

Eighth Grade

CURRICULUM GUIDE

Bible

This course offers an in-depth study of the words and works of Jesus Christ as recorded in the Gospels, with a particular emphasis on the book of Matthew. Students explore how Christ fulfills Old Testament Messianic prophecies and how His life, death, and resurrection are central to God's redemptive plan—the one true big story of Scripture. The study also highlights the coming of God's kingdom and what it means to live under Christ's reign. Students develop the Bible study skill of interpretation, learning how to read and understand Scripture in context, and are encouraged to apply these truths to their daily lives. The course emphasizes the call to Christlikeness and sanctification, helping students grow in their faith as they follow Jesus and reflect His character in their thoughts, actions, and relationships.

English

This course strengthens students' writing skills by focusing on clarity, creativity, and correct grammar. Students review and expand their understanding of the parts of speech, sentence types, punctuation, and grammar through lessons, diagramming, games, and writing practice. They explore verb tense, pronouns, modifiers, and sentence clarity while applying these concepts in essays, poetry, research papers, and creative writing. Emphasis on the writing process, outlining, note taking, and research prepares students for academic tasks, while presentations and book reports build public speaking and critical thinking skills. The course equips students to communicate confidently in both academic and real-world settings.

Chapel

Chapel is a vital part of students' spiritual growth at Schaumburg Christian School, providing worship, teaching, and reflection rooted in biblical truth. It fosters a Christ-centered worldview, encouraging students to strengthen their faith and live out Christian values in all areas of life. Our goal is to equip students with a lasting biblical foundation that shapes their character, decisions, and relationships.

English Accelerated

This accelerated course challenges students to write clearly, creatively, and correctly while strengthening their grammar, sentence structure, and literary style. Building on foundational skills, students advance to complex topics like verb tense consistency, pronoun-antecedent agreement, sentence variety, and precise punctuation. Through frequent writing assignments and grammar exercises, they refine mechanics and analytical thinking. Students write in multiple genres—including essays, research papers, poetry, and creative stories—and learn outlining, summarizing, and proper citation in MLA and parenthetical styles. Oral presentations and extended projects further develop rhetorical and literary skills, preparing motivated students for advanced high school English and beyond.

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History

United States history

This curriculum focuses on American history, beginning with the geographic development of the United States through land acquisition and exploring the distinct profiles of major geographic regions. A chronological survey of significant events in American history helps students understand the nation's growth and challenges over time. The curriculum also examines the republican form of government established under the Constitution, exploring its principles and evolution. Students will study the development and effects of inventions and industries, highlighting the successes and challenges of the free market economy. The influence of Christianity on American history, alongside the diverse religious landscape, will also be discussed. Finally, the curriculum investigates the interaction of people, ideas, and cultures in America, emphasizing how these dynamics have shaped the nation's unique identity.

Math

Pre-Algebra

This curriculum emphasizes a deep understanding of integers, algebraic expressions, equations, and rational numbers, including operations, exponents, roots, and order of operations. Students solve one- and two-step equations and inequalities, work with scientific notation, estimation, prime factorization, GCF, LCM, and convert repeating decimals into fractions. They explore ratios, proportions, and percent applications like discounts, interest, and percent change, as well as equations with variables on both sides and radical equations. The course also covers functions and graphing, linear equations and inequalities, and systems of equations using graphing, substitution, and elimination. Basic geometry is introduced through angles, polygons, congruence, similarity, transformations, and measurement of shapes and solids. In statistics and probability, students analyze data using central tendency, scatterplots, trend lines, two-way tables, and evaluate the probability of events.

Pre-Algebra

This curriculum builds a strong foundation in algebra and number sense, focusing on integers, exponents, roots, and the order of operations. Students solve various equations and inequalities, work with scientific notation, estimation, and rational numbers, and apply concepts like ratios, proportions, and percent problems to real-world situations. They explore linear functions, graphing, and systems of equations using multiple methods. Geometry topics include angles, polygons, transformations, and calculating area, surface area, and volume. In statistics and probability, students interpret data, create graphs, and analyze the likelihood of events, preparing them for more advanced math.

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Physical Education

Physical Education is an activity-based course that provides students with instruction and opportunities to develop skills in various sports and activities that promote physical fitness. Students receive instruction and opportunities to play various sports including, but not limited to basketball, badminton, floor hockey, volleyball, soccer, softball, team handball, and flag football. Students participate in games and tournaments to teach sportsmanship, teamwork, and sport appreciation.

