



2025-2026
7th & 8th GRADE COURSE CATALOG

Welcome to Calvary Day Middle School!

Our 7th & 8th grade curriculum at Calvary Day School is designed to prepare students to be successful in the college preparatory curriculum during their high school years. Our goal is that students will be able to perform academically at their highest God-given potential. The curriculum places a strong emphasis on writing skills and mastery of English grammar and mathematic concepts. The CDS class schedule allows students to take up to seven courses. In addition to core subjects, all students participate in physical education and exploratory classes. CDS offers a variety of elective courses for students to choose from which allows them to explore an area of interest or to branch out and try something new.

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Bible

7th Grade

This course invites students to embark on an engaging journey through the Bible. Through a combination of historical context, literary analysis, thematic exploration, and an in-depth inductive study of *Acts* students will gain a deeper understanding of the foundational text of the Christian faith tradition.

8th Grade

This course invites students to explore the life and ministry of Jesus Christ as depicted in the four Gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. Through a comprehensive examination of the texts, including a deep dive into the Gospel of John, students will engage in critical discussions about the historical context, cultural influences, and theological implications of Jesus' teachings and actions. Students will analyze key events from Jesus' birth to His resurrection, focusing on His parables, miracles, and interactions with diverse groups of people. The course will also emphasize the significance of Jesus' message in the context of first-century Judea and its enduring impact on contemporary Christian faith and practice.

English

The 7th and 8th-grade language arts curriculum emphasizes the examination of a variety of classical literary masterpieces from a biblical perspective. The curriculum focuses on the continued development of sound grammar skills through *Daily Grammar Practice* and *Writing and Grammar*, BJU Press; as well as the mastery of basic writing skills and a building of writing techniques through the *Institute for Excellence in Writing* program and the *Jane Schaffer Paragraph and Essay Writing* program.

Science

7th Grade Life Science

Calvary Day's life science program has been designed to encourage students to explore the relationships between organisms and their environment. This course includes the study of cells, the structure and functions of organs,

classification and diversity, genetics and heredity, organisms and their environments, and human health and reproduction. Additionally, students are introduced to the role that philosophy plays in developing a scientific mind. Students will engage in a variety of learning activities to reinforce the concepts presented.

8th Grade Physical Science

This middle school course has been engineered to provide students with the opportunity to engage and explore the basic concepts of physical science. Students continue to be challenged to understand the role that philosophy plays in developing a scientific mind. Additionally, this course includes an introduction to the fundamental concepts of physics and chemistry. This includes such topics as motion, energy, bonding, compounds, and acids and bases. Students will be engaged in various learning activities that reinforce the concepts presented. Finally, students will be encouraged to explore the variety of ways physical science relates to everyday life.

Social Studies

7th Grade

Our 7th-grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on World Geography. Students are first introduced to the thinking skills and tools that geographers use which will then be used throughout the course. After the general introduction to Geography, students then focus their study on major regions of the world physically, historically, and then culturally. There is a special emphasis on critical thinking skills in this course. Students are all encouraged to analyze the world through a biblical perspective. A variety of lesson formats and assessments will be used to reach different learners.

8th Grade

Our 8th grade Social Studies curriculum focuses on United States History from the Age of Exploration to the modern era. Students interact with primary source documents and explore various online resources available through the book publisher. Students engage with the material through projects, debates, class discussions, and written expression.

Mathematics

Math 7

This course consists of a review of basic addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division skills; solving equations; introduction to the metric system; decimals; fundamental geometric principles (i.e., area, volume, surface area); and working with fractions, ratios, proportions, percentages, negative numbers, and scientific notation. It also involves practice in positive and negative numbers, exponents and algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities.

7th Grade Pre-Algebra

This course consists of a thorough review of all computational skills with whole numbers, decimals, fractions, percentages and ratios. It includes instruction in many geometric concepts as well as solving algebraic equations, proportions, and word problems. It also involves practice in simplification problems, including positive and negative numbers, exponents, and algebraic expressions, equations and inequalities. It also includes linear functions and graphing. Students also learn to solve simple radical and exponential equations. Students apply these skills to the Pythagorean Theorem.

8th Grade Intro to Algebra

Intro to Algebra is a course that takes students from concrete arithmetic problems to general/abstract (variable) problems. Students begin their study of variable expressions and equations. We will build on their current knowledge as we work to develop a deeper understanding of the vocabulary of math and the concepts involved in writing algebraic expressions, identifying real numbers, model linear relationships, and investigating nonlinear functions. In addition, we will use the Pythagorean Theorem, describe the effect of translations, reflections, rotations, and dilations on geometric figures, find the volume and surface area of cones, cylinders and spheres, and study transformations that produce congruent and similar figures.

8th Grade Algebra 1

This is a high school-level course. Students who take this in 8th grade will receive one credit of high school math; however, the grade will not be included as a part of the student's high school GPA. Students will still be required to take 4 math courses during their 9-12 grade years. Students will be eligible for Geometry (standard or honors) in 9th grade. The high school transcript will reflect this course was completed in 8th grade.

Eighth-grade algebra is designed to develop analytical thinking and reasoning skills. Knowledge of mathematical concepts including number systems, operations, solving equations and inequalities, geometry, and functions is emphasized. Students are challenged to develop their problem-solving abilities. Speed and accuracy in computation are also encouraged. These are all taught in an atmosphere of recognizing value and purpose for God's created order in the study of mathematics.

