

MISSION VIEJO CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

JUNIOR HIGH



Mission Viejo Christian School was named a **National Blue Ribbon School in 2024** by the U.S. Dept. of Education and is fully accredited by:

- *Association of Christian Schools International (ACSI)*
- *Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC)*

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Mission Viejo Christian School Junior High program is thoughtfully designed for 7th and 8th grade students, offering a balanced approach that integrates strong academics, spiritual growth, leadership development, service, the arts, athletics, and elective opportunities. This pivotal two-year experience helps students successfully transition from elementary school by fostering greater independence and equipping them for high school, college, and beyond.

Each day begins in the homeroom/first period Advisory class with devotions, prayer, and worship—setting a Christ-centered tone for the day. Students are assigned lockers for their personal books and supplies and rotate between academic and elective classes, all taught from a biblical worldview by subject-area specialists.

To support digital literacy and learning, Junior High students use a Chromebook for both school and home assignments. The program emphasizes the development of leadership qualities, critical thinking, and a strong foundation of faith, ensuring that MVCS graduates are confident, capable, and spiritually grounded as they face the future. **Student-Teacher Ratio: 25 to 1**

CHARACTERISTICS of an MVCS Student

MVCS seeks 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:

- 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 DEVELOPMENT

Chapel & Missions

Students at Mission Viejo Christian School attend chapel each Friday, where they participate in age-appropriate worship and hear practical, biblically grounded messages. Living a Christ-centered life is modeled through serving and loving others as the hands and feet of Jesus. MVCS also offers meaningful, school-wide and classroom-based mission opportunities that help students grow in compassion and develop servant hearts.

SOCIAL SKILLS

As part of a school-wide focus, Mission Viejo Christian School helps students develop Christian character, relational skills, and biblical conflict resolution. A culture of respect and kindness is fostered through the CHI (Character. Honor. Integrity) Program. These initiatives help instill important manners and encourage students to engage with peers and adults with respect, sincerity, and confidence. The School Counselor brings age-appropriate programs into each classroom, teaching relational skills, communication strategies, conflict resolution, and emotional regulation through a biblical lens. The counselor also provides valuable assessments and meets with students and parents as needed to support student well-being.

ACADEMICS

English Language Arts

The English program at Mission Viejo Christian School is a rigorous course of study that integrates a biblical worldview while guiding students through reading, writing, and critical thinking processes that prepare them for future academic success. Students engage with a rich variety of literary works—including fiction, poetry, and non-fiction—from a range of time periods and cultures. They learn to analyze the implications of these texts and interpret and evaluate informational content.

Through higher-level critical thinking, students develop the ability to make reasoned inferences, construct logical arguments, and communicate their ideas through speaking, writing, and creative projects. Public speaking skills are strengthened through oral presentations and debate opportunities. Speaking and listening skills are strengthened through class discussions, oral presentations, debates, and participation in *The Amazing Shake* competition.

Resources:

- Various novels
- Writing & Grammar Program

Mathematics

The math program at Mission Viejo Christian School focuses on pre-algebra and algebra, providing students with a strong foundation in algebraic concepts essential for success in high school and beyond.

In 7th grade, students explore rational numbers and exponents, progress through proportionality and linear relationships, and conclude with an introduction to sampling, inference, and basic geometry. In 8th grade, students are placed in either Algebra 1 or Algebra 1A Fundamentals based on teacher recommendations and assessment data to ensure appropriate placement and support.

Textbooks/Resources:

- Pre-Algebra (McGraw-Hill Math Accelerated)
- Algebra 1 (McGraw-Hill Math Accelerated)

Academic Competition:

- Math Kangaroo

Science

The science program explores both life and physical science through hands-on learning and inquiry-based investigation, all taught from a biblical worldview. Students study topics such as cells, ecosystems, genetics, forces, motion, energy, and matter while discovering the order and design of God's creation. The curriculum encourages critical thinking, scientific reasoning, and a deep appreciation for the complexity and purpose found in the natural world.

7th grade: Students 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.

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

Textbooks/Resources:

- Life Science (BJU Press)
- Physical Science (BJU Press)

History

7th grade: Students 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.

8th grade: Students study U.S. History from the nation's beginnings through Reconstruction, with a strong emphasis on early American principles and key documents such as the U.S. Constitution. This background prepares students for a 7-day, immersive trip to Washington, D.C., in the spring.

Bible

The Bible program challenges students to grow in their Christian faith and discipleship, encouraging them to view the world through a biblical lens and become difference-makers for Christ. It is designed to help students confidently articulate what they believe and why, while making meaningful connections between their faith and daily life. Lessons include apologetics, equipping students with thoughtful, Scripture-based responses to real-world questions and challenges.

Textbooks/Resources:

- NIV Bible
- Case for Christ (Student Edition)
- The Bible Project Meet the Skeptic (workbook)

Spanish

The Spanish 1 program is a two-year course designed to prepare students for success in high school Spanish. The class introduces foundational vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation, and conversational skills. Students practice listening, speaking, reading, and writing in Spanish while also exploring Hispanic culture. The gradual pacing allows for deeper understanding and confidence as students build a strong language foundation.

Textbooks/Resources:

- Spanish 1 (Abeka)
- IXL (online resource)

Physical Education & Athletics

Students 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, and cheerleading.

ELECTIVES

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, Digital Media, Strings, Photography, Student Leadership, Entrepreneurship, GCU STEM Competition Team, Dance, Show Choir, Rocketry, and WWII.

FIELD TRIPS

Field trips at each grade level offer meaningful opportunities for real-world learning, expanding students' minds, perspectives, and servant hearts in ways that go beyond the classroom or textbook.

- **Jr. High Forest Home Retreat:** Early in the school year, our Junior High students participate in a 3-day retreat designed to strengthen peer relationships, build servant leadership, and deepen their walk with Christ. Through worship, team-building activities, and intentional discipleship, students are challenged to grow in their faith and step into the year with purpose, unity, and a heart to serve.
- **8th grade trip to Washington DC, Gettysburg, and Pennsylvania Amish country:** In the spring, 8th grade students take a 7-day trip to Washington, D.C., Gettysburg, and Pennsylvania Amish Country to experience firsthand the people, places, and events they've studied in U.S. History. The trip includes visits to national monuments, museums, historic battlefields, and cultural landmarks. A special highlight is the opportunity for selected students to participate in a wreath-laying ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier—an unforgettable moment of honor and reflection.