Science

Earth Science

Earth Science provides students with a biblical perspective on understanding the natural world, emphasizing the responsible exercise of dominion and the influence of worldview on scientific interpretation. Students explore the fundamentals of earth science, including scientific models, mapping and GIS, matter, forces, and energy. The curriculum examines the dynamic nature of Earth through tectonics, earthquakes, volcanoes, mountain formation, and differing views on the Earth's origins. Students study Earth's rocky materials such as minerals, rocks, fossils, and soils while evaluating models like the uniformitarian rock cycle. The course also explores Earth's water systems, from oceans and streams to groundwater and caves, highlighting the importance of water as a resource. Atmospheric science covers weather patterns, climate zones, and severe weather events, integrating technology like GIS and a biblical approach to environmental stewardship. The study of space introduces the sun, moon, planets, and stars, including theories of origin, solar system models, and the challenges of space exploration. Throughout, students are encouraged to connect scientific knowledge with a biblical worldview and stewardship of God's creation.

Electives

Art

This course is an introduction to nineteen mediums of art. Grades and credit are received for this class. This class is offered to 7th-12th students who have art experience and/or are interested in developing their skills in different areas of art. The course consists of art instruction, individual assignments, art projects, and preparation for competition. Students will participate in art exhibits, art competitions, and the opportunity to compete in the IACS JH/SH Fine Arts Tournaments. The senior high winners from this competition will go to the national competition in South Carolina. The course is designed to help the student learn from a Christian view point why God created art and how it can be used in different career fields and everyday life.

Computer

Students are introduced to a variety of different computer programs, concepts, and systems including: word processors, spreadsheets, photo editors, 3D modelling, and block-based programming.

Music

Band

Grades: 7-8

Playing Experience: 4-5 Years

Junior High Band students will build on foundational skills through regular ensemble participation. Emphasis is placed on advancing technical ability (including articulations, alternate fingerings, vibrato) and musical expression through more complex scales, rhythms, and repertoire. Percussionists will further develop proficiency on mallets, timpani, and auxiliary instruments.

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Electives (Cont.)

Performance & Production:

Students will demonstrate proper posture, embouchure, hand position, and characteristic tone. Skills include independent pitch matching, dynamic control, and expressive playing through varied rhythms, articulations, and meters. Students will perform all major scales and arpeggios (one octave), as well as full-range chromatic scales in sixteenth notes. Ensemble skills and concert etiquette will be developed through participation in performances, concerts, and competitions.

Choir

Junior High Choir is an auditioned elective that meets twice weekly and focuses on developing vocal technique and ensemble skills. Students are trained in proper vocal production and exposed to a variety of sacred, secular, and art song repertoire. Choir members experience the joy of group singing while preparing for performances both on campus and in the community. The choir also participates annually in state-level choral competitions.

Handbell Choir

Junior High Handbells is an auditioned-elective course that meets twice a week. Students in grades 7-8 may audition for a place in the 14-member group. Students will learn the fundamentals of handbell ringing through proper bell technique, rhythm and note-reading while playing on 5 octaves of Schulmerich handbells as well as 3 octaves of handchimes. Our Jr. High Handbell Choir participates in a fine arts competition every spring and performs intermediate sacred and secular repertoire on campus at different concerts throughout the school year.

String Ensemble

This course is available to 7th to 12th grade string instrumentalists who are at an intermediate to early advanced level. This course exposes students to a variety of classical string literature and gives students the opportunity to develop ensemble skills. String Ensemble performs in one concert each semester.

Spanish I

This course is yearlong for beginner students of Spanish. Students will learn proper grammar and develop basic communication skills in both oral and written Spanish (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). The learner is introduced to the various cultures of the Spanish-speaking world, including the Hispanic and Latin communities in the US, while developing intercultural knowledge and understanding. Basic Bible truths as well as scripture is introduced in Spanish for the glory of God.

Spanish II

This yearlong course is a continuation of JH Spanish I. Students will continue to learn proper grammar and develop basic communication skills in both oral and written Spanish (listening, speaking, reading, and writing). The course will continue to introduce the learner to the various cultures of the Spanish-speaking world as well as basic Bible truths and scripture in Spanish for the glory of God. JH Spanish I or the equivalent is required to take this course.

Theater

Students in 6th through 8th grade have the opportunity to participate in a full-scale theatrical production each year. Through this experience, students develop confidence, stage presence, and performance skills while learning the fundamentals of acting, movement, and vocal delivery. The production also fosters teamwork, creativity, and responsibility as students work together to present a polished performance for the school and wider community.