Physical Education

Students will take a full year of physical education in both 7th and 8th grade. The goal of Calvary Day School K-12 Academic Standards in Physical Education is to develop physically literate individuals who have the knowledge, skills, and confidence to enjoy a lifetime of healthful physical activity. To pursue a lifetime of healthful physical activity, a physically literate individual:

- Has learned the skills necessary to participate in a variety of physical activities
- Knows the implications and the benefits of involvement in various types of physical activities
- Participates regularly in physical activity
- Is physically fit
- Values physical activity and its contributions to a healthful lifestyle.

Elective Options

Students will have two semesters each year to take four electives. Please note some courses have prerequisites, grade level requirements, and a specific course order.

Fine Arts

Middle School Art I (*Fall semester-long course*)

In this art course students will learn contour line drawing, shading with value using shadows and highlights and mid-tones, drawing still-life set-ups from observation. Projects will emphasize the elements-of-art, landscape, and drawing with perspective. Students will also learn to use tempera paint. Although the class will have a focus on drawing, we

will also complete some 3-D projects, and various design projects. Students will be required to keep a sketchbook and complete quarterly sketchbook assignments for further practice.

Middle School Art II (*Spring semester-long course*)

Students in this course will continue to improve their drawing skills with projects that focus on portraiture, drawing hands, and linear perspective. This course also introduces students to printmaking, digital art and sculpting with clay. Projects will emphasize the principles-of-art as well. Students are required to keep a sketchbook and complete quarterly sketchbook assignments for further practice.

Middle School Band I (full year course for grades 7-12—Prerequisite: 1-2 years of experience)

CDS Concert Band is an intermediate band class, including a wide array of instrumentation, designed for students who have had at least one to two years experience playing a band instrument. This class allows students to develop more advanced techniques and musicality beyond beginner skills, while still working towards a higher level of performance compared to a beginning band. Concert band focuses on more complex music, sight-reading skills, refining intonation, and intricate rhythmic patterns. This class is designed to bridge the gap between the beginner and advanced band. Students will be inspired and challenged individually as well as an entire band as we work toward special performances throughout the year. Concert band members will learn how to march to prepare students for parades. This will also help prepare students who want to participate in band at the collegiate level. Students in Concert Band will be exposed to all things related to band. They are required to participate in all performances such as seasonal concerts, school events, ACSI Music Festival, Carowinds Music Festival (when available), and at least one parade. Students will also be encouraged to play in the CDS pep band as well as try out for All-District Band and participate in Solo & Ensemble.

Middle School Band II (*full year course for grades 7-12—Prerequisite: 2+ years of experience*)

CDS Symphonic Band is an upper-level band class including a wider array of instrumentation and higher-level music. Students will be inspired and challenged individually as well as an entire band as we work toward special performances, competitions, and individual competitions throughout the year. We work through a series of fine-tuned skills as foundational basics to bring our music to life, performing at the highest standards, with liveliness and excitement! Symphonic band members will learn how to march to prepare students for parades. This will also help prepare students who want to participate in band at the collegiate level. Students in Symphonic Band will be exposed to all things related to band. They are required to participate in all performances such as seasonal concerts, school events, ACSI Music Festival, Carowinds Music Festival (when available), and at least one parade. Students will also be required to try out for All District and All State Band. They are also encouraged to play in the CDS pep band and participate in Solo & Ensemble.

Middle School Theater (*semester-long course*)

Expand your ability to express, increase your confidence in front of people, and learn about the significance of building trust, dependence, and the challenge of group accountability. Theater students will work toward performances and potential competitions.

Language

Intro to Spanish (*semester-long course*)

A semester of Spanish fun! This course helps to prepare students for Spanish I. Students will learn Spanish vocabulary, grammar, conjugation of verbs in the present tense, and Hispanic culture through reading, speaking, listening and singing.

Spanish I (*8th Grade only*)

This is a high-school-level course. Students who elect to take this in 8th grade will receive one credit toward their high school foreign language requirements; however, the grade will not be calculated in the high school GPA. Students who successfully complete this course will be eligible for Spanish 2 in the 9th grade. The high school transcript will reflect this course was completed in 8th grade.

This course is a study of the basic elements of Spanish language and culture. Students will learn grammatical structures and vocabulary in a communicative setting. Students should comprehend, speak, read and write in the present and preterit tenses by the end of the course. Students will also study geography, history and culture of Spanish-speaking countries.

Other

Computer Science (*year-long course*)

This course teaches students to solve problems, develop websites and web apps, and create interactive animations and games. Get hands-on with computer parts and learn to code physical projects. It's a great course for budding designers and engineers where we will learn to create 2D renderings and use the engineering design process. We'll continue to take our designs to the next level by making CAD designs that can be 3D printed.

Math Enrichment (*semester-long course/recommendation only*)

Supervised by a math teacher, this class will provide extra math assistance, and allow time to complete math homework with help. Students are expected to have work to complete during this time. This is not a free period and is not a general study hall. **Math teacher or academic counselor recommendation required.**

Rhetoric (*semester-long course*)

This course will utilize various texts, literature, and the Bible to examine the qualities of an effective speaker. Students will learn how to present various types of speeches including motivational, argumentative, and persuasive speech.

STEM (*semester-long course*)

STEM is an acronym for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. This course is specifically designed to help students connect the knowledge they have accumulated across content areas and apply it to solve real-world problems. Through hands-on activities, students will develop strong critical thinking skills and learn to think outside the box.

Study Hall (*semester-long course*)

Supervised by a teacher, Study Hall is designed to provide time for students to get their homework assignments or other school-related assignments completed before after-school activities. This is not a free period.

Christianity and Modern Media (*semester-long course*)

From Fortnite to Taylor Swift and YouTube to Netflix, our world is constantly bombarding us with media that affects our pursuit of Christ. This course will seek to filter all the media we take in through a biblical lens.