repertoire, including pop, multicultural, and classical pieces. Students will work together creating high quality music, and enjoy giving away their music through exciting performances both on and off campus. This class is yearlong, and will emphasize teamwork and fun music. Students will be required to purchase formal attire as part of this course.

ORCHESTRA (7th)

The string instruments in an orchestra are bowed instruments, specifically violin, viola, cello, and bass. In this course, students will learn how to read harder music, improve their ensemble skills and prepare themselves for higher levels of musicianship. Students will also qualify to perform at festivals including the SCISA Music Festival, the Carowinds Music Festival, Region Ensemble, and All-State Ensemble. If needed, students and parents should plan to rent-to-own an instrument from a local music store or provide an approved instrument. One to two years of strings/orchestra class or lessons is recommended but not required.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (5th-8th)

This course will consist of skills development, Continuing Physical Development (CPD), and general health education. Students will learn game rules and basic fundamental skills in various sports, including: volleyball, basketball, football, soccer and softball. Skills will be taught through instruction, drills, group activities and games. Students will also learn and plan strategic game planning through games, such as capture the flag. CPD is designed to improve the quality of physical activity of the students. This program will link sports, education, teamwork, recreation and health and fitness with specific stages of development.

8th Grade

BIBLE (8th)

The 8th grade Bible curriculum will help students understand the basic beliefs of a biblical worldview. Students will compare Christianity with other prominent worldviews in the areas of theology, philosophy, ethics, sociology, psychology, and others. Students will understand and be able to explain a biblical worldview, critically analyze other worldviews from a biblical perspective, and engage their culture for Christ through apologetics.

ALGEBRA I (8th)

This course will be a study of variable expressions, equations in one and two variables, linear and quadratic functions, inequalities, systems of equations, exponent rules, radicals, and polynomials. While this course will have the same scope and sequence as the Algebra 1 course, students should expect more in-depth homework, quizzes, and test questions with a high emphasis on building foundational skills. Students who take this course should have a firm foundation in multiplication facts, integer operations, fractions and decimals, and basic graphing on the coordinate plane. Students may earn upper school credit for successful completion of the course.

ALGEBRA I HONORS (8th)

This course will be an in-depth study of variable expressions, equations in one and two variables, linear and quadratic functions, line graphs, inequalities, systems of equations, exponent rules, radicals, and polynomials. While this course will have the same scope and sequence as the Algebra 1 course, students should expect more in-depth homework, quiz, and test questions with a high emphasis on independent and critical thinking. Students who take this course should have a firm foundation in multiplication facts, integer operations, fractions and decimals, and basic graphing on the coordinate plane. In addition, students should be adept at mental math, problem-solving skills, and quantitative reasoning. Students may earn upper school credit for successful completion of the course.

GEOMETRY HONORS (8th)

Prerequisite: Satisfactory completion of Algebra 1 or Algebra 1 Honors.

This course covers the systematic study of points, lines, and planes with an emphasis on the properties of lines, polygons, and circles. The development of formal proofs using theorems and postulates, logical reasoning, congruence, similarity, and symmetry is emphasized. The properties of 2D/3D figures and simple right triangle trigonometry are also covered. Students may earn upper school credit for successful completion of the course.

ENGLISH FUNDAMENTALS HONORS (8th)

Students in English Fundamentals Honors 8 will continue to strengthen foundational basic grammar skills and vocabulary through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Through an in-depth study of various genres of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry texts, students will deepen their critical thinking skills and understanding, and analyze theme, symbolism, characterization, and literary technique. Student writing will focus on the processes of narrative, expository, argumentative, and research writing, both within the ELA classroom and in conjunction with other core classes. Students may earn upper school credit for successful completion of the course.

LANGUAGE ARTS (8th)

Students in Language Arts 8 will continue to strengthen foundational basic grammar skills and vocabulary through reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Students will encounter a variety of fiction, nonfiction, and poetry texts as they develop reading strategies and build comprehension, literary analysis, and critical thinking skills. Student writing will focus on the processes of narrative, expository, argumentative, and research writing, both within the ELA classroom and in conjunction with the other core classes.

UNITED STATES HISTORY (8th)

This course covers the time frame from the early exploration period through the present. The purpose of this course is to cultivate an understanding of the history of our country and to encourage appreciation of our American heritage. Emphasis is placed on the role of South Carolina during each historical period.

8th Grade (cont'd)

PHYSICAL SCIENCE (8th)

This course covers the basics of Physical Science. Topics include: matter, introduction to chemistry, motion and forces, energy, and electricity. A hands-on approach is used as much as possible along with opportunities for group work, projects, and labs. This course prepares students for high school chemistry and physics.

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Equipping **Students.**

Establishing **Leaders.**



Monticello Road Campus

Pre-K3 through 12th Grade
7401 Monticello Road
Columbia, SC 29203

Northeast Campus

Pre-K4 through 4th Grade
3513 Hard Scrabble Road
Columbia, SC 29223

St. Andrews Road Campus

Pre-K3 through 4th Grade
500 St. Andrews Road
Columbia, SC 29210

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